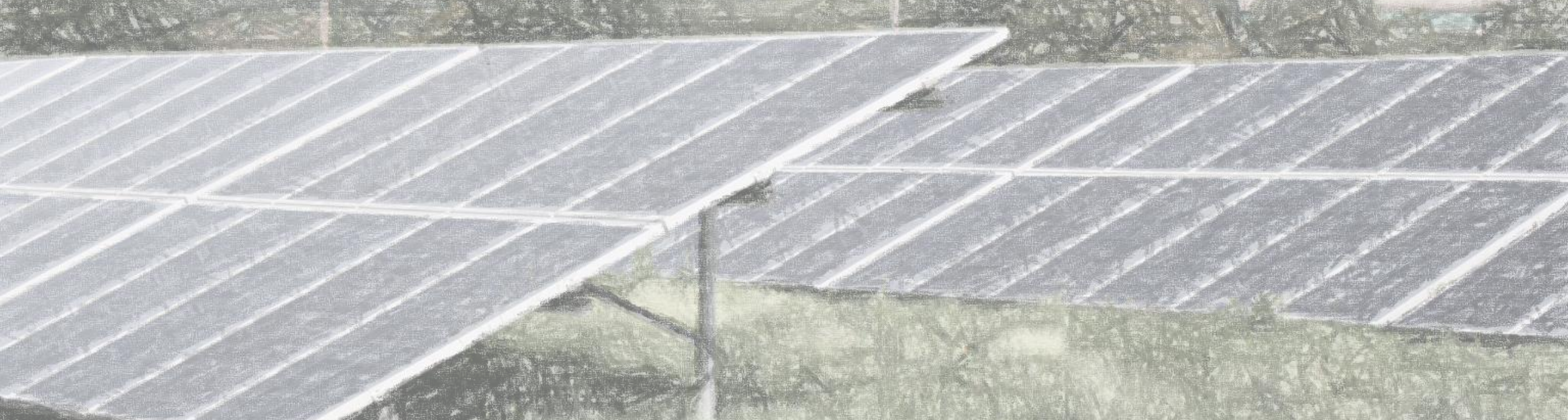


# FOR OURSELVES AND FOR THE COMMUNITY: CHESTER COUNTY'S CLIMATE ACTION PLAN AND JOURNEY



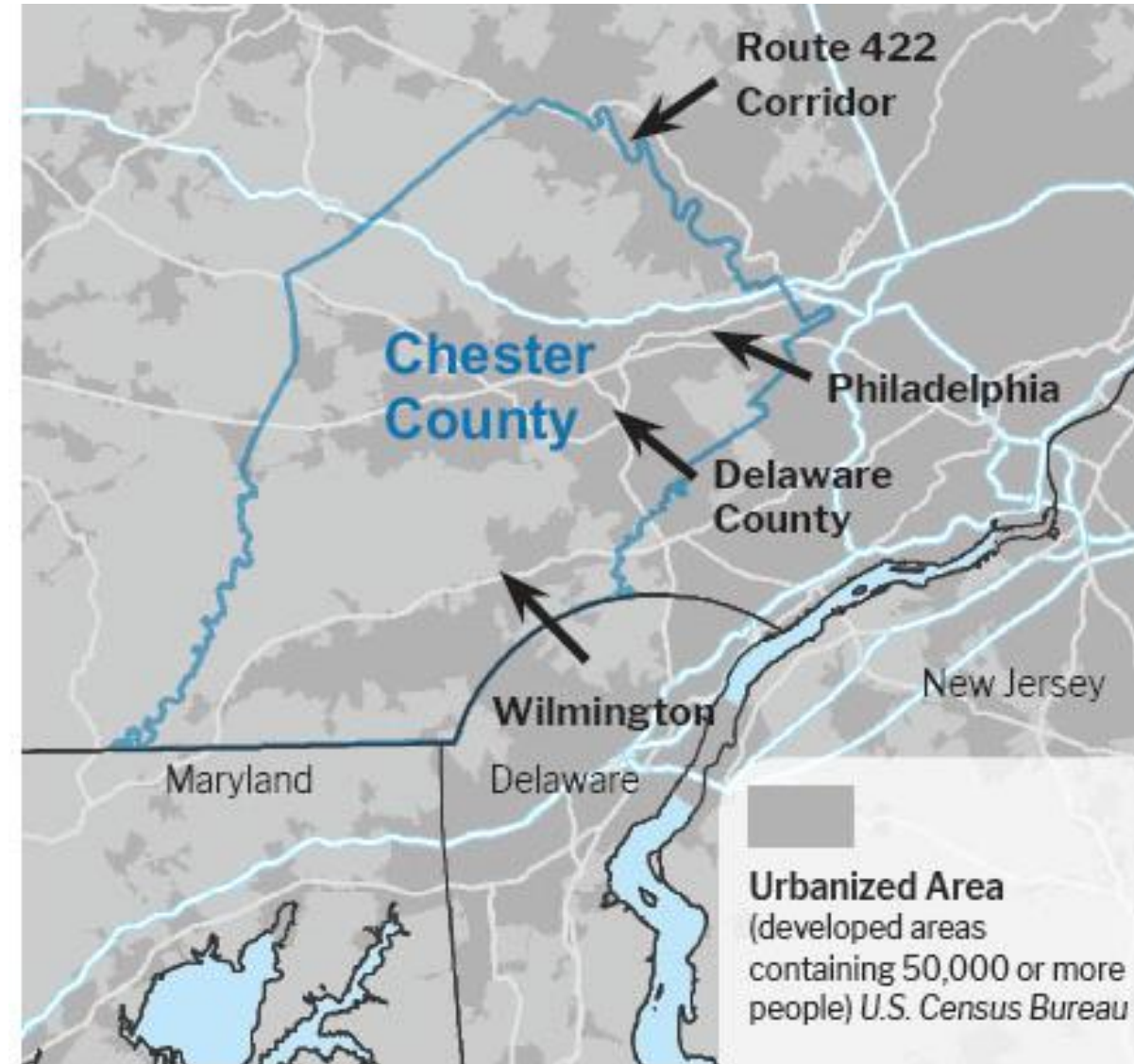
