

SHARPSBURG ECODISTRICT



IMPERATIVES COMMITMENT

Commitment Adopted on

June 24, 2020

By Sharpsburg Neighborhood Organization's (SNO's) Board of Directors,
a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization

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INTRODUCTION

The Sharpsburg Ecodistrict was established in 2016 by Sharpsburg Neighborhood Organization (SNO) to enhance quality of life for Sharpsburg residents by boosting the community’s environmental performance, improving the local economy, and increasing social equity. Sharpsburg is part of the Triboro Ecodistrict, which is an effort to promote coordinated sustainable community development throughout the Boroughs of Sharpsburg, Etna, and Millvale. In 2017, SNO engaged evolveEA to lead the development of the **Sharpsburg Community Vision Plan (SCVP) (Appendix A)**. After two years of technical analysis, community engagement, and scenario planning, the Sharpsburg Community Vision Plan launched in January 2019. The Plan presents the community’s vision for the next ten years, and includes development principles, urban systems recommendations, and placemaking projects to guide Sharpsburg’s future. The document also acts as the basis for the Sharpsburg Ecodistrict’s Roadmap and for SNO’s five-year work plan.

The Imperatives of social equity, climate protection, and resilience are deeply embedded into the Sharpsburg Community Vision Plan. Within these overarching Imperatives, the Sharpsburg Ecodistrict focuses on six quality of life areas: equity, food, water, energy, air, and mobility. These six quality of life areas are shared among the three Triboro Ecodistrict communities and were selected by residents as being most critical in affecting their quality of life. Through the Ecodistrict planning process, community members worked to create vision statements for each of the six quality of life areas that reflect their vision for a connected, resilient, thriving, and empowered Sharpsburg.

Figure 1: Community-crafted Vision Statements for each Quality of Life Area.

Quality of Life Area	Vision Statement
Equity	Sharpsburg is a community of opportunity where we thrive as individuals and collectively.
Food	Sharpsburgers will have access to affordable and healthy food and will be connected to a regional food network.
Water	Sharpsburg will integrate and celebrate water as an asset throughout the community.
Energy	Sharpsburg will strive to become an energy independent community.
Air Quality	Sharpsburgers will breathe clean air indoors and outdoors.
Mobility	Mobility is essential for all generations and should improve quality of life and advance the economy.

The Sharpsburg Ecodistrict Imperatives Commitment preparation process was informed by the SCVP community engagement process, the recommendations in the Plan itself, the outcomes from Sharpsburg’s participation in the 2019 EcoDistricts Incubator in Millvale, PA, as well as activities that have occurred in the community over the past four years. For an extensive list of community engagement events that contributed to the Imperatives Commitment, please see **Appendix B Sharpsburg Ecodistrict Community Engagement Summary**.

The Sharpsburg Ecodistrict Imperatives Commitment was adopted by the Sharpsburg Neighborhood Organization Board on **May 27, 2020** through a consensus-based process where each Board member had one vote. In anticipation of the vote, each organization was provided a copy of the Sharpsburg Ecodistrict Imperatives Commitment and the Sharpsburg Community Vision Plan so that they could review the Commitment and verify its alignment with the Sharpsburg Ecodistrict's goals. The Sharpsburg Ecodistrict Imperatives Commitment was adopted with all in favor. The Imperatives Commitment will now formally become a part of the Sharpsburg Community Vision Plan as an appendix item.

The name and affiliations of the adopters of the Sharpsburg Ecodistrict Imperatives Commitment include:

- Shanna Carrick, SNO Board President
- Kacie Cope
- Nanci Goldberg, SNO Secretary
- Nathan Pearce
- Paul Perowicz
- Sydney Rabinovitz
- Brittany Reno, SNO Executive Director, Sharpsburg Borough Council President
- Mayor Matthew Rudzki, Mayor of Sharpsburg
- Rev. Scott Shaffer
- Charles Smith

COMMITMENT TO SOCIAL EQUITY

EQUITY VISION

Sharpsburg is a community of opportunity where we thrive as individuals and collectively.

Social equity is one of the six quality of life areas that the Sharpsburg Ecodistrict focuses on, however, it also acts as the umbrella over the other five quality of life areas. All six quality of life vision statements apply to the entire Sharpsburg community, including residents and visitors, projects and activities, and planning and implementation. Improving quality of life for all Sharpsburg residents goes hand-in-hand with creating an equitable community, which is the underlying purpose for creating the Sharpsburg Ecodistrict.

The Sharpsburg Ecodistrict commits to creating an equitable community where all community members have full and equal access to opportunities that enable them to reach their greatest potential. This includes people traditionally most negatively impacted by societal inequities, such as low-income households, youth and elders, people of color, recent immigrants, people with disabilities, unhoused people, and LGBTQIA+ individuals, among others. The Sharpsburg Ecodistrict will pursue social equity in all of its activities, including in our process (community engagement, distributed leadership, and project planning); in our decision making (transparent decision-making based on consensus and community feedback); and in our outcomes (the benefits and burdens of Ecodistrict activities will be distributed fairly across the current population and current and future generations).

EQUITY CONTEXT

Like many riverfront communities, in the first half of the twentieth century Sharpsburg's waterfront was an essential part of the regional economy. Industry was booming and employed Sharpsburg residents as well as workers from outside of the borough. Smaller scale industrial sites were integrated throughout the community and locally serving businesses thrived in support of industry and their employees. When the steel industry collapsed, Sharpsburg lost many of these jobs, many locally serving businesses, and population decreased by over half from a 1920s peak of 8,921 people to 3,446 people today. In addition to experiencing economic decline, Sharpsburg has historically suffered from environmental issues, such as frequent flooding (most notably the floods of 1913, 1936, 1942, and 2004) and poor air quality (the region consistently ranks in the worst 10% in the nation).

Today, Sharpsburg lacks access to essential services within the borough, such as healthy and affordable food and health care. A lack of green space, close proximity to Route 28 and two highly-traveled bridges (62nd Street Bridge and Highland Park Bridge), and the increasing frequency of combined sewer overflows all contribute to local environmental pollution. Historic redlining in the community (Sharpsburg was labeled entirely "Hazardous" or "Definitely Declining") resulted in racial segregation and economic inequities that still have an impact on current

conditions. Like many municipalities in southwestern Pennsylvania, several Sharpsburg residents have suffered from the opioid crisis, resulting in overdose-related deaths (six people in 2017). Lastly, a lower than average home ownership rate for the region (41%) as well as low median household income (\$30,350), along with increasing home values and rent are putting a large financial burden on many Sharpsburg residents. Each of these historical events and current conditions have contributed to the subordination of certain Sharpsburg populations and demonstrate the need for a more equitable community. Luckily, many organizations in Sharpsburg, including the Sharpsburg Ecodistrict, Sharpsburg Neighborhood Organization, Sharpsburg Community Library, Second Harvest, Northern Area Multi-Service Center, and others are working to make the community more equitable and improve quality of life for all. Populations living in Sharpsburg who are more likely to be negatively impacted by the current system are described in the table below.

