

EAC INSIGHTS

The E-Newsletter for the Easttown and Tredyffrin Environmental Advisory Councils (EAC)

What is the EAC? By Cara Rash, Easttown EAC

Generally speaking, an EAC is an officially constituted municipal board that serves as a local advisory group for other local government groups, including the planning commission, parks and recreation board, and elected officials on matters dealing with protection, conservation, management, promotion and use of natural resources, including air, land and water resources within its territorial limits. Typical responsibilities include identifying environmental problems, and recommending solutions, inventorying open space and natural features, recommending management techniques for those features, and services providing environmental education opportunities.

Easttown's EAC was established in February 2021 and currently has 5 appointed members who meet every 4th Thursday of the month at the Easttown Township Building. Tredyffrin's EAC was established in 1988 and currently has 7 appointed members and 5 associate (non-voting) members (including 2 high school students) who meet every 4th Tuesday of the month at the Tredyffrin Township Building.

Easttown's EAC has focused primarily on setting up plastic film recycling through Trex, educational workshops for residents on environmental issues both at a local and global level and updates to the 1993 Recreation, Open Space and Environmental Resource Plan. In 2022, they plan to continue work in these areas, while pursuing work on several other projects.

Tredyffrin's EAC is focused on promoting stream health in the township's watersheds, providing env. education activities like tree planting, establishing bird habitat and riparian buffers. Tredyffrin EAC is also committed to promoting clean renewable energy throughout the Township while also helping plan and promote rain gardens as a stormwater management tool.

Our Goal

To provide Easttown and Tredyffrin Township's residents with information, education, and events in conjunction with the Environmental Advisory Councils (EAC) in each Township, as well as other environmental groups in the area.



Easttown Township
Environmental Advisory Council
Lecture Series

Introduction to the Darby Creek Headwaters Community Monitoring Program

By
Lauren McGrath
Director of Watershed
Protection Program
Willistown Conservation Trust



Lauren will speak about basic watershed biology and ecology, the water quality monitoring program, and preliminary water quality results in the watershed that is predominant in our township.

Thursday
February 3, 2022
6:30 PM

Easttown Library and by Zoom

Register by emailing easttown@easttown.org

DARBY CREEK WATERSHED 38TH ANNUAL CLEANUP APRIL 2022

Multiple Saturdays in April, locations throughout the watershed
9:00 am- 12:00 noon



4 Counties - 123 Linear Miles Of Stream

Tredyffrin EAC Presidents Day Weekend Cleanup Events:

2/20/22 @ 1pm: Swedesford Road clean up (between N. Valley Forge and W. Valley roads) - Note: for volunteers 18+ due to the inherent dangers of roadside cleanup. To register: <https://www.facebook.com/TredyffrinEAC/>

2/21/22 @ 10 am: Wilson Farm Park cleanup. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wilson-farm-park-cleanup-tickets-257632434547>

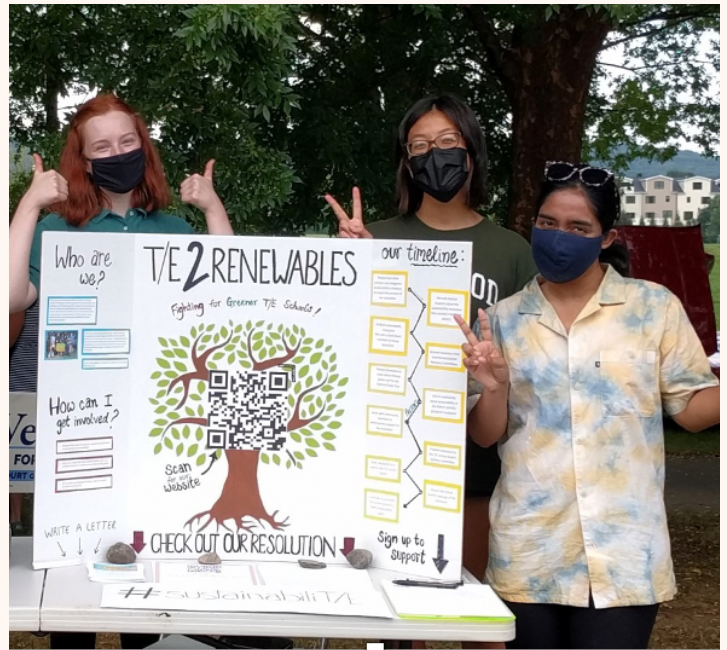
Tredyffrin EAC Student Projects Make an Impact

By Jennifer Cox, Tredyffrin EAC

Since autumn of 2020, the EAC has had the privilege of partnering with local high school students on long-term projects in support of EAC initiatives. Students were able to dive deeply into projects of interest to them and accelerate progress for our Township.