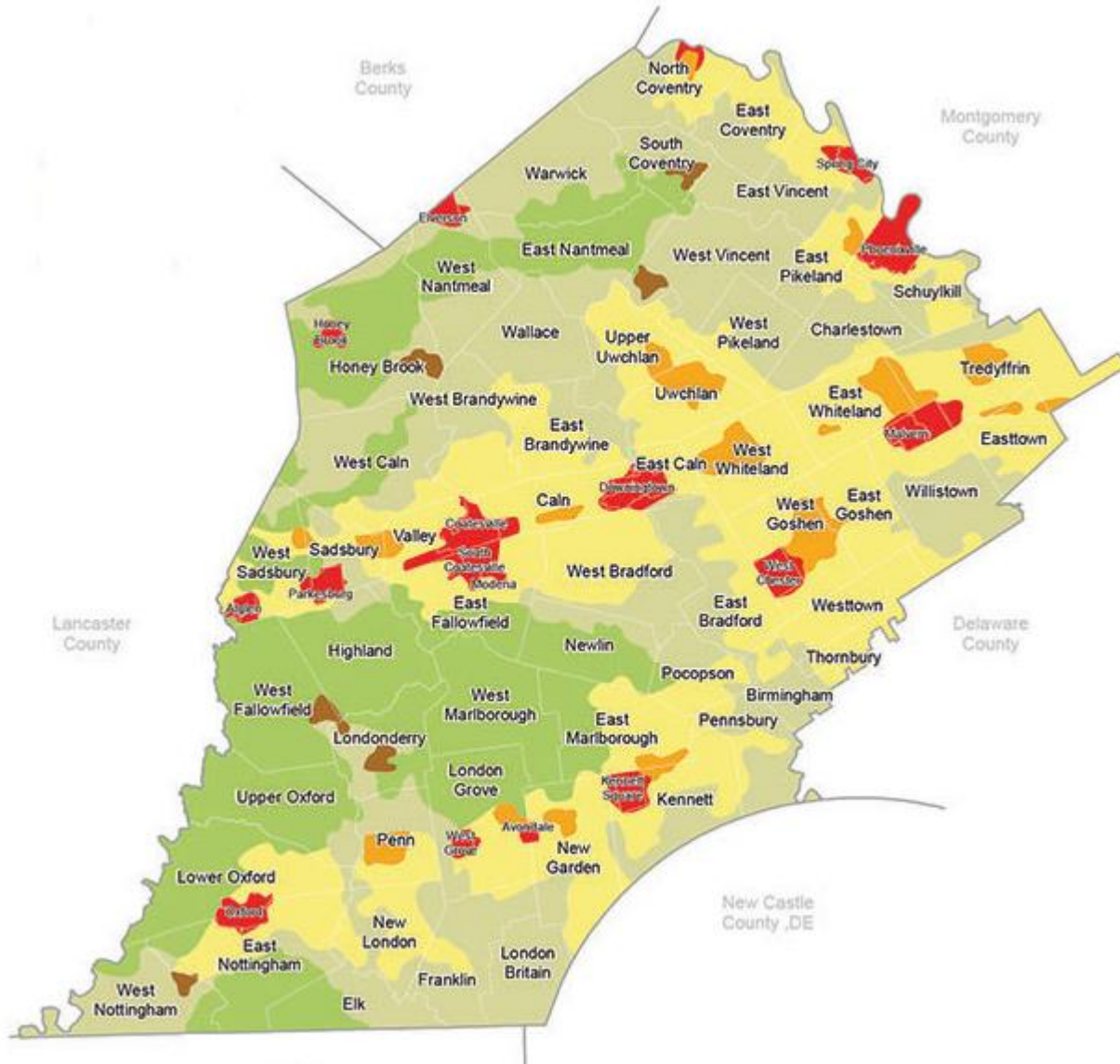
Rachael Griffith, PLA, AICP | Sustainability Director, Chester County Planning Commission