Figure 2: Populations in the Sharpsburg Ecodistrict that are more likely to be negatively affected by the current system. The current population in Sharpsburg is 3,446 people.

Population Group	Approximate Group Size	Data Source and Year	Vulnerability
Low income (below the poverty line)	27.2% (937 people)	SWPA Profiles, Census, 2013	Regional and local economic decline; Rising cost of living; Lack of educational and workforce development opportunities; Lack of jobs matching skills and interest
Renters	59.1% (2,037 people)	ESRI, Census, 2010	Low median household income; Rising home sale prices; Escalating rental costs
Youth (under 19 years old)	23.4% (808 people)	ESRI, Census, 2010	Limited access to daycare, before-school, and after-school care; Limited access to career preparation resources; Limited access to arts and cultural programming
Elders (over 65 years old)	14.1% (485 people)	ESRI, Census, 2010	Lack of borough mobility improvements, including sidewalk repairs and ADA accessibility as well as public transportation to regional destinations; Limited age-in-place resources; Limited access to medical care
Individuals with disabilities	27.8% (958 people)*	ACHD/ACS, 2013-2017	Lack of borough accessibility improvements, including ADA amenities, sidewalk repairs, etc.; Historic socioeconomic inequities in development and accessibility

Unhoused individuals	1.6% (57 people)**	SWPA Profiles, ACDHS, 2015	Historic economic decline; Escalating housing prices; Escalating cost of living; Low median household income
Population in female-headed households	11.2% (384 people)	SWPA Profiles, Census, 2011-2015	Historic socioeconomic inequities; Limited access to daycare, before-school, and after-school care
Unemployed individuals	7.7% (222 people)	SWPA Profiles, Census, 2011-2015	Historic loss of local jobs; Limited public transportation access to regional job centers; Lack of educational and workforce development resources
People affected by substance use	(74 people)***	Allegheny County Health Department 2015-2019	Escalating opioid epidemic, use and dependency on substances like alcohol, tobacco, and narcotics
Households and businesses in the floodplain	33.72% (435 buildings)	GIS, FEMA, 2017	Location in the floodplain; Increasing frequency of 100-year storms, resulting in more frequent flooding and combined sewer overflows; Increasing cost of floodplain insurance; Stagnant home sale prices compared to buildings not located in the floodplain
Food insecure individuals	14.3% (492 people)****	Just Harvest, 2016	Lack of a grocery store; Lack of resources to increase food knowledge (how to cook, choose healthy foods, etc.); Food access preferences those with growing knowledge, transportation, time, and money
Racial minority groups	13.1% (452 people)	SWPA Profiles, Census, 2010	Socioeconomic inequities; Systemic racism
Recent immigrants	15 Families (in the 15215 zip code, which Sharpsburg is a part of)*****	JFCS Pittsburgh	Socioeconomic inequities; Lack of educational and workforce development resources; Recent closure of immigrant relocation support center and ESL programs
English as a Second Language	248 individuals speak a language other than English; 43 individuals speak English less than “very well”	ACS 2011-15	Lack of educational and workforce development resources; Socioeconomic inequities; Lack of translation resources
LGBTQIA+	Insufficient data	N/A	Socioeconomic inequities

* Individuals with a disability include people who have difficulties performing activities due to a physical, mental, or emotional condition.

**Unhoused individuals are defined as individuals receiving homelessness and housing support services from Allegheny County’s Department of Human Services.

*** Non-fatal opioid-related overdoses in 15215, which Sharpsburg is a part of.

****Estimated based on Allegheny County average (Just Harvest, 1 in 7 people)

*****Number of families in 15215 zip code, which Sharpsburg is a part of. This number is limited to families served by JFCS Pittsburgh, through their Immigrant Services and Connections (ISAC) program.

Figure 3: Equity policies, programs, and plans on the municipal, regional, and county scale that are applicable to the Sharpsburg Ecodistrict.

Equity Policies, Programs, and Plans	Geography
Sharpsburg Community Vision Plan	Municipal (Sharpsburg)
ARTEZ Community Perception Survey	Municipal (Sharpsburg)
Millvale, Sharpsburg, & Etna Joint Comprehensive Plan (River Bend)	Municipal (Triboro)
Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) Environmental Justice Report	County (Allegheny County)
Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) Health Equity Briefs	County (Allegheny County)

There are several policies, programs, and plans on the municipal, regional, and county scales that apply to the Sharpsburg Ecodistrict and Sharpsburg’s planning around social equity.

Sharpsburg Community Vision Plan

The Sharpsburg Community Vision Plan launched in January 2019, and acts as the community’s roadmap to shape their future and guide development in the borough for the next five to ten years. The Plan showcases Sharpsburg’s identity, people, culture, and ambitions, and envisions a community of opportunity where all people are connected, thriving, resilient, and empowered to be the best they can be. The Plan includes development principles, urban systems recommendations, and placemaking projects to guide Sharpsburg’s future. This document also acts as the basis for the Sharpsburg Ecodistrict’s Roadmap and for SNO’s five-year work plan. This Plan directly addresses equity as a primary goal for Sharpsburg. All recommendations are in support of becoming a more equitable community.

ARTEZ Community Perception Survey

ARTEZ performed a community perception survey in 2015 to understand how residents perceive Sharpsburg. Interviewees consisted of a random sample of residents that volunteers visited to perform the survey. The key findings from the survey results include the following perceptions:

- Sharpsburg is a safe neighborhood where the houses are in fair or good quality.
- Sharpsburg is a social neighborhood where neighbors are friendly and enjoy spending time outdoors interacting with one another.

- Amenities such as the library, banks, and public transportations are easy to access, however, amenities such as mental health services and social benefit programs are not convenient to get to.

While this survey does not directly address equity, it does address perceptions and public opinion, which when understood and addressed, can contribute to a more equitable community.

[Millvale, Sharpsburg, & Etna Joint Comprehensive Plan \(River Bend\)](#)

Completed in 2014, the River Bend Joint Comprehensive Plan includes Millvale, Etna, and Sharpsburg. The plan addresses issues of governance and long term planning related to municipal operations, land use, transportation, etc. This initial collaboration allowed each Borough to share a zoning map to better distribute zoning requirements across the three Boroughs and led to the Triboro Ecodistrict Initiative. While the Plan does not directly define or address equity, many of the recommendations reinforce Ecodistrict planning principles.

[Allegheny County Health Department \(ACHD\) Environmental Justice Index](#)

ACHD compared federal and state environmental justice criteria with a locally weighted index that identified communities like Sharpsburg as “Environmental Justice” communities. Environmental justice is an equity concern.

[Allegheny County Health Department \(ACHD\) Health Equity Briefs](#)

At the county level, the Allegheny County Health Department has published Health Equity Briefs (published in 2018) on [Health Access, Chronic Disease and Risk Behaviors](#), [Environment, Maternal and Child Health](#), and [Mental Health and Substance Use](#) that describe the disparities in the quality of health across different populations and municipalities in Allegheny County, including Sharpsburg.