In support of the Township's commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the EAC's Clean Energy Initiative, Conestoga students Lilly Sui, Aishi Debroy and Clara Steege authored and negotiated a resolution that was passed unanimously by the T/E School Board on November 22nd, 2021. Their resolution establishes goals for the school district to transition to renewable energy. Congrats to Lilly, Aishi and Clara on their accomplishment!

Conestoga Students win a commitment from TEDS for a transition to renewable energy



Conestoga Students and EAC Associate Members, Aishi Debroy [right], Lilly Shui [middle] and Clara Steege [left], educating community members about their Renewable Energy Resolution for the TE School District at Tredyffrin's "Party in the Park" in September.

Conductivity and Salinity Testing Project in Crabby Creek



Sofia Khugaeva and Keira Celebuski [center] collecting data on a chilly day at Crabby Creek with EAC members Johnathan Wilson [left], Eduardo Deunas [right] and Anne Murphy [taking the photo]

Conestoga students, Sofia Khugaeva and Keira Celebuski, conducted conductivity and salinity testing on Crabby Creek as part of the Storm Water Initiative. They analyzed samples taken from Crabby Creek, over the winter and spring months of 2021, and concluded that ice-melting road salts drain into nearby water bodies, such as Crabby Creek, and create unlivable conditions for freshwater fish, such as Pennsylvania Trout. The information they collected helps the Township identify potential and existing environmental problems in areas of the creek and puts the Township on a path to understanding and improving water quality in the community. **Tredyffrin Township EAC welcomes high school volunteers for projects large and small. If interested, email tredyffrin@tredyffrin.org (put Environmental Advisory Council in the subject line.)**

Visit our webpage:

<https://www.tredyffrin.org/boards/environmental-advisory-council> (Initiatives can be found on tabs in the upper left-hand corner of the page.)

Follow us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/TredyffrinEAC/>

YOU CAN LOCALLY RECYCLE...

Contributed by Heather Hill, Easttown EAC

COMPOST
CELLPHONES & TABLETS
BATTERIES
OYSTER SHELLS
NATURAL CORKS
EYEGLASSES
SHOES

at **MOM'S ORGANIC MARKET** in Bryn
Mawr



Easttown

ONLY place these items in the recycling container

Flattened Cardboard Paper Metal Cans
Plastic Bottles & Jugs Glass

How to prepare your recyclables

Empty. Clean. Dry.™
Keep all recyclables free of food and liquid

Don't bag it
Never put recyclables in containers or bags

NEVER place these items in the recycling container

Plastic Bags & Wrappers	Clothing & Shoes	Tools	Electronics & Batteries	Medical Waste
Soiled Paper	Greasy Pizza Boxes	Food Toys	Construction Waste	Yard Waste
Styrofoam				Diapers
				Scrap Metal

Learn more at RecyclingSimplified.com Recycling *Simplified* **REPUBLIC SERVICES**
We'll handle it from here.™

Monitoring Stream Water Salinity in Crabby Creek with Sunrise Berwyn

By Jonathan Wilson, Tredyffrin EAC

Salinization, or an increase in salt concentration in freshwater streams, is an environmental problem that can be amplified by human activity. In most streams, there are two sources of salts: natural weathering from rocks and soils, and salts used for surface de-icing that have washed into waterways during rainstorms and spring thaw. Recent scientific research has shown that the use of rock salt for winter surface de-icing has measurably increased river salinity over the last several decades, particularly in streams that flow through urban and suburban areas. High salt concentrations cause physiological stress to organisms in freshwater streams: they can reduce the number and size of invertebrates, which are important food for fish—and, consequently, the many organisms that feed on fish.

If salt concentrations rise high enough, salinity in freshwater streams can even affect fish and amphibian populations directly.

In order to monitor the health of critical habitats in the Township, such as Valley Creek, representatives from the Tredyffrin Township Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) have been working with activists from Sunrise Berwyn to monitor salinity concentrations in Crabby Creek, an important tributary of Trout Creek and Valley Creek—and, therefore, the Schuylkill River. Throughout February and March, volunteers have been sampling water at regular intervals to track the amount of salt that is introduced to Trout and Valley Creeks through the Crabby Creek watershed. Led by Sunrise Berwyn's Sofia Khugaeva and Keira Celebuski, volunteers monitored salinity in Crabby Creek before, during, and after this year's snowpack melted. *(continued on pg. 4)*

Preliminary results suggest that Crabby Creek's watershed may be contributing to the elevated salinity observed in Valley Creek. Salinity has been higher in Crabby Creek than values reported from other streams, both before and after the spring thaw in March. Future work will help determine whether the source of this elevated salinity is within the bedrock and soil of the watershed, or if its source is ultimately de-icing salt. These findings will help us identify problem areas and choose strategies to improve water quality throughout the Township.

Residents can support this project in two ways:

- If you live in the watershed and would like to help, use salt for de-icing sparingly or only when necessary. Rely on the sun to melt snow or use alternative, stream-safe materials, such as dark sand or ashes.
- If you would like to volunteer to collect additional data next fall, winter, and spring, please email tredyffrin@tredyffrin.org (subject line: EAC).



Photo credit: Ann Murphy, EAC

Easttown Joins the Trex Bench Challenge

By Cara Rash, Easttown EAC

Easttown Township has been recycling plastic film (marked with a 2, 4 or "PE") via the Trex Recycling Program, since May of 2021. In that time, the Program has diverted 1,350 pounds of plastic film away from landfills and into a useful consumer decking and railing product.

Our crew of tireless volunteers collect plastic film three days a week from the Easttown Township Building and the Easttown Library, sort the material for erroneous additions, weigh and track the plastic, and then transport it to Wegmans Food Market in KOP where Trex collects it. To best help our volunteers, please include only dry, clean plastic film free of debris and food waste. Pet food bags, paper, cardboard and "crinkly" plastics (those that hold pre-washed salads, grapes, peppers, chips, etc) are not recyclable by Trex. Additionally, the volunteers have noticed address labels on the items being deposited and ask that these be removed.

All plastic must be clean, dry and free of food residue.

PLUS

All plastic must be clean, dry and free of food residue.

- Plastic film labeled with #2 or #4 recycling symbol (polyethylene film)
- Ice bags
- Wood pallet bags
- Slat bags
- Canal box liners

DO NOT INCLUDE THESE ITEMS IN NEXTREX® PROGRAMS

OR THESE

- Degradable/compostable bags or film packaging
- Pre-washed salad mixed bags
- Pet food bags
- Hot dog or meat wrap packaging
- Six-pack rings
- PPE: Gloves, mask, or protective wear
- Pool covers
- Lamination film
- Silage and hay bags
- Backyard ice rinks
- Vinyl shower curtains or tablecloths
- Bedding or linen packaging
- Shiny, crinkly films like floral wrap



The Case against using gas powered leaf blowers

By Susanne Hay, T/E Green Team

Just 2 days ago the last of fall leaves were removed from front lawns around here by local landscaping workers and one couldn't escape the noise.

These gas-powered leaf blowers have been around for a long time and they are dangerously outdated. Most gas-powered leaf blowers are of the two-stroke engine type mixing together gas and oil in a combustion chamber in a highly inefficient and dirty way. The pollution they produce is "off the charts": 30 min of blowing leaves emits quantities of pollutants similar to a pick-up truck driving from Texas to Alaska. In other words, pollution is >120 times higher than from a truck or car. Gas-powered leaf blowers produce high levels of Volatile Organic Compounds or VOCs (hydrocarbons such as formaldehyde and benzene, nitrogen oxide, and carbon monoxide) and particulate matter, all of which seriously harm people's health.

In addition, the 200 mile/hr winds emitted from the blowers spin up clouds of dust that include pollen, mold, animal feces, heavy metals and chemicals from pesticides and fertilizers.

Furthermore, they are associated with massive noise pollution. The engines produce up to 100 db of low frequency noise, comparable to a plane taking off, which penetrates windows and glass doors. Extended exposure to 85 db or more will lead to permanent hearing loss.

The risks are greatest to the workers of landscaping companies who use these engines every day for several hours, but the risk is also real for homeowners who use their backpack leaf blower just once a week, or to the neighbors who don't use them at all.

There are several other options:

- Leave leaves alone, especially on garden beds, (with the added benefits of helping native pollinators overwinter and improving soil health)
- Rake leaves off the grass
- Mow over the lawn to chop up the leaves
- Use electric leaf blowers and lawn mowers (which are just as powerful as gas-powered ones)
- Also, last but not least, reach out to your landscaping contractor to switch to electric leaf blowers.

Sources: [epa.gov](https://www.epa.gov/); yaleclimateconnection.org; theatlantic.com



Planet-Friendly Resolutions

Contributed by Heather Hill, Easttown EAC

Create Less Waste, Adopt a Plant-Based Diet, Spend more time in nature, Learn about your impact, Stop buying plastic, Start Composting, Switch to Sustainable Beauty, Fashion and Household Products. For more ideas visit: <https://zero-waste-creative.com/blog-zero-waste-creative/planet-friendly-new-year-resolutions-for-2022>