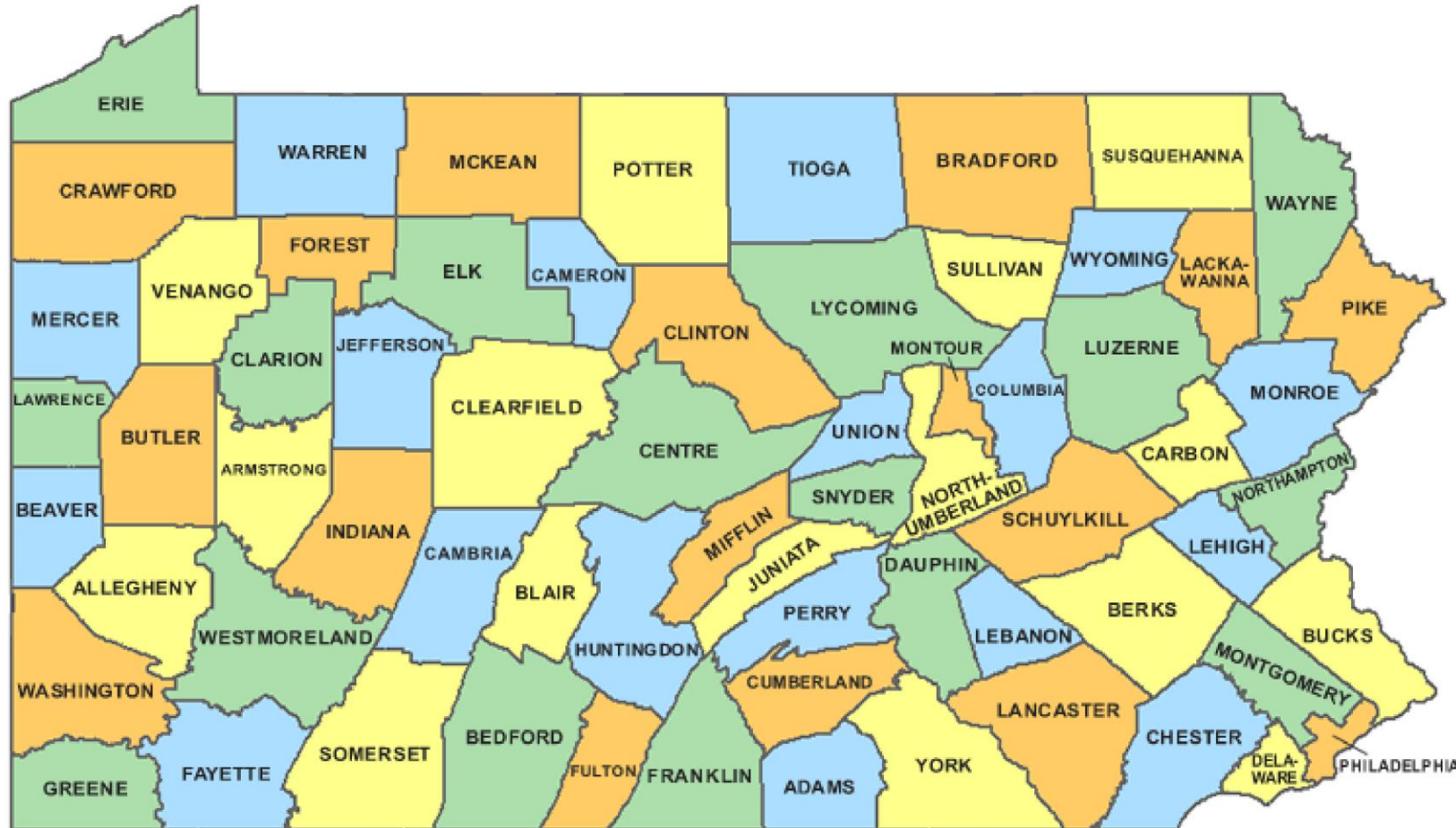
# PURPOSE OF THIS PRESENTATION

- What **local governments** can do to **reduce** greenhouse gas emissions through operations and policies
- What **local governments** can do to **promote** greenhouse gas reductions in their communities

# CHESTER COUNTY CONTEXT



# CHESTER COUNTY CONTEXT



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- **67 counties**
- **2,560 municipalities**
- **County's role is advisory**

# CHESTER COUNTY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Objectives and Actions for  
County Facilities & Operations  
and Community Engagement

## Goal:

REDUCE  
GREENHOUSE  
GAS EMISSIONS  
BY **80%** OF 2005  
LEVELS BY 2050

*“Achieving an 80% reduction by 2050 will require significant reductions in most emission sectors and dramatic changes in the economic policies and consumer preferences.”*

# HOW DO WE PROPOSE TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE?

## Objectives and Actions



62%



27%



3%



3%

 **CHESTER COUNTY FACILITIES & OPERATIONS ACTIONS**

 **COMMUNITY-WIDE ENGAGEMENT ACTIONS**

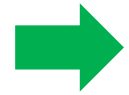
Plan identifies potential impact, priority, timeframe, and primary implementer(s) for each action.

# WHO IS THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN FOR?



## County Government

Facilities & Operations



**Actions are for various county departments with various levels of buy-in**



## Community-wide Engagement

Municipalities, Residents, Businesses, Community & Advocacy Groups



**County does not have regular/strong communications with all implementers**



## FACILITIES & OPERATIONS

### Energy Savings Measures

Continue to implement energy savings measures throughout county facilities.

### Renewable Energy Procurement

Explore additional options including Regional Power Purchase Agreement (PPA).