WORKPLAN

The following work plan describes what specific tasks will be integrated into each EcoDistricts Protocol implementation phase to advance Sharpsburg’s commitment to social equity. Overall, Sharpsburg is committed to:

- **Procedural Equity (equity in our process):** Inclusive and authentic engagement of individuals and organizations including those most likely to be negatively affected by change.
- **Structural Equity (equity in our decision making):** Transparent decision making that is accountable for equitable decisions.
- **Distributional and cross-generational equity (equity in our outcomes):** Fair distribution of the benefits and burdens of Ecodistrict projects and programs across all populations, and current and future generations.

Equity in the Formation Phase

Procedural:

- P1. Establish Sharpsburg Neighborhood Organization (SNO) to improve the quality of life for residents. Include representatives from Sharpsburg Borough, faith organizations,

educational organizations, small businesses, etc. to join SNO's Board and participate in decision making.

- P2. Perform extensive and authentic outreach to the community, including identified groups that are more likely to be negatively affected by the current system, to explain the purpose of SNO and how they can participate.

Structural:

- S1. Establish distributed leadership by convening six "Champions" committees (one for each quality of life area) composed of a small group of passionate volunteers from the community. Empower the Champions groups to ideate and implement recommendations in support of the Ecodistrict.
- S2. Recruit individuals and organizations representing groups that are more likely to be negatively affected by the current system to join the Champions committees, SNO's Board, and engagement opportunities related to the Ecodistrict.
- S3. Prepare a governance strategy that describes SNO's role as the backbone organization for the Sharpsburg Ecodistrict and the relationship between SNO, the Borough, and other organizations in their pursuit to accomplish Ecodistrict goals.

Distributional/Cross-Generational:

- D1. Prepare a Sharpsburg asset map that identifies socioeconomic, organizational, and physical assets to understand how assets are currently distributed in the community and how future efforts should be concentrated to equitably distribute the benefits and burdens of Ecodistrict activities.

Equity in the Roadmap Phase

Procedural:

- P3. Host community meetings, events, workshops, and other convenings to solicit ideas and ask for feedback to inform the Roadmap. Utilize a variety of engagement strategies to reach all population groups in Sharpsburg.

Structural:

- S4. Develop and prioritize Roadmap principles, places, and priorities based on community feedback. Document the rationale for decisions in-depth and transparently in the Roadmap.
- S5. Select Roadmap indicators that reflect community values, contribute to an equitable community, and are feasibly measurable.
- S6. Ask SNO Board members to read, respond to, and engage in a consensus-based vote to adopt the Roadmap.

Distributional/Cross-Generational:

- D2. Ensure that the Roadmap recommendations equitably distribute benefits and burdens by performing an equity assessment of each recommendation. Specifically include

recommendations that prevent displacement of existing residents and build community wealth.

Equity in the Performance Phase

Procedural:

- P4. Collect and analyze data biannually to track progress towards Ecodistrict equity goals using community indicators.
- P5. Make biannual reports accessible for free online and printed versions available in the Sharpsburg Community Library.
- P6. Treat the Sharpsburg Ecodistrict Roadmap as a living document and course-correct as needed to ensure that Sharpsburg is on the right track to becoming an equitable community.
- P7. Meet with organizations focused on groups that are more likely to be negatively affected by the current system to share the biennial reports. Discuss how to advance mutually beneficial goals and share data.

Structural:

- S7. Continue engaging the community in regular meetings, events, and through other methods. Continue sharing Ecodistrict progress and incorporating community feedback as recommendations are implemented.

Distributional/Cross-Generational:

- D3. Track the outcomes of Ecodistrict recommendations to understand who is benefiting and adjust the Roadmap as needed to ensure an equitable distribution of benefits and burdens.

RESPONSIBILITIES & SCHEDULE

A responsible party and timeline for each work plan task is described below.

Figure 4: Social equity work plan responsible parties and timeline. Under “Equity Task,” “P” represents a procedural equity task, “S” represents a structural equity task, and “D” represents a distributional/cross-generational equity task. The equity tasks align with the previous “Work Plan” section.

Equity Task	Responsible Party	Timeline
Formation Phase		
P1	SNO	Completed: SNO was founded as a small volunteer group in July 2014 and was formally incorporated with a Board of Directors in April 2016.
P2	SNO	Ongoing, began in April 2016
S1	SNO	Ongoing, began in March 2019
S2	SNO	Ongoing, began in April 2016

S3	SNO	Began: January 2020 Anticipated Completion: August 2020
D1	SNO, evolveEA	Completed: March 2020
Roadmap Phase		
P3	SNO, evolveEA	Completed: December 2018
S4	SNO, evolveEA	Completed: January 2019
S5	SNO, evolveEA	Anticipated Completion: August 2020
S6	SNO	Anticipated Completion: August 2020
D2	SNO, evolveEA	Anticipated Completion: August 2020
Performance Phase		
P4	SNO	Biannually beginning two years after EDO certification
P5	SNO	Biannually beginning two years after EDO certification
P6	SNO	Quarterly beginning in January 2019
P7	SNO	Biannually beginning two years after EDO certification
S7	SNO	Quarterly beginning in January 2019
D3	SNO	Quarterly beginning in January 2019

INDICATOR

To track Sharpsburg’s progress towards becoming an equitable community, and to help prevent displacement of existing residents, the Sharpsburg Ecodistrict has selected **median rent and median home sale price in Sharpsburg** as its equity indicator. As rent and home sale prices increase it can cause displacement of existing renters and prevent renters from becoming homeowners within the community. Sharpsburg is employing initiatives and using resources to prevent displacement of existing residents and maintain an affordable cost of living for existing residents.

EVALUATION & ADJUSTMENT

The Sharpsburg Ecodistrict commits to measuring each chosen indicator, transparently reporting progress based on this data, and using each progress report to evaluate existing efforts and adjust the Roadmap as needed to advance equity in Sharpsburg, as described in Social Equity Workplan tasks P4 and P6. A full report will be produced every two years, however, continuous updating of the Roadmap will occur in the interim.

LETTER OF SUPPORT

Roots of Faith has provided a letter of support for the Sharpsburg Ecodistrict's Equity Commitment that can be found in **Appendix C Letters of Support**.

COMMITMENT TO CLIMATE PROTECTION

CLIMATE PROTECTION VISION

Sharpsburg is a responsible community that has a positive impact on the environment as opposed to a negative one.

The Sharpsburg Ecodistrict is committed to becoming carbon neutral by lessening their environmental impact (their footprint) while maximizing their positive environmental and social impact (their handprint). Sharpsburg's actions will ensure that satisfying our current needs does not compromise the needs of future generations. Each of the quality of life vision statements addresses climate protection in different ways, either directly or indirectly. For example, **food** addresses growing food and local food to reduce food miles (reducing transportation emissions); **water** addresses reducing the stormwater contribution to the combined sewer system and reducing potable water consumption (reducing infrastructure emissions); **energy** addresses reducing energy consumption in buildings and increasing renewable energy generation; **air** addresses sources of pollution, which is directly related to energy consumption and renewable energy generation; and lastly, **mobility** addresses alternative transportation (reducing transportation emissions).

