



2010-11 Progress Report

of the Bucks County Employees Green Initiative Committee
to the Bucks County Commissioners

APRIL 2011

BUCKS COUNTY EMPLOYEES GREEN INITIATIVE COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Michael Bannon	Consumer Protection, <i>Co-Chair BEGIN Committee</i>
Dennis Livrone	Planning Commission, <i>Co-Chair BEGIN Committee</i>
Gerald Anderson	General Services
Patricia Bachtle	Prothonotary
Lynn Bush	Planning Commission
Amy Fiero	Human Resources
Chris Edwards	Public Information
Arthur Feltes	Planning Commission/Recycling
Paul Gordon	Planning Commission
Don Jacobs	Information Technology
Dick Manna	Quality Assurance Administrator
Peter McElroy	General Services
Maureen McIlvaine	Purchasing
Joanne Miley	Court Administration
Bill Mitchell	Parks and Recreation
Rea Monaghan	Planning Commission
Fonta Reilly	Finance
Gary Sisler	General Services
Trish Villareale	Security
Eric Wightman	Bucks County Conservation District

SUBCOMMITTEES:

Employee Education:	Chris Edwards, Amy Fiero, Joanne Miley
Energy and Green Building:	Gerald Anderson, Gary Sisler, Maureen McIlvaine, Rea Monaghan, Paul Gordon, Mike Bannon
Grants:	Fonta Reilly, Rea Monaghan, Mike Bannon
Information Technology:	Don Jacobs, Chris Edwards
Landscaping:	Rea Monaghan, Gary Sisler, Dennis Livrone
Recycling:	Art Feltes, Gary Sisler, Maureen McIlvaine
Transportation:	Paul Gordon, Pete McElroy, Mike Bannon, Lynn Bush

Goal: Protect the environmental quality of Bucks County by reducing the ecological impacts of Bucks County Government operations and serving as a model for others.

Objectives:

- Advise the Bucks County Commissioners on green issues.
- Guide Bucks County employees toward greener workplace activities.
- Implement greener Bucks County government operations and facilities.
- Promote policies and practices of environmental sustainability throughout Bucks County.

April 20, 2011

Dear Commissioners:

As we now enter our fifth year, the Bucks Employees Green Initiative (BEGIN) Committee, is happy to report that the “Green Committee” continues to make progress on reducing County government’s impact on the environment while at that same time cutting costs.

As in past years, BEGIN is always working toward its goal of promoting and instituting green policies and practices in County government. The following summary shows how County employees have applied those policies and practices in the areas of recycling, landscaping, transportation, energy use reduction, green building improvements, information technology, and employee education. We have also been diligent in our pursuit and procurement of grant funding applicable to governmental green projects.

We must all remember that going green and staying green requires ongoing vigilance. Therefore, in this brochure you will see that in addition to our past accomplishments and our current “in-progress” activities, we list our planned actions for the near future.

The BEGIN Committee is now meeting quarterly to exchange ideas, report on accomplishments, and continuously reevaluate the needs and alternatives for making County government greener.

We appreciate the Commissioners continued support of the BEGIN Committee. Many thanks are extended to the various department heads, supervisors, and workers who actively promote and encourage green actions in the workplace. The BEGIN Committee welcomes continued input from all County employees.

Let’s all continue to do our part to make Bucks County government a “green” place to work!

Sincerely,

Michael D. Bannon, Director
Bucks County Consumer Protection
BEGIN Committee Co-Chair

Dennis P. Livrone, Senior Planner
Bucks County Planning Commission
BEGIN Committee Co-Chair

Information Technology

2010 Accomplishments

- Replaced 30-year old cooling devices in server areas with modern, efficient air handling devices, using federal energy grant funds.
- Continued replacing older computer monitors with more efficient flat screen types.
- Using Watt Stopper motion sensing outlets to save energy.
- Continued automatic screen savers program for county computer monitors.

In Progress 2010-2011

- Centralizing telephone system so that repairs and adjustments can be made remotely rather than on-site, similar to how the HELP Desk operates by providing remote fixes for computer problems.
- Moving data centers from a tape to an on-line disk system.
- Every new computer system we purchase puts a strain on environmental resources. We are maximizing the useful life of our current inventory of computers wherever possible.

