

**CONNECT Infrastructure & Utilities Coordination Working  
Group meeting**  
Thursday | February 18, 2021 | 1:00pm  
Via Zoom



**Municipal Attendees:** Patty DeMarco, Forest Hills; Wayne McVicar, Dormont; Mary Ellen Ramage, Etna; Talia O'Brien, Etna; Cindy Bahn, Bellevue; Andrew Flynn, Mt. Lebanon; Deneen Underwood, Carnegie; Mark Sampogna, Green Tree; Brittany Reno, Sharpsburg; Phyllis Anderson, Oakmont; Tara Yaney, Edgewood; Alex Graziani, Churchill; Lou Casadei, Green Tree; Sarah Yeager, Pittsburgh; Darla Cravotta, Allegheny County; Ian McMeans, Mt. Lebanon; Grant Ervin, Pittsburgh; Heather Wechter, Mt. Lebanon

**Other Attendees:** Jonatas Farias, GSPIA; Annie Quinn, 3 Rivers Wet Weather; Jonathan Takac, PA Region 13 Task Force; Jeanne Clark, ALCOSAN; Jenn Slagle, Gateway Engineers; Chris Cieslak, Green Building Alliance; Megan Guy, Pitt Water Collaboratory; Rob Arnold, HRG; Marcos Bernal, PA One Call; Adam Kidane, ALCOSAN; Michele Acitelli, PennDOT; Manda Metzger, PWSA; Jackson Stoss, PWSA; Lolia Adoki, GSPIA; Jon DeMoss, PA One Call; Sukanya Romyanon, GSPIA

**CONNECT:** Lydia Morin, Tess De Jong, Eric Raabe, Sarah Downing

**Welcome & Introductions in the Zoom Chat**

Agenda overview

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**Coordinate PA Update**

- We're on track for more tickets than last year. Last March and April was slow, but since then, we've been doing well
- We will reverse our new version of our "drawing exchange" in April. You can literally exchange your drawings as designers. It's an interactive installation so you don't have to keep emailing your designs back and forth
- Marcos gave us a quick showing via Zoom screen share of the new look
- As always, happy to do (free) trainings!! [mrbernal@pa1call.org](mailto:mrbernal@pa1call.org)

*Quick Utilities Update Roundtable*

- Gateway: We have been able to coordinate so much better, we're being more effective with our communications, we're utilizing new technology in COVID, we're more purposeful in how we spend our money – and what we've learned through PA One Call has been so helpful. I can't speak enough about the successes and stories about how we're improving going forward
- PWSA: Utilizing GIS more, can search by project name and area  
<https://www.pgh2o.com/projects-maintenance/search-all-projects>

## Western PA Energy Consortium Update

- View [PowerPoint](#)
- We have been reimagining the possibilities of the consortium, for lower costs, a higher percentage of renewable energy, price stability, and to help grow our membership. With our new model with consultant ENEL-X, we have more control and flexibility, as well as transparency.
- Because of COVID, we did a 1-year extension last May with Direct Energy. It will Expire May 2021. We have an RFP out and will likely choose a supplier next week
- Like a farmers market approach to electricity: buy and support local. We can buy anywhere through PJM, but closer is better
- The best way to describe the WPEC energy supply is that it will serve as a portfolio where we will be able to provide a variety of products to meet the needs of members based upon their demand and risk profile.
- PPAs are Power Purchase Agreements or bi-lateral contracts between suppliers and consumers of electrical power. It is one 'product' that we will be able to incorporate into the WPEC portfolio.
- What could in site aggregation
- Email [Sarah.yeager@pittsburghpa.gov](mailto:Sarah.yeager@pittsburghpa.gov) with questions

## 2030 District Presentation + Discussion of Intersections/Potential Collaborations

- View [PowerPoint](#)
  - One of these slides is funding opportunities!
- 2030 District is program of Green Building Alliance. It's for both new and existing buildings.
- You can't change what you don't measure, so we start with measuring
- It's very simple/accessible to commit to, good faith effort, report annual energy/water use to GBA, and you will get annual building performance report
- We're breaking down silos between people who pay the bills, and facilities managers.
- Looking at finances helps find problems, facilities team is front line (leaks, etc) and they will save you money if they are quality employees.
- Comment: This would be good for municipalities to sign on to/up for because it's hard to get access to building energy/water usage/data without permission

## Regional Climate Action Plan Discussion

- The Greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory is complete and it includes all CONNECT municipalities! You can see both joint and individual data. Thank you utilities for your help!
- Eric will make and send out info pamphlets for each municipality with your data

- This will be a good tool to share with your council and community members
- Starting a Climate Action Plan subcommittee to help municipalities get on board for their own local CAPs, support those that already exist, and have members inform the development of the regional CAP.
- We hope to have a working RCAP draft by summer and have funding potentially by fall
- Comment: information about the Triboro solar co-op [www.solarunitedneighbors.org/triboro](http://www.solarunitedneighbors.org/triboro). The primary benefit to joining is joint bidding, purchasing, and feeling comfortable in the process. A big piece is also just learning if you have the ability to go solar – is it possible on my roof?
- Brief update on Marshall Plan For Middle America monthly meetings
- Comment: Sometimes it's hard to get council on board. But there is a certain level of competitiveness – if they see other communities benefitting from solar, elected officials are more likely to be interested
- Open discussion sharing success stories and ideas to generate effective outreach
- Comment: Etna would have never been able to draft and adopt a CAP without our partnership with the DEP and CONNECT! We wouldn't have known where to start, thank you for this added capacity

Next I&U working group meeting: Thursday, May 11, 1:00pm

<https://pitt.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwqfu-prz4vGNXF6iF-A95YVxe9U3CrllkK>

*When you register, you will receive the Zoom link and have the option to save the meeting to your calendar*

**Adjourn 2:43pm**