The Sharpsburg Ecodistrict commits to becoming a carbon neutral community by the year 2050 by reducing carbon emissions and increasing carbon sequestration in the five quality of life areas described above. This includes net zero Scope 1 and Scope 2 carbon emissions as defined by the Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories. The Sharpsburg Ecodistrict will pursue climate protection through all of its activities, with an emphasis on decarbonizing the community's electricity generation (maximizing renewable energy), fuel shifting to renewable electricity and clean fuels (in all sectors, including transportation), improving efficiency and reducing waste (energy use in the building, transportation, and infrastructure sectors and reducing waste consumption of products and services), and preserving and increasing natural carbon sinks (including soils, vegetation, and tree cover).

CLIMATE PROTECTION CONTEXT

With respect to energy consumption, the estimated annual energy consumption of all buildings in Sharpsburg is approximately 267,585 million BTU/year, with 63% attributed to residential buildings, 36% attributed to commercial buildings, and 1% attributed to industrial buildings. Likewise, based on the fuel source breakdown for Sharpsburg's region and the source energy breakdown for the Ohio Valley electric grid (RFCW), it is estimated that Sharpsburg produces over 34,654 metric tons

of GHG emissions annually. This equates to 10 metric tons per Sharpsburg resident. Approximately 42% of these emissions are attributed to vehicles (72% gasoline, 28% diesel), 28% is attributed to natural gas (29% commercial, 71% residential), and the remaining 30% is attributed to electricity (4% industrial, 52% commercial, 44% residential). While Sharpsburg does not contain any landfills (this is outside of their Scope 1 & 2 emissions), the waste produced in the Borough does have an impact on GHG emissions, however, we are unable to quantify to what extent at this time. Similarly, Sharpsburg does not contain any water filtration or wastewater processing facilities (this is outside of their Scope 1 & 2 emissions), but the water consumed, the wastewater discarded, and the stormwater that enters the combined sewer system does have an impact on GHG emissions. However, we are unable to quantify to what extent at this time. The Sharpsburg Ecodistrict intends to calculate more specifically the Borough’s detailed baseline energy use and CO2 emissions inventory during the Roadmap phase.

While buildings, transportation, and infrastructure in Sharpsburg contributes to the Borough’s greenhouse gas emissions, the natural features in Sharpsburg work to prevent the production of carbon emissions and also sequester carbon. For example, stormwater that falls along Sharpsburg’s Riverfront makes its way into the Allegheny River instead of into the combined sewer system. Sharpsburg contains many parks and street trees that improve local air quality, infiltrate stormwater, and sequester carbon. The Sharpsburg Community Garden, located adjacent to the Sharpsburg Community Library, provides a source of local food (reducing food miles traveled) in addition to infiltrating stormwater and sequestering carbon. The Sharpsburg Ecodistrict intends to continue utilizing and strengthening existing natural assets to improve quality of life and contribute to the community’s carbon neutrality goal.

Figure 5: Climate Protection policies, programs, and plans on the municipal, regional, and county scale that are applicable to the Sharpsburg Ecodistrict.

Climate Protection Policies, Programs, and Plans	Geography
Sharpsburg Stormwater Management Ordinance (No. 18-12)	Municipal (Sharpsburg)
Sharpsburg Community Vision Plan	Municipal (Sharpsburg)
Millvale, Sharpsburg, & Etna Joint Comprehensive Plan (River Bend)	Municipal (Triboro)
Sustainable Pittsburgh Regional Indicators	Regional (City of Pittsburgh)
City of Pittsburgh Resilience Plan	Regional (City of Pittsburgh)
City of Pittsburgh Climate Action Plan (PCAP) 3.0	Regional (City of Pittsburgh)
City of Pittsburgh Roadmap to Zero Waste Study	Regional (City of Pittsburgh)
PA State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency	State (Pennsylvania)
PA Climate Action Plan	State (Pennsylvania)

There are several policies, programs, and plans on the municipal, regional, and county scales that apply to the Sharpsburg Ecodistrict and Sharpsburg’s planning around climate protection.

Sharpsburg Stormwater Management Ordinance (No. 18-12)

Sharpsburg's Stormwater Management Ordinance was adopted by Borough Council in November 2018 to promote health, safety, and welfare within the Municipality and its watershed by minimizing the harms and maximizing the benefits of stormwater. The requirements in this ordinance are intended to:

- Meet legal water quality requirements under state law, including to protect, maintain, reclaim, and restore the existing and designated uses of the waters of this Commonwealth.
- Preserve natural drainage systems.
- Manage stormwater runoff close to the source, reduce runoff volumes, and mimic pre-development hydrology.
- Provide procedures and performance standards for stormwater planning and management.
- Maintain groundwater recharge to prevent degradation of surface and groundwater quality and to otherwise protect water resources.
- Prevent scour and erosion of stream banks and streambeds.
- Provide proper operation and maintenance of all stormwater management best practices that are implemented within the municipality.
- Provide standards to meet NPDES permit requirements.

Increasing stormwater infiltration and reducing the quantity of stormwater entering the combined sewer system decreases the need for additional gray infrastructure and reduces Sharpsburg's Scope 3 emissions.

Sharpsburg Community Vision Plan

The Sharpsburg Community Vision Plan launched in January 2019, and acts as the community's roadmap to shape their future and guide development in the borough for the next five to ten years. The Plan showcases Sharpsburg's identity, people, culture, and ambitions, and envisions a community of opportunity where all people are connected, thriving, resilient, and empowered to be the best they can be. The Plan includes development principles, urban systems recommendations, and placemaking projects to guide Sharpsburg's future. The Plan also acts as the basis for the Sharpsburg Ecodistrict's Roadmap and for SNO's five-year work plan. An overarching goal within this Plan is to reduce the community's carbon emissions, and there are explicit recommendations related to decreasing the community's energy consumption and increasing renewable energy production.

Millvale, Sharpsburg, & Etna Joint Comprehensive Plan (River Bend)

Completed in 2014, the River Bend Joint Comprehensive Plan includes Millvale, Etna, and Sharpsburg. The plan addresses issues of governance and long term planning related to municipal operations, land use, transportation, etc. This initial collaboration allowed each Borough to share a zoning map to better distribute zoning requirements across the three Boroughs and led to the Triboro Ecodistrict Initiative. While this Plan does not directly address climate protection, it does provide recommendations related to municipal operations, land use, transportation, and other areas that contribute to the community's goal of reducing carbon emissions.

Sustainable Pittsburgh Regional Indicators

The regional nonprofit, Sustainable Pittsburgh, has developed a set of regional indicators that can be both a dataset and a benchmark for the municipality. The indicators are organized by People, Planet, Place, and Performance (P4). This data set can act as a benchmark for the community as they work to achieve carbon neutrality.