Planned 2011-beyond

- Virtualizing the server system, so that the total number of servers needed to run the system can be reduced from 80 to 12.



Energy and Green Building

2010 Accomplishments

- Engineering on 16 projects was completed and contracts awarded in April 2010 through the Federal Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant (EECBG) program.
- Installation on projects was 80% complete including boiler replacement, Controller's office HVAC and window replacement, 50 N. Main St. window replacement, IT server and telephone room HVAC, entrance doors and entrance way tempering units, Rotunda exterior lighting and window caulking.
- Bucks County presented, at the request of the DOE, their "Best Practices" and success stories on our grant award at the regional EECBG meeting for grantees in April.

In Progress 2010-2011

- 2011 will close out the EECBG award by completing the remaining projects such as the cooling tower replacement, chill water and condenser pump replacements, ATC system retrofit, electrical switchgear upgrades, Administration building window replacement.

Planned 2011-beyond

- Energy efficient green roof at Churchville Nature Center.



Grants

2010 Accomplishments

- Researched and identified grant opportunities for BEGIN initiatives utilizing eCivis, a web-based grant research and management tool.
- Finalized EECBG grant award (\$3.9M) for energy efficiency retrofits and improvements to County buildings.
- Coordinated with BEGIN Subcommittees to submit applications for funding (Growing Greener II, US Environment Protection Agency, Pennsylvania Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program, etc.).

In Progress 2010-2011

- Continue to work with subcommittees to identify funding opportunities for BEGIN Initiatives.
- Continue to assist with reporting and compliance requirements of the EECBG program.



Planned 2011-beyond

- Continue to pursue additional funding and assist with application development for projects identified by the BEGIN committee.



Landscape

2010 Accomplishments

- Continued implementation of low-mow/no-mow practices on Neshaminy Manor grounds.
- Worked with developer to incorporate naturalized landscape on the Stone Manor/Neshaminy Manor Home detention basin located on County property.



In Progress 2010-2011

- Will continue to implement low-mow/no-mow policy for the 2011 season.
- Seek approval to implement educational outreach via County employees' newsletter and educational signage to be placed at the Stone Manor/Neshaminy Manor Home naturalized basin area.
- Pursue funding for educational signage.



Planned 2011-beyond

- Implement conservation landscape design recommendations on areas identified on the Neshaminy Manor master plan.
- Monitor no-mow/low-mow program for success, reduced fuel consumption, and cost savings.
- Consider no-mow/low-mow programs at other County properties.



Recycling

2010 Accomplishments

- Researched expansion of public area recycling program to include parks and county-owned common areas.
- Submitted an EPA composting grant application to develop a program to add food waste to existing composting efforts.
- Expanded recycling in county facilities by adding additional materials and sites to the county waste contract.

