**Introduction**

Nearly half of all the residential units in Chester County are part of a community with a Homeowners’ Association. Additionally, Chester County Homeowners’ Associations collectively control approximately 19,000 acres of open space. The actions residents of HOAs take to be more sustainable can make a big impact on the health of our environment and vibrancy of our communities.

A Sustainability Action Plan for your homeowners association provides a roadmap for protecting wildlife and natural resources, improving water quality, and saving energy. The Action Plan will help to identify partnerships, which will be key to the success of your Action Plan and making your community a great place to live.

This Sustainability Action Plan for HOAs has been designed to provide flexibility to meet the varying needs and goals of HOAs in Chester County. The Plan is divided into chapters, and each chapter has actions listed within it – like a menu - that communities can choose from to include in their plan.

These actions will help your Homeowners Association set up goals to guide decision-making and track progress. The actions include potential partners and resources, ways to make your processes more transparent & clear, educate your community, and more. Remember – this Action Plan is meant to be a customizable document – so make sure to save a copy and add in new actions as your HOA completes others!

**Model Action Items for:**

Stormwater Management

Solar and Energy Efficiency

Sustainable Landscaping

Tree Canopy and Woodland Stewardship

Water Quality and Riparian Buffers

Waste Reduction, Recycling, Composting

Sustainable Transportation

Historic Preservation

Organization, Governance, and Communication