City of Pittsburgh Resilience Plan

Adopted in 2017, Pittsburgh's OnePGH resilience plan was launched after two years in the Rockefeller Resilient Cities program. The plan addresses many of the same issues as Sharpsburg and, although there is no shared jurisdiction, the future of Sharpsburg is affected by the successes and failures across the river. The issues are organized by people, planet, place, and performance. While the Plan does not directly address climate protection, the issues addressed in the plan relate to energy independence and other topics related to carbon neutrality.

City of Pittsburgh Climate Action Plan (PCAP 3.0)

The City of Pittsburgh recently adopted the PCAP 3.0, which includes a carbon inventory and strategies for improvement. Within this plan are 2030 District Goals that set national standards for high performance buildings by committing properties to a 50% reduction in energy use, water consumption, and transportation emissions by 2030, while improving indoor air quality. The Sharpsburg Ecodistrict can use the PCAP 3.0 as a resource and potential model to reduce the Borough's carbon footprint and transition to carbon neutrality.

City of Pittsburgh Roadmap to Zero Waste Study

The City of Pittsburgh completed the 2017 study to understand how to improve its municipal services. The study can be referenced by Sharpsburg but has no jurisdictional authority. Minimizing landfill-bound waste will reduce Sharpsburg's Scope 3 carbon emissions.

PA State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency

At the state level, there are a number of different incentives for renewables and efficiency to encourage individuals to be more energy efficient and transition to alternative fuel sources for their homes and/or vehicles. These include tax credits, rebates, and loan programs, including but not limited to Tax Credits for Consumer Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Products, the Alternative Fuel Vehicle (AFV) Rebate Program, and the Keystone Home Energy Loan Program. The Sharpsburg Ecodistrict will consider these programs as options to share with the community when pursuing initiatives to reduce resident energy burden and encourage the use of alternative fuel sources, which contributes to the community's goal of carbon neutrality.

PA Climate Action Plan

The Pennsylvania Climate Action Plan is required by the Pennsylvania Climate Change Act of 2008. The Department of Environmental Protection and the Climate Change Advisory Committee (CCAC) completed this Plan in 2019. The Plan identifies GHG emissions and sequestration trends and baselines in the Commonwealth; evaluates cost-effective strategies for reducing or offsetting GHG emissions; it identifies costs, benefits, and co-benefits of recommended reduction strategies; and recommends legislative changes needed to implement the Plan. Implementation of these recommendations will help Sharpsburg achieve its goal of carbon neutrality.

WORKPLAN

The following work plan describes what specific tasks will be integrated into each EcoDistricts Protocol implementation phase to advance Sharpsburg’s commitment to climate protection.

Climate Protection in the Formation Phase

1. Educate the community about the six quality of life issue areas and how they relate to climate protection, as well as the concept of climate protection in general.
2. Invite key stakeholders who are knowledgeable about the six quality of life areas to participate in community education and the development of the Imperatives Commitment.

Climate Protection in the Roadmap Phase

3. Create a carbon inventory to understand the sources of carbon emissions and existing assets that sequester carbon.
4. Assess each Roadmap strategy in terms of carbon and prioritize low-cost, high-impact carbon reduction and sequestration strategies and projects.
5. Develop a pathway to carbon neutrality that considers the Roadmap strategies as well as future strategies to be implemented from the years 2030 to 2050.

Climate Protection in the Performance Phase

6. Collect and analyze data biannually to track progress towards carbon neutrality.
7. Reassess the prioritized Roadmap strategies biannually and re-adjust as needed to maximize reduction in net carbon emissions in addition to maximizing the equitable distribution of carbon reduction strategies.

RESPONSIBILITIES & SCHEDULE

A responsible party and timeline for each work plan task is described below.

Figure 6: Climate Protection responsibilities and timeline.

Climate Protection Task	Responsible Party	Timeline
Formation Phase		
1	SNO, evolveEA	Completed: January 2019
2	SNO, evolveEA	Completed: June 2020
Roadmap Phase		
3	SNO, evolveEA	Anticipated Completion: August 2020
4	SNO, evolveEA	Anticipated Completion: August 2020

5	SNO, evolveEA	Anticipated Completion: August 2020
Performance Phase		
6	SNO	Biannually beginning two years after EDO certification
7	SNO	Biannually beginning two years after EDO certification

INDICATOR

To track Sharpsburg’s progress towards achieving carbon neutrality, the Sharpsburg Ecodistrict has selected **megawatt-hours per year (MWh/year) of renewable energy generated within Sharpsburg** as its climate protection indicator. In order to reach carbon neutrality it is essential for the community to both reduce community-wide energy consumption as well as shift from carbon-based energy sources to renewable energy sources. Increasing the quantity of renewable energy produced in the community will also build community wealth by reducing utility costs, in addition to improving community resilience by making Sharpsburg more energy independent.

EVALUATION & ADJUSTMENT

The Sharpsburg Ecodistrict commits to measuring each chosen indicator, transparently reporting progress based on this data, and using each progress report to evaluate their efforts and adjust the Roadmap as needed to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 in Sharpsburg, as described in Climate Protection Workplan tasks 6 and 7. A full report will be produced every two years, however, continuous updating of the Roadmap will occur in the interim.

LETTER OF SUPPORT

Sharpsburg Community Library has provided a letter of support for the Sharpsburg Ecodistrict’s Climate Protection Commitment that can be found in **Appendix C Letters of Support**.

COMMITMENT TO RESILIENCE

RESILIENCE VISION

Sharpsburg is a resilient community that thrives when confronted with social, economic, and environmental stresses and shocks.

The Sharpsburg Ecodistrict is committed to becoming a resilient community by developing knowledge and expertise, building organizations and networks, empowering individuals, and creating thoughtful places. This will minimize Sharpsburg’s contribution to, help them prepare for, and enable them to thrive following predictable and unpredictable social, economic, and environmental shocks and stresses. Resilience must be integrated into the six quality of life issue areas to minimize shocks and stresses when possible, and when unavoidable, mitigate their negative effects.

Sharpsburg commits to creating a resilient community where all stakeholders are prepared for, and are able to bounce back from shocks and stresses. Resilience affects all stakeholders, but populations who are more likely to be negatively impacted by the current system are often disproportionately affected. Because of this, Sharpsburg commits to equitably distributing the benefits and burdens of Ecodistrict resilience initiatives. To do this, the Sharpsburg Ecodistrict will develop leadership and governance that empowers stakeholders, integrate resilience into the Ecodistrict Roadmap, and effectively manage resilience initiatives; build social groups and economic structures that provide collective identity, social stability and security, and financial resources; empower the health and wellbeing of individuals, including employment, life and health safeguards, and minimize vulnerabilities to stresses and shocks; and, strengthen infrastructure and the environment, including reduced physical exposure to stresses and shocks, and reliability and continuity of critical services, such as communications, transportation, and medical care.

