

Policy 3.1.1

Municipalities should incorporate requirements for sidewalks in new land developments and redevelopment projects where appropriate.

Policy 3.1.2

Add bicycle facilities to new land developments and redevelopment projects where appropriate and give priority to locations where bicycle facilities will provide logical connections to existing paths; activity centers; and community amenities such as schools, libraries, parks, or other municipal facilities.



Walkers on a shared use path in Slab Cabin Park.

Policy 3.1.3

Winter maintenance of existing and proposed multi-use paths should be conducted where appropriate and within fiscal constraints of the municipalities.

Policy 3.1.4

Consult with the Centre Area Transportation Authority (CATA) to help identify any gaps in service delivery that could be accommodated through new land development.

Policy 3.1.5

Periodically evaluate existing transportation systems to ensure they meet current demands for transportation alternatives.

Energy Efficiency

Providing municipal services such as waste collection, brush collection, road maintenance, and similar services will ensure the citizens of the Centre Region maintain a high standard of living. These services, however, require a significant expense in terms of energy consumption to operate and maintain the various systems. While it may cost more financially, establishing renewable or alternative fuel sources may help offset the impacts of these services on the environment and help ensure the Centre Region will continue to receive high-quality services.

GOAL 4 - The Centre Region utilizes a variety of renewable or alternative sources to meet its energy needs, such as wind, solar, geothermal, nuclear, hydrogen, or similar sources.

Objective 4.1

Alternative energy sources that take advantage of renewable or alternative technologies should be considered for the Centre Region when practical.

Policy 4.1.1

Encourage the Centre Region to explore a diversity of options for energy that includes renewable or alternative sources such as wind, solar, nuclear, or geothermal.

Policy 4.1.2

Encourage municipalities or vendors serving the municipalities to use alternative fuel sources such as electricity, compressed natural gas, or other alternative fuel technology in their vehicles to help mitigate issues related to air quality when appropriate.

Policy 4.1.3

Encourage community service organizations such as the State College Area School District and associated schools, Centre LifeLink, and the Alpha Fire Department, as well as private-sector companies to consider using alternative-fuel vehicles where practical.

Policy 4.1.4

Encourage techniques or practices that support conservation of resources where practical.

Policy 4.1.5

Encourage residents to explore alternative energy sources in accordance with accepted emergency management practices that can help them be self-reliant during times of limited emergency services after natural disasters or other emergencies when extended electrical outages are expected.



Penn State University's Center for Sustainability runs the Ecological Systems Laboratory at the University Park Campus' Site for Ecological Technologies. Here, various technologies that address sustainability are tested. The solar tracker array pictured above follows the sun's path throughout the day to collect the maximum possible sunlight for use as a power source.

Objective 4.2

The Centre Region municipalities should work to reduce barriers to alternative energy uses to help decrease dependence on finite natural resources.

Policy 4.2.1

Review and update land-development ordinances when appropriate to allow for alternative energy options to be incorporated into land uses. This should include, but not be limited to, wind, solar, geothermal, or other advanced technologies.

Policy 4.2.2

Encourage existing businesses, new businesses, or redevelopment opportunities that use alternative energy sources in their day-to-day operations to locate in the Centre Region through the use of land-development incentives or standards and other techniques that recognize alternative energy use.

Policy 4.2.3

Establish best practices to address the inclusion of alternative energy infrastructure such as geothermal in land developments where appropriate.

Policy 4.2.4

Encourage municipalities to amend land development ordinances as appropriate to allow for the necessary density that is conducive to alternative energy infrastructure, such as natural gas or similar resources.



Municipal Resources

The Centre Region Council of Governments was formed in an effort to reduce or eliminate the duplication of services among the Region's six municipalities. To this end, the Centre Region municipalities share multiple services, including land-use planning, code administration, parks and recreation, refuse and recycling, library services, and several other community services. The sharing of these services allows for the municipalities to limit their overall impact on individual resources and community resources that may have environmental implications. Conservation, protection, and sharing of resources can help ensure the longevity and continued availability of sensitive local resources that are used or impacted by the Centre Region municipalities. Additional goals, objectives, and policies related to environmentally significant resources can be found in the Natural, Environmental, Cultural, and Historic Resources Element and the Community Facilities and Services Element.

GOAL 5 - The Centre Region's conservation efforts continue to reduce adverse impacts on community resources and services.