

CLIENT

Delaware Valley Regional
Planning Commission (DVRPC)

DATES

October 2023 - November 2025

COLLABORATORS

ICF

REFERENCE

Jamie Genevie,
Senior Managing Consultant,
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BUDGET

\$91,000

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DVRPC is the regional implementer of the Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Program (CRPG) and aims to provide funding grants to reduce greenhouse gas pollution. Connect the Dots led the stakeholder and community engagement process for DVRPC in partnership with ICF to understand the existing greenhouse gas reduction programming happening in the region and identify county-level needs for funding and programmatic strategy.

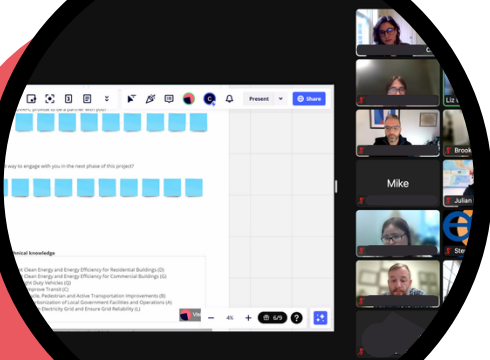
The Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) set the baseline emissions and identified nine Priority Measures through stakeholder focus groups facilitated by CtD. This work then informed the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) which incorporated resident focus groups across the region to better understand community needs and environmental concerns. CtD also supported the Community Engagement Steering Committee which was composed of community based organizations across DVRPC's region (DE, MD, PA, NJ).

SERVICES PERFORMED

- CtD designed and facilitated a regional strategy to gather stakeholder and resident feedback, and also supported the management of a Community Engagement Steering Committee. CtD synthesized stakeholder feedback and resident insights to ensure the final plan explicitly integrated community benefits and equity-focused implementation strategies.
- **Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP).** CtD facilitated seven stakeholder focus groups to establish baseline emissions and identify nine Priority Measures for the region.
- **Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP).** CtD facilitated three resident focus groups across the region to understand community needs and environmental concerns. CtD supported management of Community Engagement Steering Committee, aiming to increase opportunities for intentional discussion and feedback into the engagement process, as well as consistent communication between meetings.



**CLIMATE
ACTION
PLAN**
Philadelphia MSA
dvrpc



How to engage with you in the next phase of this project?

Present

Share

Participants: Lili, Brock, Mike, Quinn, Steve

Agenda:

- 1. Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency for Residential Buildings (20)
- 2. Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency for Commercial Buildings (20)
- 3. City Vehicles (20)
- 4. Electric Fleets (20)
- 5. Public and Active Transportation Infrastructure (20)
- 6. Reduction of Local Government Facilities and Operations (20)
- 7. Community and Business Local Heating (20)

PROJECT OUTCOMES

- **Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP).** Successfully identified nine priority measures through targeted stakeholder engagement and focus groups.
- **Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP).** Captured nuanced resident feedback on themes such as clean air/water access, transit safety, and tree preservation, ensuring that the final CCAP integrated equity-focused implementation strategies.

Engagement Outcomes:

- Convened the region's resident focus groups dedicated to climate action planning, successfully facilitating diverse participation across the Philadelphia MSA despite project pauses due to federal funding uncertainty.
- Successfully bridged the gap between technical regional planning and local priorities, capturing nuanced resident feedback on environmental, health, transportation, infrastructure, and safety themes that directly informed the final CCAP strategy.

Insights and Implications:

- The engagement process highlighted that shifting the dialogue from technical climate "measures" to tangible "community benefits" (e.g., public health, local walkability) was essential for generating accessible, meaningful feedback from residents.
- These efforts established a replicable model for regional climate planning, demonstrating that transparent, ongoing communication with community-based organizations and local residents is critical to ensuring that implementation reflects the actual needs of the communities most impacted by climate change.