RESILIENCE CONTEXT

Sharpsburg is currently vulnerable to various social, environmental, and economic shocks and stresses, as detailed in the table below. The Sharpsburg Ecodistrict Roadmap will target these vulnerabilities with proactive strategies to minimize or avoid shocks and stresses, as well as strategies to mitigate negative effects when shocks and stresses are unavoidable.

Figure 7: Potential social, environmental, and economic shocks that are currently or could potentially affect Sharpsburg.

Shocks	Type	Character	Relative Magnitude	At-risk population
Flooding	Social, Environmental	Occurs most often in the spring and summer, but increasingly often in fall and winter as well	High	Households and businesses in the floodplain

Infrastructure Collapse	Environmental	Buildings and infrastructure are aging with limited funds for repairs	Medium	Everyone, especially homeowners
Heat wave	Social, Environmental	Extreme weather can cause blackouts and health concerns	Medium	Youth; Elders; Individuals with health concerns
Polar Vortex	Social, Environmental	Extreme weather can cause blackouts and health concerns	Medium	Youth; Elders; Individuals with health concerns
Major employer moves to Sharpsburg or the region	Social, Economic	A major employer moving in can put stress on cost of living and housing prices	Medium	Low income households; Renters
Economic collapse	Economic	National economic collapse would impact jobs and cost of living	Medium	Everyone, especially low-income and unemployed households
Disease outbreak	Social	Occurs infrequently but could put pressure on health care services	Low	Youth; Elders; Individuals with health concerns
Major development	Economic, Social	A large area of riverfront area will soon be redeveloped that could impact housing prices and community identity/culture	High	Low income households; Renters

Figure 8: Chronic social, economic, and environmental stresses that are currently affecting Sharpsburg.

Stresses	Type	Character	Relative Magnitude	At-risk population
Allegheny River water quality	Environmental	CSOs dump sewage into the river, affecting water and animal health	High	Wildlife; Individuals who fish or recreate in the River
Substance abuse	Social, Economic	The opioid epidemic is prominent and severe	High	Addiction sufferers
Food insecurity	Social, Economic	Access to healthy, fresh food is limited	High	Low income households; Households that do not own a car; Youth
Poor air quality	Environmental, Social	The greater Pittsburgh region suffers from NAAQS non-compliance for Ozone and PM2.5	Medium	Everyone, especially youth, elders, and those with health concerns (especially heart disease and asthma)

Aging Infrastructure	Environmental, Economic	Buildings and infrastructure are aging with limited funds for repairs	Medium	Everyone, especially homeowners
Inefficient public transportation	Environmental, Economic	Bus service is limited in destinations and frequency on the weekends	Medium	Households that do not own a car
Rising cost of living	Economic	The greater Pittsburgh area is experiencing a steady rise in living costs	Medium	Everyone, especially low-income households
Poverty	Social, Economic	~937 people in Sharpsburg live in low-income households	Medium	Low-income households; Unemployed individuals
Energy Burden	Social, Economic, Environmental	Rising energy costs; Instability of the grid; Environmental impact of burning carbon-based energy sources	Medium	Low-income households; Renters
Unemployment	Social, Economic	~222 people in Sharpsburg are unemployed	Low	Low-income households; Unemployed individuals
Aging Population	Social	~485 people in Sharpsburg are over the age of 65	Low	Elders

Figure 9: Resilience policies, programs, and plans on the municipal, regional, and county scale that are applicable to the Sharpsburg Ecodistrict.

Resilience Policies, Programs, and Plans	Geography
Sharpsburg Stormwater Management Ordinance (No. 18-12)	Municipal (Sharpsburg)
Sharpsburg Community Vision Plan	Municipal (Sharpsburg)
Millvale, Sharpsburg, & Etna Joint Comprehensive Plan (River Bend)	Municipal (Triboro)
Sustainable Pittsburgh Regional Indicators	Regional (City of Pittsburgh)
City of Pittsburgh Resilience Plan	Regional (City of Pittsburgh)

There are several policies, programs, and plans on the municipal, regional, and county scale that apply to the Sharpsburg Ecodistrict and Sharpsburg’s planning around resilience.

Sharpsburg Stormwater Management Ordinance (No. 18-12)

Sharpsburg’s Stormwater Management Ordinance was adopted by Borough Council in November 2018 to promote health, safety, and welfare within the Municipality and its watershed by minimizing the harms and maximizing the benefits of stormwater. The requirements in this ordinance are intended to:

- Meet legal water quality requirements under state law, including to protect, maintain, reclaim, and restore the existing and designated uses of the waters of this Commonwealth.
- Preserve natural drainage systems.
- Manage stormwater runoff close to the source, reduce runoff volumes and mimic pre development hydrology.
- Provide procedures and performance standards for stormwater planning and management.
- Maintain groundwater recharge to prevent degradation of surface and groundwater quality and to otherwise protect water resources.
- Prevent scour and erosion of stream banks and streambeds.
- Provide proper operation and maintenance of all stormwater management best practices that are implemented within the municipality.
- Provide standards to meet NPDES permit requirements.

Increasing stormwater infiltration and reducing the quantity of stormwater entering the combined sewer system decreases CSOs, resulting in improved water quality in the Allegheny River, reduced burden on aging infrastructure, and reduced flooding.

Sharpsburg Community Vision Plan

The Sharpsburg Community Vision Plan launched in January 2019, and acts as the community's roadmap to shape their future and guide development in the borough for the next five to ten years. The Plan showcases Sharpsburg's identity, people, culture, and ambitions, and envisions a community of opportunity where all people are connected, thriving, resilient, and empowered to be the best they can be. The Plan includes development principles, urban systems recommendations, and placemaking projects to guide Sharpsburg's future. The document also acts as the basis for the Sharpsburg Ecodistrict's Roadmap and for SNO's five-year work plan. An overarching goal within this Plan is to become more resilient and there are explicit recommendations related to reducing flooding, planning for a variety of market scenarios, improving air quality, food security, and public transportation access, and reducing poverty and the energy burden.

Millvale, Sharpsburg, & Etna Joint Comprehensive Plan (River Bend)

Completed in 2014, the River Bend Joint Comprehensive Plan includes Millvale, Etna, and Sharpsburg. The plan addresses issues of governance and long term planning related to municipal operations, land use, transportation, etc. This initial collaboration allowed each Borough to share a zoning map to better distribute zoning requirements across the three Boroughs and led to the Triboro Ecodistrict Initiative. While this plan does not directly address resilience, it does provide recommendations related to municipal operations, land use, transportation, and other areas that contribute to community resilience.

Sustainable Pittsburgh Regional Indicators

The regional nonprofit, Sustainable Pittsburgh, has developed a set of regional indicators that can be both a dataset and a benchmark for the municipality. The indicators are organized by People, Planet, Place, and Performance (P4). This data set can act as a benchmark for the community as they work to become more resilient.

City of Pittsburgh Resilience Plan

Adopted in 2017, Pittsburgh's OnePGH resilience plan was launched after two years in the Rockefeller Resilient Cities program. The plan addresses many of the same issues as Sharpsburg and, although there is no shared jurisdiction, the future of Sharpsburg is affected by the successes and failures across the river. The issues are organized by people, planet, place, and performance.

