



Lehigh Valley Sustainability Initiative



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Background



- Recognition of significant sustainability efforts already underway
- Looking at possible ways to increase synergy
- Bring many varied stakeholders together to achieve common goals
- Medium-sized cities, common in PA, with rural setting, ag, manufacturing



Background (cont.)



- Advantage to developing a broader plan & vision for the Lehigh Valley
 - Build upon current activities & efforts (not reinventing wheel or creating new infrastructure)
 - Inventory existing efforts—due diligence by EPA necessary
 - Establish Lehigh Valley as a leader in sustainability for a competitive edge
 - Alignment of goals is attractive to businesses & land developers



Similar Efforts in Other Communities

■ Delaware Valley



DELAWARE VALLEY HEALTHCARE COUNCIL
of The Hospital & Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania

- Local government—ordinance development
- Healthcare—sustainability, energy
- Philadelphia Strategic Plan (“Greenworks”)

■ Baltimore

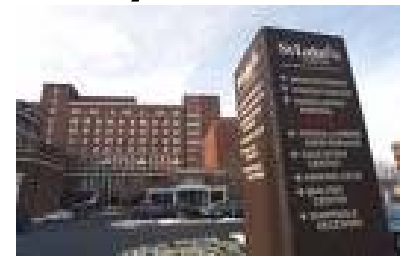
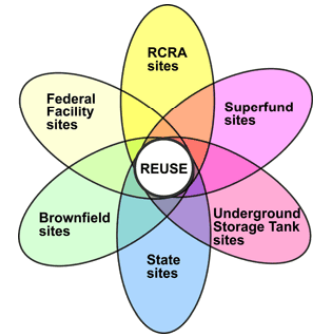
- Sustainability plan, program coordination across ports, healthcare, energy



Lehigh Valley Has Active Sustainability Community



- LVEDC & LVLRI encouraging sustainable redevelopment of sites
- Higher education
- Healthcare systems
- Green buildings
- LVLRI EPA Environmental Achievement Award winner 2008
- DVGBC Lehigh Valley Chapter
- 6-College consortium hired Sustainability Coordinator



Why Develop Lehigh Valley Initiative? (Or, What's In It For ME?)

- Synergy = Bringing together various groups to learn from each other, contribute to common solutions; see the bigger picture
 - Build upon existing partnerships (e.g., higher ed & LVEDC)
 - GIS—LV Planning Commission GIS work serves as strong base for further integration of data
- Regional energy-use evaluation & efficiency strategy
- Regional planning (encouraged by PA Planning Code)



Some Possible Ways We Can Partner—Ideas to Ponder



- EPA Region 3 has a toolbox of expertise to offer
- GIS—build upon strong local data collection & GIS efforts
- Allegheny County recently hired a Sustainability Manager
 - Will conduct inventory of GHG emissions
 - Fed stimulus funds for energy-use audit in all county buildings & for conservation upgrades that could save \$500,000 annually
- Tie various programs together
- Assist in identifying gaps in current sustainability efforts and help to fill them





Stay Tuned....

In meantime, contact:

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