Chester County Comprehensive Plan Update
Utilities & Infrastructure Issues Facing Chester County

Top 5 Issues

- Maintaining adequate sewage, water, and stormwater infrastructure.
- Maintaining a safe and adequate water supply.
- Coordinating water, sewer, and land use planning.
- Addressing solid waste needs including landfill capacity and the disposal of hazardous and e-waste.
- Promoting efficiency, resiliency and redundancy in the energy system.

All Identified Issues

WATER FACILITIES, SEWAGE FACILITIES, STORMWATER and FLOODING

- The need to maintain and upgrade aging water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure.
- Lack of sewage and water facilities funding to address aging infrastructure and regulatory requirements.
- Water supply quality concerns due to contaminants such as nitrates, road salt-runoff, failing on-lot systems, and hazardous waste spills.
- Coordination of water and sewage infrastructure planning with municipal land use planning.
- Challenges of complying with increasingly complex public water supply regulations.
- The need to resolve local sewage facilities issues before DEP corrective actions are needed through improved communication among municipalities, county, and state agencies.
- The need for community and municipal buy-in for enhanced stormwater management requirements given their potential benefits (i.e., flood control, water quality improvements, etc.)
- The need for accurate county-wide flood insurance mapping (including areas not studied in the latest FEMA map update) to reduce risk and financial burdens on property owners.

ENERGY, COMMUNICATIONS, SOLID WASTE and RECYCLING

- The need to address limited options for electronic-waste disposal and public understanding of the hazardous waste disposal process.
- The need to improve resiliency and redundancy in energy generation and distribution to avoid failures in the energy system during periods of peak demand or power interruptions.
- Challenges in meeting future solid waste disposal needs due to the cost and complexity of the landfill expansion process, limited availability of land, and "NIMBY" attitudes toward waste disposal sites.
- The need for regulations that support emerging or alternate energy technologies and allow for wider use of micro-grids and small scale energy generation.
- The need to address the environmental, safety, and land use impacts of large scale transmission natural gas/hazardous liquid pipelines.
- The need for convenient public access to high speed internet for all county residents through public libraries, community centers, and job training centers.
- The need to support economic development by making broadband telecommunication infrastructure (fiber optics/coaxial cable) available in all county growth areas.
- The need for complete cell phone coverage throughout Chester County while protecting the county's visual character.