WORKPLAN

The following work plan describes what specific tasks will be integrated into each EcoDistricts Protocol implementation phase to advance Sharpsburg's commitment to resilience. Overall, Sharpsburg is committed to advancing the community in the following areas:

- **Knowledge and expertise:** Leadership and governance that empowers stakeholders, integrates resilience into the district Roadmap, and effectively manages resilience initiatives.
- **Organizations and networks:** Social groups and economic structures that provide collective identity, social stability and security, and financial resources.
- **People:** The health and wellbeing of individuals, including employment, life and health safeguards, and minimal vulnerabilities to stresses and shocks.
- **Place:** Infrastructure and environmental strength, including reduced physical exposure to stresses and shocks, and reliability and continuity of critical services, such as communications, transportation, and medical care.

Resilience in the Formation Phase

Knowledge and Expertise + Organizations and Networks

- K1. Perform extensive and authentic outreach to the community, including identified groups who are more likely to be negatively impacted by the current system, to explain the purpose of the Sharpsburg Ecodistrict, what resilience is, and how they can contribute to a more resilient community.
- K2. Establish six "Champions" committees (one for each quality of life area) composed of a small group of passionate volunteers from the community. Educate the Champions groups about resilience and how it relates to the six quality of life areas.
- K3. Establish the Sharpsburg Neighborhood Organization (SNO) as a 501c3 organization to act as the official backbone organization and primary steward of the Sharpsburg Ecodistrict.

People + Place:

- P1. Recruit individuals and organizations representing those who are more likely to be negatively impacted by the current system to join the Champions committees, SNO's Board, and engagement opportunities related to the Ecodistrict.

Resilience in the Roadmap Phase

Knowledge and Expertise + Organizations and Networks:

- K4. Host community meetings, events, workshops, and other convenings to solicit ideas and ask for feedback to inform the Roadmap. Utilize a variety of engagement strategies to reach all populations groups in Sharpsburg.
- K5. Invite regional experts in resilience and resilience-related topics to provide feedback on the Sharpsburg Imperatives Commitment.
- K6. Develop a funding strategy to sustain SNO and to implement Roadmap strategies.
- K7. Host an Ecodistricts Idea Round-up and provide mini-grant funding to community members to develop equitable projects in the six quality of life issue areas, advancing the Sharpsburg Ecodistrict’s work and building momentum through small wins.

People + Place:

- P2. Develop Roadmap strategies that address community shocks and stresses in a comprehensive and equitable manner.
- P3. Ensure that the health, wellbeing, and quality of life of Sharpsburg residents is at the center of each Roadmap strategy.
- P4. Ensure that the improvement of infrastructure and ecosystem health are considered in the Roadmap to build resilience of Sharpsburg’s built and natural environment.

Resilience in the Performance Phase

Knowledge and Expertise + Organizations and Networks:

- K8. Collect and analyze data biannually to track progress towards Ecodistrict resilience goals using community indicators.
- K9. Treat the Sharpsburg Ecodistrict Roadmap as a living document and course-correct as needed to ensure that Sharpsburg is on the right track to becoming a resilient community.

People + Place:

- P5. Meet with organizations focused on resilience to share the biennial reports. Discuss how to advance mutually beneficial goals.
- P6. Continue engaging the community in regular meetings, events, and through other methods. Continue sharing Ecodistrict progress and incorporating community feedback as recommendations are implemented.

RESPONSIBILITIES & SCHEDULE

A responsible party and timeline for each work plan task is described below.

Figure 4: Resilience work plan responsible parties and timeline. Under “Resilience Task,” “K” represents knowledge and expertise + organizations and network tasks, “P” represents people + place related tasks. The resilience tasks align with the previous “Work Plan” section.

Resilience Task	Responsible Party	Timeline
Formation Phase		
K1	SNO, evolveEA	Completed: January 2019

K2	SNO	Ongoing, began in March 2019
K3	SNO	Completed: SNO was founded as a small volunteer group in July 2014 and was formally incorporated with a Board of Directors in April 2016.
P1	SNO	Ongoing, began in April 2016
Roadmap Phase		
K4	SNO, evolveEA	Completed: January 2019
K5	SNO, evolveEA	Completed: June 2020
K6	SNO	Began: April 2020
K7	SNO	Completed: March 2019
P2	SNO, evolveEA	Anticipated Completion: August 2020
P3	SNO, evolveEA	Anticipated Completion: August 2020
P\$	SNO, evolveEA	Anticipated Completion: August 2020
Performance Phase		
K8	SNO	Biannually beginning two years after EDO certification
K9	SNO	Biannually beginning two years after EDO certification
P5	SNO	Biannually beginning two years after EDO certification
P6	SNO	Quarterly beginning in January 2019

INDICATOR

To track Sharpsburg’s progress towards becoming a resilient community and to prevent flooding, the Sharpsburg Ecodistrict has selected the **number of green infrastructure projects implemented and dollars spent on green infrastructure projects in Sharpsburg** as its resilience indicator. Flooding is a resilience issue in Sharpsburg that has occurred before and will likely occur again. Increasing the number of green infrastructure projects will reduce the community’s vulnerability to flooding. This in turn will minimize physical property damage and the economic impact of flooding as well.

EVALUATION & ADJUSTMENT

The Sharpsburg Ecodistrict commits to measuring each chosen indicator, transparently reporting progress based on this data, and using each progress report to evaluate their efforts and adjust the Roadmap as needed to advance resilience in Sharpsburg, as described in the Resilience

Workplan tasks K9 and P5. A full report will be produced every two years, however, continuous updating of the Roadmap will occur in the interim.

LETTER OF SUPPORT

Second Harvest has provided a letter of support for the Sharpsburg Ecodistrict's Resilience Commitment that can be found in **Appendix C Letters of Support**.

APPENDICES

A. [Sharpsburg Community Vision Plan](#)

The Sharpsburg Community Vision Plan presents the community’s vision for the next ten years, and includes development principles, urban systems recommendations, and placemaking projects to guide Sharpsburg’s future. The document also acts as the basis for the Sharpsburg Ecodistrict’s Roadmap and for SNO’s five-year work plan.

B. [Sharpsburg Ecodistrict Community Engagement Summary](#)

C. **Letters of Support**

- a. Equity: Roots of Faith
- b. Climate Protection: Sharpsburg Community Library
- c. Resilience: Second Harvest

SIGNATORIES

This Imperatives Commitment will renew every two years without notice or review unless a majority of signatories requests that the Imperatives Commitment be reviewed. In the event that a signatory wishes to terminate this Imperatives Commitment, termination requires a majority vote from SNO's Board of Directors.