## COMMUNITY-WIDE ENGAGEMENT

### Adopt Alternative Energy Ordinances

Develop and adopt model ordinances that facilitate the use of alternate and emerging energy technologies.



# WHAT CHESTER COUNTY HAS DONE

- **Hired Sustainability Director / started Sustainability Division within the Planning Commission**
- **Convening county departments around Climate Action**
- **Solar feasibility analysis for county facilities, building electrification scoping, electric vehicle charging stations**
- **Amending our funding programs to promote these things at the municipal level**

# EXAMPLE: SUSTAINABLE ENERGY PARTNERSHIP OF SOUTHEASTERN PA



## Goals:

- Meet renewable energy targets through access to large-scale renewables with regional benefits (> 10 MWs)
- Lower energy costs and lower budget risk;
- Grow Partnership membership;
- Institutionalize and plan for ongoing energy procurement

# EXAMPLE: SOLSMART PROGRAM DESIGNATION

- **Solar** feasibility analysis for several county facilities
- **Solar** stakeholders forum to discuss barriers to solar adoption
- **Solar** Adopter's Forum (tomorrow!)
- **Solar** ordinance inventory and municipal outreach
- **Solar** webpage



<https://www.chescoplanning.org/Environmental/CleanEnergy/SolarPower.cfm>

# EXAMPLE: NORTHERN CHESTER COUNTY CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE

- Energy transition plans for local government operations and community outreach
- Plans funded through county grant program
- Four municipalities (combined pop. approx. 25,000)
- Intend to templatize plan for scalability



Northern Chester County  
CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE

*Making a difference...  
with your choices*

# EXAMPLE: CONVENING CONVERSATIONS AND ACTION

- **Local Government Climate Action Team**
- **Sustainable actions for HOAs**
- **Advancing sustainability in the ag sector**





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