



Borough of Chambersburg

*A full service municipality in Franklin County
celebrating over 65 years of consumer owned natural gas service
over 100 years of community electric and a
regional wastewater, water, and municipal solid waste utility*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Borough of Chambersburg recognized as certified sustainable municipality

(Chambersburg, PA – August 23, 2017) The Borough of Chambersburg announced today it is among a select group of high performing municipalities to become certified through the Sustainable Pennsylvania Community Certification program. The Borough is recognized at the Gold level of certification for meeting the program's rigorous performance criteria which tracks 131 policies and practices that define a sustainable community.

The Sustainable Pennsylvania Community Certification, administered by the Pennsylvania Municipal League in partnership with Sustainable Pittsburgh, is designed for municipalities that are working to save money, conserve resources and serve vibrant communities. Originally deployed in Southwestern Pennsylvania by Sustainable Pittsburgh, the certification has gone state-wide recognizing small, medium and large municipalities across the Commonwealth. The Pennsylvania Municipal League and Sustainable Pittsburgh applaud municipalities for their demonstrated commitment and sustainability performance.

In earning the Gold certification, the Borough is acknowledged for its progress in addressing such areas as community design and land use, energy efficiency, health and wellness, intergovernmental cooperation, recycling and waste reduction, fiscal controls and internal management and operations.

"The Borough of Chambersburg is proud to be recognized as a Gold Certified Community by the Sustainable Pennsylvania Community Certification program," said Allen Coffman, President of Town Council. "The Borough has a long history of commitment to saving taxpayer dollars, using resources efficiently and applying best practices in municipal government and community development. We are pleased to be recognized and be part of the regional community of good government."

The Borough formed a partnership with the Shippensburg University Center for Land Use and Sustainability to utilize their expertise and student intern assistance to complete the on-line assessment required to seek Certification.

Phil Wolgemuth, Assistant to the Borough Manager said "Without the assistance and expertise provided by the Center for Land Use and Sustainability – specifically students Carla Johns and Anastasia Fritchey – the Borough of Chambersburg does not have the administrative capacity to compile the information necessary to seek Certification." He added, "For municipalities that have an interest in seeking this prestigious Certification I recommend establishing a partnership with the Center for Land Use and Sustainability to compile the assessment information."

"Our partnership with the Borough is a prime example of the Center for Land Use and Sustainability goal to provide meaningful, hands-on learning experiences for our students while supporting local communities. We are thrilled that the hard work of Shippensburg University students contributed to the recognition of the Borough of Chambersburg as a Gold Certified Community. We look forward to continuing our work with the Borough and hope to forge relationships with other interested communities," Dr. Claire Jantz, Director of the Center for Land Use and Sustainability at Shippensburg University.

"We are delighted to see the Borough of Chambersburg distinguished among local governments that are leading the way in applying sustainability to both their operations and management as well as within the community," said Anne McCollum, Director of Training and Development, Pennsylvania Municipal League.

The Certified Community by the Sustainable Pennsylvania Community Certification is intended to bring recognition to municipalities that are applying the policy and practice of sustainability as their way of operating to advance community prosperity. It also serves as a mechanism for sharing best practices for creating a more sustainable Pennsylvania. "Municipalities that earn the Sustainable Pennsylvania Community Certification are standouts in demonstrating adherence to best practices that elevate them as communities of choice to live, work, and play. Commitment to continuous improvement is at the heart of sustainability and the certification program is a means to accelerate municipal performance," said Court Gould, Executive Director, Sustainable Pittsburgh.

Details about the Borough's certification performance can be found by linking to www.chambersburgpa.gov.

About the Borough of Chambersburg

The Borough of Chambersburg is located in Franklin County, Pennsylvania with a population of about 20,500 residents. It is the County Seat and is a full-service municipality, offering all services and utilities to the town, and is the only municipality in Pennsylvania to do so.

Chambersburg is a unique community. Pennsylvania's only municipal natural gas utility, owned and operated by the citizens of the Borough; Chambersburg is also Pennsylvania's largest municipal electric utility, and the only one that owns and operates generation stations. Chambersburg provides natural gas, electricity, water, sewer, parking and trash for the residents and businesses throughout most of the Borough. Under local control, rates, policies, etc., that are decided locally by the Chambersburg Town Council.

Operating under the Pennsylvania Borough Code, Chambersburg employs over 300 full-time, part-time, and seasonal workers to serve the citizens and businesses of the town. This allows the Borough to not only be able to provide all utilities, but also to operate their own police force, storm sewer system, a combination paid and volunteer fire department, emergency services, a recreation department, municipal parking program, a residential rental inspection program, and an active public works program, which includes a downtown revitalization effort and a neighborhood preservation program.

About the Shippensburg University Center for Land Use and Sustainability

The mission of the Shippensburg University Center for Land Use and Sustainability is to support science-based solutions to interdisciplinary sustainability challenges. Their vision is to become a nationally recognized interdisciplinary center that leverages the expertise of Shippensburg University faculty, staff, and students to promote sustainable land use, economic development, and communities at local, regional, and global scales.

The goals of the Center are:

- To promote applied interdisciplinary research on issues related to land use and sustainability.
- To support affordable, sustainable solutions in our local, regional, and global communities.
- To create professional development opportunities for faculty and staff, and high-impact learning experiences for students.

About the Pennsylvania Municipal League

The Pennsylvania Municipal League (PML) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization established in 1900 as an advocate for Pennsylvania's 3rd class cities. The PML represents participating Pennsylvania cities, townships, town, boroughs, and home rule municipalities that all share the League's municipal policy interests. PML provides a wide array of municipal services including legislative advocacy (on both the state and federal levels), publications designed to educate and inform, education and training certification programs, membership research and inquiries, consulting-based programs, group insurance trusts, and the statewide Sustainable Pennsylvania Community Certification. Specific to Southwestern Pennsylvania, PML is partnered with Sustainable Pittsburgh for outreach.

About Sustainable Pittsburgh

Sustainable Pittsburgh affects decision-making in the Pittsburgh Region to integrate economic prosperity, social equity, and environmental quality as the enduring accountability bringing sustainable solutions for communities and businesses. Over the past 19 years, Sustainable Pittsburgh has proven adept at building coalitions for the policy and practice of sustainable development for southwestern Pennsylvania. SP educates and engages decision-makers and in turn elevates expectations for integration of the 3Es (environmental conservation, social equity, and economic prosperity) among government, businesses, nonprofits and academia.