Signed by:

SHANNA CARRICK

Shanna Carrick, SNO Board President

KACIE COPE

Kacie Cope, SNO Secretary

NANCI GOLDBERG

Nanci Goldberg

NATHAN PEARCE

Nathan Pearce, SNO Vice President

PAUL PEROWICZ

Paul Perowicz

SYDNEY RABINOVITZ

Sydney Rabinovitz

BRITTANY RENO

Brittany Reno, SNO Executive Director

MATTHEW V. RUDZKI

Mayor Matthew V. Rudzki

Mayor of Sharpsburg Borough

SCOTT SHAFFER

Rev. Scott Shaffer, SNO Treasurer

CHARLES SMITH

Charles Smith



261 West Chapel Ridge Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15238
412-963-8155 (office)
412-963-8758 (fax)
office@faithfoxchapel.org
www.faithfoxchapel.org

May 29, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

Faith United Methodist Church and Roots of Faith are honored to submit this letter of support for the Sharpsburg EcoDistrict's application for EcoDistrict Certification.

Roots of Faith was founded in 2014 as an outreach ministry of Faith UMC in Fox Chapel, PA. Over the past six years, Roots of Faith has grown to include a weekly community dinner (The Neighborhood Table); monthly Legal, Ask-The-Doctor, and Finance Clinics; the Circles Sharpsburg anti-poverty program; community social service referrals; and numerous other events and programs in partnership with other churches, hospitals, and social service agencies. Through these programs and initiatives, Roots of Faith has been working for social equity in the community of Sharpsburg, as we accomplish our church's vision of "building community by reconciling people with God and one another."

Roots of Faith has partnered with the Sharpsburg Neighborhood Organization on several programs and initiatives, including efforts to bring a grocery store to Sharpsburg, flood mitigation and disaster response, and most recently to address community needs in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Collaboration between Roots of Faith and the Sharpsburg Neighborhood Organization has been essential not only for providing thoughtful planning for the future, but also for taking concrete action in the present to improve the lives of Sharpsburg residents.

Roots of Faith is committed to partnering with the Sharpsburg Neighborhood Organization, the Borough of Sharpsburg, and the Tri-Boro EcoDistrict in order to actualize the Sharpsburg Community Vision Plan and the EcoDistrict Imperatives Commitment. Specifically, Roots of Faith can help to leverage community relationships and increase community involvement, ensuring Procedural and Structural equity. Roots of Faith is already working, and committed to taking further action, on the issues of housing affordability, food insecurity, unemployment, flood mitigation, and support for minority groups. Through collaborative efforts, we can make significant progress toward social equity in the community of Sharpsburg in the years to come.

If you have any additional questions about Roots of Faith's commitment to supporting Sharpsburg's EcoDistrict application, please feel free to contact us. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Scott Shaffer
Lead Pastor
724-541-8738
pastorscott@faithfoxchapel.org

Kathleen Stanley
Outreach Director
412-977-9136
kathleen.stanley@faithfoxchapel.org

Second Harvest

COMMUNITY THRIFT STORE

Second Harvest
624 Clay Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15215

Sharpsburg Neighborhood Organization
511 S. Main Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15215

May 31, 2020

To the Board of Sharpsburg Neighborhood Organization (SNO):

As your community partners, we are thrilled to provide this formal letter of support for SNO's commitment to community resilience and pursuit of EcoDistrict certification.

Sharpsburg faces a constellation of interwoven environmental, economic, and social stresses ranging from poor water and air quality to poverty and a disproportionately high number of older adults and individuals with disabilities. We concur that collective, creative leadership and initiatives are critical for increasing our community's resilience and ability to respond to these chronic stressors and to acute shocks such as flooding, economic collapse, and social isolation during public health crises.

As a nonprofit thrift store and community gathering space scheduled to open in 2020, Second Harvest shares SNO's vision for becoming a resilient community by developing knowledge and expertise, building organizations and networks, empowering individuals, and creating thoughtful places. Our mission is to help meet both the material and relational needs of Sharpsburg residents by gleaning gently used clothing and goods from the broader community, selling them affordably, and investing proceeds back into living wage jobs and community grants to strengthen existing neighborhood programs. Second Harvest will create 5 full time, living wage jobs, and our fully ADA-accessible and centrally located store will allow us to engage a diverse, intergenerational family of volunteers, including youth and adults with disabilities. Additionally, the designated gathering space within the store will nurture the formation of relationships within the community.

The Sharpsburg building that Second Harvest purchased is undergoing a complete transformation from a poorly maintained commercial space to a thriving anchor business with green community space, public art, and street trees. SNO's collaboration has been instrumental in developing the property's streetscape and "green assets," reducing impervious surfaces that contribute to poor rainwater management, and creating a fully ADA-accessible community herb and pollinator garden that will facilitate intergenerational programming and access to green space for seniors—two issues that the SNO has designated as critical needs in the community.



We affirm our commitment to this ongoing partnership between Second Harvest and SNO and to participating in new, shared opportunities to implement other elements of the Sharpsburg Community Vision Plan that will strengthen our shared values around environmental, economic, and social resilience.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bonnie DeMotte". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bonnie" being more prominent than the last name "DeMotte".

Bonnie DeMotte
President, Executive Director
Second Harvest

Sharpsburg
COMMUNITY LIBRARY

A branch of Cooper-Siegel
Community Library

1212 Main Street
Sharpsburg, PA 15215

412-781-0783

To the EcoDistricts Team:

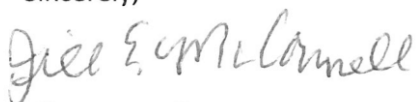
On behalf of the Sharpsburg Community Library, we are pleased to provide this letter of support for Sharpsburg Neighborhood Organization (SNO) and the Sharpsburg Ecodistrict in their effort to achieve EcoDistricts Certification.

As a Sharpsburg-based library that has long served as a local resource hub, program center, and meeting place for residents of all ages, the Sharpsburg Community Library regularly seeks to collaborate and build strong relationships with our local nonprofit partners. We have enjoyed working with SNO over the past several years to participate in local sustainable development efforts. These have included the installation of solar panels on our building in 2019, the upcoming installation of an interactive air quality monitoring station, and community engagement around the environmental, traffic, and economic impacts of local riverfront development.

Always looking for ways to expand our service offerings to address resident needs, we have also hosted a series of climate anxiety meetings, where attendees are able to candidly share concerns and discuss solutions related to the climate crisis. Other sustainability-related programs include our Sharpsburg Community Garden and weekly visits from a low-cost fresh produce truck. We have taken care to make our materials, physical space, and programs more accessible to all of our visitors, and the Sharpsburg Ecodistrict's focus on equity, climate protection, and resilience aligns with our own goals. Participating over the past few years in Sharpsburg's community vision planning work and programming has strengthened our resolve to embrace these priorities, and we are continuously looking for ways to amplify, lead, and support these efforts.

The EcoDistricts framework requires that local partners build authentic relationships, a shared understanding of the community's needs and goals, and a commitment to pursuing and measuring progress toward those goals. Our Sharpsburg community is doing the hard work to build this action-oriented movement, and we fully support the efforts to achieve EcoDistricts Certified status.

Sincerely,



Jill McConnell
Executive Director
Community Library Association



Sara Mariacher
Branch Manager
Sharpsburg Community Library