

# WEST VINCENT TOWNSHIP

West Vincent Township is taking a leadership role to make the clean energy choices necessary to protect the best of our community for future generations. Clean energy is about good public policy, responsible resource stewardship and enhancing the quality and resilience of our community.

*In February 2020, West Vincent Township became the 11th municipality in Chester County to declare its commitment to transitioning to clean energy, upholding the terms of the 2015 Global Climate Agreement. There are now more than two dozen renewable energy resolutions in southeastern Pennsylvania and more than 170 municipal resolutions across the country, along with 10 county and 8 state resolutions. The West Vincent resolution is aligned with the township's sustainability plan and the comprehensive plan of the Phoenixville Regional Planning Committee. This report is the work of the planning group charged with developing a Clean Energy Transition Plan in 2021.*

## How does West Vincent Township use energy in its Operations?

The Township invests in, owns, and manages physical infrastructure used to provide public services. This infrastructure ranges from buildings to outdoor lighting, a road crew and police vehicle fleets, parks, athletic fields, and a traffic signal that manages traffic flow at one intersection. The Township fleets consumes over 16,000 gallons of fuel per year. This public infrastructure enables Township government to efficiently manage administrative responsibilities and provide the services, amenities, and leadership that West Vincent residents have come to expect. These physical assets also provide an opportunity for the Township to lead by example through taking actions to improve the efficiency of energy use directly under its care.

In 2019, the Township spent roughly \$62,600 on energy—about 1.4% of the total Township budget. Understanding how these costs break down is the first step towards being able to reduce them.

### 2019 WEST VINCENT TOWNSHIP OPERATIONS BASELINE INVENTORY RESULTS

Measuring emissions enables strategic efforts to reduce them. An understanding of our current energy use and spending represents the context for a planning process to identify activities to increase municipal energy efficiency and invest in renewable energy.

The data for this baseline was assembled from Township accounts with PECO, third party vendors, consultations with municipal staff, and from the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emission Inventory.

# 2019 ENERGY USE SNAPSHOT



In 2019 West Vincent Township facilities consumed:

**107**

MEGAWATT-HOURS OF ELECTRICITY

**2,500**

GALLONS OF LPG AND FUEL OIL

– which translates to –



**\$13,029**

TOTAL ENERGY COST



**59**

metric tons

TOTAL GHG EMISSIONS



In 2019 West Vincent Township fleet vehicles & equipment consumed:

**7,353**

GALLONS OF GASOLINE

**8,322**

GALLONS OF DIESEL FUEL

– which translates to –



**\$49,550**

TOTAL FUEL COST



**144**

metric tons

TOTAL GHG EMISSIONS

**OUR HIGHEST EMITTERS**

**VEHICLE FUEL  
144 TONS**

**TOWNSHIP BUILDINGS  
59 TONS**

71%

29%

## WEST VINCENT TOWNSHIP: Leading by Example

### OUR APPROACH

- Reduce GHG emissions.
- Focus on energy conservation and efficiency.
- Prioritize Return on Investment.
- Potential to displace fossil fuels.
- Short term ease to implement.

### WHAT WE'VE DONE

- ✓ Installed solar panels on roof of township building in 2009.
- ✓ The township supports renewable energy by purchasing 100% wind renewable energy credits.
- ✓ New police cars have anti-idling backup power systems.
- ✓ First police hybrid car added to fleet in 2021.
- ✓ LED lighting was installed at township building.
- ✓ LED traffic signal.

### WHERE WE'RE GOING

- Perform energy and electricity bill audits on township buildings.
- Undertake benchmarking with Energy Star Portfolio Manager.
- Transition fleet to hybrids and electric vehicles and install chargers.
- Design building expansions prioritizing efficiency and renewable energy production.
- Outreach to the community about the township's efforts toward energy efficiency to save costs and reduce GHG emissions, as well as best practices that can be implemented in the home or business.