



KITTATINNY RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCILS FOR MUNICIPAL LEADERS

EAC AUTHORITY

In accordance with Act 177 of 1996, EACs are authorized to:

- Identify environmental problems and recommend plans and programs to protect and improve the quality of the environment;
- Make recommendations about the use of open land;
- Promote a community environmental program;
- Keep an index of all open space areas to determine the proper use of such areas;
- Review plans, conduct site visits, and prepare reports for municipal officials; and
- Advise local government agencies about the acquisition of property.

EACS DO NOT

- Regulate. They are advisory.
- Take the place of or compete with planning commissions or park and recreation boards; they augment and work closely with them.
- Compete with local grass-roots organizations, such as watershed associations. They are contact points and local government liaisons for these groups.
- Add bureaucracy to the local government. They participate in decision-making within the same procedural timeframes as other local officials.

The Kittatinny Ridge

Municipalities along the Kittatinny Ridge are located within one of Pennsylvania's most treasured landscapes. Running 187 miles between the agricultural Great Valley and the Ridge and Valley Appalachian mountains of Pennsylvania, the Kittatinny offers spectacular views enjoyed by the residents and outdoor enthusiasts from the Delaware Water Gap to the Maryland border; large blocks of forests that are home to black bear, bobcats, and the Allegheny woodrat; rock outcroppings for timber rattlesnakes; and headwaters that provide drinking water for thousands of people. It is Pennsylvania's largest Important Bird Area, hosting songbirds, raptors and butterflies as they migrate through the Commonwealth in spring and fall to as far away as South America. The Ridge is home to the world-famous Appalachian Trail and Hawk Mountain Sanctuary.

Local Land Use Control

Residents of Pennsylvania and visitors from around the globe, both human and wild, must rely on municipal officials from 127 communities to sustain this landscape. Why? In Pennsylvania, land use control lies with local elected leaders. Elected officials must approve nearly all changes to the landscape. They have the authority to adopt zoning and subdivision regulations, official maps, and numerous other land use tools, which can be designed to help municipalities conserve natural resources as the community changes over time.

EACs Benefit Communities

One highly effective tool that is available to municipal officials is an Environmental Advisory Council (EAC). An EAC is a local board that focuses strictly on environmental matters and provides their expert recommendations to municipal supervisors, the planning commission, and other boards. The supervisors create the EAC by ordinance and appoint 3-7 members. Also, a municipality can join with neighboring communities in a particular school district or watershed, for example, and form a multi-municipal EAC.

There are approximately 150 EACs throughout the Commonwealth with some along the Kittatinny Ridge. These EACs were formed to help elected officials make sound land use decisions; raise funds for local projects, and act as liaisons between municipal officials and residents. On the back of this fact sheet are numerous examples of how EACs have benefited their communities.



Forming an EAC is simple. Talk to your local elected officials about forming an EAC; identify potential members and projects; contact the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association for a handbook and model EAC ordinances (see back); and adopt the EAC ordinance to establish the EAC as part of the local government.

FORMING AN ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

TYPES OF EAC ACTIVITIES

EACs implement many types of projects. Below are some examples:

- ◆ Plan, develop, and maintain trails
- ◆ Hold public events to educate and motivate residents
- ◆ Implement storm water management best practices
- ◆ Plan and implement stream bank restoration projects
- ◆ Hold community clean-ups
- ◆ Distribute rain barrels or educate residents on how to make them
- ◆ Promote and implement farmland and open space preservation programs
- ◆ Help design and pass open space ballot measures
- ◆ Review, draft, and help enforce local ordinances
- ◆ Review land development applications
- ◆ Promote renewable energy usage by local government and residents
- ◆ Help plan and implement Light-Emitting Diode (LED) traffic signals
- ◆ Promote Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) building design
- ◆ Plan, promote and implement recycling and e-cycling programs
- ◆ Promote integrated pest management techniques
- ◆ Plan, promote, and implement buy local programs
- ◆ Provide articles and resources for municipal web page and newsletters
- ◆ Fundraise through events and grant writing

EXAMPLES: FUNDING SOURCES

- ◆ Municipal budgets
- ◆ Donations
- ◆ Grants:
 - PA Dept. of Environmental Protection
 - PA Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources
 - Water Resources Education Network

RESOURCES FOR EACS

EACnetwork.org - Resources and information specific to EACs.

ConservationTools.org - Land use planning and conservation tools and guidance to support the work of EACs.

EAC Network Administrator

Pennsylvania Land Trust Association
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A project of the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association



EXAMPLES: MEMBERS

EAC members do not have to be experts. They need to be residents who are interested in local conservation matters and make a commitment to serving on the EAC. Here are other examples of EAC members' backgrounds:

- ◆ Educators
- ◆ Landscape Architects
- ◆ Hydrologists
- ◆ Geologists
- ◆ Biologists
- ◆ Engineers
- ◆ Attorneys
- ◆ Realtors
- ◆ Gardeners
- ◆ Foresters
- ◆ High school students
- ◆ Administrators
- ◆ Health practitioners
- ◆ Farmers

For more information about the Kittatinny Coalition contact:
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JOIN THE DISCUSSION!

There are two ways to stay connected to the EAC Network and we recommend both:

- ◆ Receive emails from the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association related to the EAC Network
- ◆ Join the Discussion Group and connect to other EAC members directly, share documents and ideas, and engage in online discussions. Visit EACnetwork.org/join-discussion to sign up today.

EACS ARE SUPPORTED BY:

