

The Greater Carlisle Project

What is the Greater Carlisle Project?

The Greater Carlisle Project is an unincorporated nonprofit association of people, organizations, churches, businesses and local governments working together to improve the quality of life for all people in the communities of the Greater Carlisle Area. Our approach is to enhance long-term social, economic and environmental sustainability by connecting and enhancing community assets. The communities of the Greater Carlisle Area include Carlisle, Dickinson, Middlesex, Mount Holly Springs, Newville, North Middleton, South Middleton, and West Pennsboro. The Greater Carlisle Project provides a forum for members of these communities to voice ideas for the future of our region, increases the visibility of efforts and organizations that are making our communities more sustainable, collects and shares information, helps member organizations to locate and access resources, champions initiatives and projects, and celebrates successes.

Why is the Greater Carlisle Project needed?

The Greater Carlisle Area is fortunate to have many organizations and individuals helping build community assets that are critical to the wellbeing of people in our communities. Often their work focuses on enhancing a particular type of community asset such as housing, job opportunities, job skills, transportation, retail infrastructure, arts, education, health, food security, youth programs, air quality, water quality or recreation. Many serve a single township or borough, all of Cumberland County, or multiple counties of south-central Pennsylvania. But no organization connects people, organizations, businesses and public agencies to work holistically across multiple areas of strength and need with a focus on all the communities of the Greater Carlisle Area. The Greater Carlisle Project fills this need, seeking to amplify and connect the positive impacts of the many organizations that serve our area.

What is the vision of the Greater Carlisle Project?

The Greater Carlisle Project's vision is a future in which all residents live rich, meaningful lives supported by community assets in eight priority areas:

Community: We celebrate diverse communities that are welcoming, inclusive, just, safe and full of life.

Cultural Heritage, Arts & Recreation: We value our region's rich heritage, vibrant small towns, rural landscapes and growing arts, cultural and recreational opportunities that meet the needs of our diverse residents and visitors.

Economic Development & Jobs: We create family sustaining jobs that enable a vibrant quality of life for all residents. We actively support our existing businesses and seek new opportunities for economic development.

Education: We treasure the quality and diversity of our educational institutions and support their collaboration with each other and with the wider community to promote and inspire continual learning and innovation.

Energy and Transportation: We embrace energy conservation, more efficient homes, buildings and vehicles, expanded transportation options and clean energy that advance environmental, social and economic sustainability goals.

Food and Farms: We champion our farmers' success as stewards of our agricultural landscape who feed our communities with healthy, nutritious local food.

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Green Spaces, Blue Waters, & Clear Skies: We live in a landscape that is rich in parks, green spaces, farms, hiking and biking trails, water trails and diverse wildlife. We are sustained by clean air, clean water, and resilient and healthy forests, wetlands and streams.

Housing, Health, & Human Services: We support good health, human dignity and quality, affordable housing as they relate to all aspects of physical, mental and social wellbeing.

What is the mission of the Greater Carlisle Project?

The mission of The Greater Carlisle Project is to promote collaboration among people, organizations, businesses and local governments of our communities to realize our vision for environmental, social and economic sustainability. We will advance sustainability by:

- Connecting people and organizations in collaborative efforts,
- Convening educational forums to foster a shared culture of sustainability, and
- Advocating for initiatives that advance our vision.

Who formed and participates in the Greater Carlisle Project?

Many people and organizations helped form the Greater Carlisle Project. The include residents, businesses, organizations and local government agencies from across the Greater Carlisle area. The project emerged from a series of meetings convened by Dickinson College's Center for Sustainability Education in November 2012 and January and March of 2013. It took shape in the summer and fall of 2013 and activities began to be implemented early in 2014.

Founding members of the Greater Carlisle Project include:

- Cory Adams, South Middleton Township Manager
- Kathleen Banski, Dickinson College
- Carrie Breschi, Carlisle Arts Learning Center
- Matt Candland, Carlisle Borough Manager
- Kitzzi Chappelle, Hope Station Opportunity Area
- Michele Crowley, Greater Carlisle Area Chamber of Commerce
- Shireen Farr, Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau
- Deb Figueroa, Carlisle Borough Assistant Manager
- Chris Gulotta, Gulotta Associates
- Jenn Halpin, Dickinson Farm and Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture
- Rev. Daniel Keys, Shiloh Baptist Church
- Neil Leary, Dickinson College
- Lindsey Lyons, Dickinson College
- Ross Morris, Piatto's Restaurant
- Laura Portillo, Dickinson Township Manager
- Becca Raley, Partnership for Better Health
- Nathan Tuckey, Tuckey Companies
- Stephanie Williams, Cumberland County Planning Department
- Lucy Suter Zander, United Way of Carlisle & Cumberland County

How is the Greater Carlisle Project governed?

The founding members created a Steering Committee to coordinate and guide the work of the Greater Carlisle Project. The purpose, membership and responsibilities of the Steering Committee are described below.

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Purpose of the Steering Committee

The purpose of the Steering Committee of the Greater Carlisle Project (GCP) is to provide strategic guidance for achievement of the GCP vision and mission. Tasks of the Steering Committee shall include the following:

- Engage members of the Greater Carlisle community in guiding and implementing the work of the GCP;
- Develop a strategic plan, guide its implementation, and monitor performance;
- Solicit ideas from the community for activities for advancing the GCP vision and mission, prioritize activities, and select activities to be supported by the GCP;
- Establish Action Teams to implement selected activities, provide guidance to the Action Teams, and facilitate the work of the Action Teams;
- Gather and share information from GCP and other activities to build a knowledge base for creating livable, sustainable communities in the Greater Carlisle area;
- Raise funds through grant applications and other means; and
- Approve and oversee the GCP budget.

Membership of the Steering Committee

An interim Steering Committee was appointed initially by the founding members of the Greater Carlisle Project. In summer 2014 the interim Steering Committee is inviting new members to join and constitute the Steering Committee. Invitations of members will be made to better represent the diversity of our communities and engage organizations and individuals active in the eight priority areas of the GCP vision statement. Steering Committee members will serve renewable two-year terms.

Role, Responsibilities and Expectations of Steering Committee Members

The role of each committee member is to help guide and support the work of the Greater Carlisle Project by sharing relevant knowledge, expertise and experiences. Steering Committee members are not directly responsible for managing project activities, but provide support and guidance for those who do. Responsibilities and expectations common to all committee members include:

- Attending meetings of the Steering Committee, which normally will be held once every two months;
- Participating in the deliberations of the committee;
- Helping to move forward action items as may be approved by the committee; and
- Championing the GCP vision and mission in the community, in their own organizations, and in other associations of which they are members.

In addition to these shared responsibilities, each member shall have a specific role with responsibilities specific to the role. The roles include:

- Co-chairs – two members of the Steering Committee shall be elected as co-chairs, with joint responsibilities to plan, convene and chair meetings of the Steering Committee, and assure that action items are assigned to appropriate persons and completed.
- Action Team Liaisons – one or more members will be appointed to act as a liaison between the Steering Committee and each Action Team.
- Outreach and communication – one or more members will coordinate outreach and communication with the Greater Carlisle area communities.
- Membership – one or more members will coordinate efforts to recruit organizations and individuals to join the Greater Carlisle Project.

What are some of the recent, upcoming and ongoing activities of the Greater Carlisle Project?

- Heberlig-Palmer Park: The Greater Carlisle Project helped advertise and promote participation in the West Side Neighbors Association's Spring Spruce Up on March 29, as well as their fund raising activities for renovation of the park.
- Mount Holly Springs Community Walking Audit: The Greater Carlisle Project helped residents of Mt Holly Springs conduct a community walking audit on April 5 that produced a number of action items for improvement of the community. Walking audits are being planned for other communities.
- Summer Youth Programs: a brochure has been produced and distributed to provide information about summer youth programs in the Greater Carlisle area.
- Greater Carlisle Sustainability Map: Dickinson College students are creating a prototype sustainability map, an online, interactive resource that will help residents learn about and locate organizations that are advancing sustainability in the region.
- Urban Redevelopment: The Greater Carlisle Project promoted participation of community members in workshops and meetings that contributed to drafting of the Carlisle Urban Redevelopment Plan and continues to be involved in follow-up activities to develop details of the plan.
- Carlisle Connectivity Project: The Greater Carlisle Project has endorsed and written letters in support of grant applications by the Borough of Carlisle, North Middleton and Cumberland County for transportation and stormwater management planning related to redevelopment of brown-field sites in Carlisle.
- Extreme Weather in South Central Pennsylvania: a panel discussion about the hazards of extreme weather in our region will be hosted at Dickinson College, November 13, 2014. Co-sponsored by the South Mountain Partnership and Dickinson College.
- The Future of Housing: Sue Cosentini, of New Earth Living, a builder/developer of co-housing and energy efficient housing in Ithaca, NY gave a community talk on March 28. Cosponsored by Dickinson College and the Greater Carlisle Project.
- The Listening Workshop: Sue Cosentini of New Earth Living led a workshop on active listen for enhanced communication on March 29. The workshop, attended by community members and Dickinson faculty, students and staff, was co-sponsored by Dickinson College and the Greater Carlisle Project.
- Community-Based Research Projects: Dickinson students conducted research projects to benefit community partners in fall 2013 as part of a course, Building Sustainable Communities.

What is the history of the Greater Carlisle Project?

The Greater Carlisle Project emerged from a series of meetings convened by Dickinson College's Center for Sustainability Education in November 2012 and January and March of 2013. The project took shape in the summer and fall of 2013 and activities began to be implemented early in 2014. Participants in the meetings include residents, businesses, organizations and local government agencies from across the Greater Carlisle area. Following is a brief outline of the development of the project.

November 2012: Dickinson College convened a group of sixteen community members to explore interest in a new collaboration of private and public sector organizations that would work across issue areas and across townships and boroughs to make the communities in the Carlisle area more livable and sustainable. It was agreed that a larger community should be held in January.

January 2013: A follow-up meeting attended by more than 40 people further demonstrated strong interest on the part of a variety of constituencies to create a collaborative organization that would bring people together from the greater Carlisle area to work on shared interests. Plans were developed for a March workshop.

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March 2013: A community workshop was held to share ideas and generate excitement about what we as a community want to preserve and create to make the Greater Carlisle Area a better, more sustainable place to live. The workshop featured a presentation by Professor David Orr, founder of the Oberlin Project in Oberlin, Ohio. An outcome was agreement to form an interim steering committee that would use the ideas and priorities expressed by community members at the meeting to draft vision and mission statements for the Greater Carlisle Project, and to plan for moving the project forward.

Summer 2013: The steering committee met several times over the summer and prepared draft vision & mission statements.

October 2013: An open community meeting attended by 70+ residents of the Borough of Carlisle, Mount Holly Springs, Newville, North Middleton, South Middleton, Dickinson and Middlesex endorsed the vision, mission and one-year plan of the Greater Carlisle Project. Project and education teams were formed to plan and implement activities in the coming year.

December 2013 through February 2014: The project and education teams met several times and launched a number of activities (see above section on recent, upcoming and ongoing activities).

March 2014: The project and education teams are merged into the Idea Team.

How can I get more information about the Greater Carlisle Project?

Visit the Greater Carlisle Project website at

[http://www3.dickinson.edu/centers/sustainability/content/Greater Carlisle Project/](http://www3.dickinson.edu/centers/sustainability/content/Greater_Carlisle_Project/). On the website you will find the vision and mission statements, minutes of meetings and other resources.

You may also direct inquiries to Sustainability@dickinson.edu.