In Progress 2010-2011

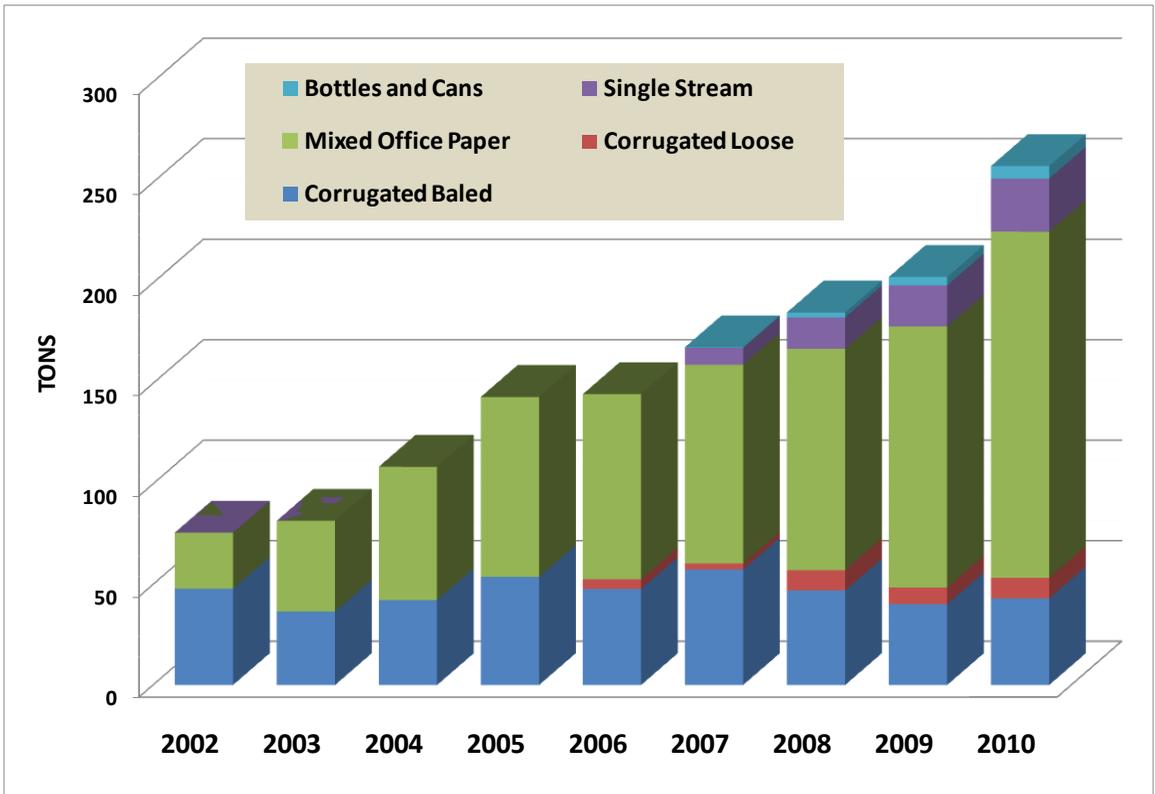
- Continuing to work with subcommittees to identify recycling opportunities for BEGIN initiatives.
- Continuing to assist with reporting and compliance requirements of the county recycling program.

Planned 2010-beyond

- Pursue additional recycling opportunities and assist with development of recycling projects identified by the BEGIN committee.



Recycling at Bucks County Facilities



Employee Education

2010 Accomplishments

- ☑ Based on feedback given during a Summer 2010 Employee Communications Audit, continued to reduce use of paper for internal communications.
- ☑ Continued updates on BEGIN initiatives through employee publications such as *The Bridge*.
- ☑ Created public outreach for Household Hazardous Waste events, which continue to be popular throughout the county.
- ☑ Supported Commissioners' rollout of EnergyWorks program along with the other Southeastern Pennsylvania counties.
- ☑ Promoted media awareness of energy saving projects (e.g., Administration Building window replacement).

In Progress 2010-2011

- ☐ Continue to work with other BEGIN subcommittees to support their specific goals and programs (i.e. low-mow/no-mow policy, Watt Stopper and Parks & Recreation can and bottle collection points).
- ☐ Redesign of county Intranet with a special section dedicated to BEGIN initiatives and accomplishments.

Planned 2011-beyond

- ☐ Continue to seek effective ways to communicate about BEGIN to both internal and external populations.



Transportation

2010 Accomplishments

- ☑ Continued to make reductions in the number of active fleet vehicles. Since 2008, the fleet of vehicles has been reduced by 28 vehicles or 10.9%.
- ☑ Increased utilization of the County's carshare program from 464 times/34,825 miles in 2009 to 794 times/69,331 miles. The carshare program has been effective in reducing the amount spent on mileage reimbursements each year.

In Progress 2010-2011

- ☐ Evaluate the potential to expand the carshare program including the ability to pick-up and return vehicles from satellite locations throughout the County.
- ☐ Continue to evaluate the need for replacement of aging vehicles with more fuel-efficient models.
- ☐ Continue to monitor and document each vehicle's maintenance history.

Planned 2011-beyond

- ☐ Work with area transit agencies including TMA Bucks to evaluate partnering opportunities to encourage increased use of mass transit in the County.





BUCKS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



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