

*In Recognition and Appreciation of*  
*Environmental Commission*

**WHEREAS**, Morris Township's Environmental Commission (EC) is an advisory body, first established in 1969 by Ordinance No. 22-69 in accordance with New Jersey Statute 40:56A-1; and

**WHEREAS**, the members of EC include local volunteers who share an exceptional interest in helping to protect the environment, preserve natural resources, and create a more sustainable community for future generations; and

**WHEREAS**, all members of EC willingly and enthusiastically volunteer their time to serve on this commission and participate in innumerable ways in the many vital functions the EC performs on behalf of our community; and

**WHEREAS**, one of the EC's most important functions is to prepare Site Reviews – wherein, by working together with the Township Engineer, the EC offers comments and advisory recommendations on various environmental issues that come up as part of land-use applications considered by the Planning Board and Board of Adjustment; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the special leadership efforts of recent EC Chair Buz Kenney and current EC Chair Brian Morgan, Morris Township's EC has engaged in exceptional site-review training activities for its members and has worked to expand the EC's capacity to participate in this important function in meaningful ways.

**WHEREAS**, in addition to Site Reviews, Morris Township's EC has worked on a large number of initiatives that support environmental preservation and sustainability – for which some illustrative accomplishments include:

**Community Outreach and Education**

- Information-sharing at many public events – including at this year's **first-ever Winter Farmer's Market at Convent Station, sponsored by Grow It Green in collaboration with Morris Township.**
- Developed new and additional content for the **EC's webpage.**
- Created a new and engaging monthly **Newsletter.**

**Energy Aggregation** – in addition to presenting a public information session on energy aggregation in 2020, the EC has done continuing research of its own and has encouraged the passage of two resolutions of support by the governing body.

**Municipal Energy Audit** – in 2021, due to the time, efforts, and expertise of our Township Administrator and Department Heads, a baseline audit of all municipal buildings was completed. This was a huge undertaking for Township staff, and the EC is immensely grateful for their work.

**Trees and Invasive Species**

- Created a "Do Not Plant List" which offers guidance on invasive plants to avoid; this list will be shared widely, not only with applicants who come before the Township's land use boards, but also with relevant municipal departments, as well as with the community at large.
- Submitted a grant to ANJEC (Association of NJ Environmental Commissions) in April 2022 for funding to support a project entitled "Plant a Native Wildflower Demonstration Garden at Butterworth Park."
- Supported the 2020 Bamboo Ordinance which prohibits future planting of bamboo in Morris Township.
- Devoted numerous hours of volunteer help for the Great Swamp's Native Plant Sale.
- Organized and distributed tree saplings to residents as part of the State's tree sapling initiative.

**Composting** – worked together with Madison's EC to co-host informational webinars and sponsor composter sale events.

**Drew Forest Preservation** – worked with neighboring EC’s to share information with the public about the importance of the Drew Forest as a local and regional natural resource and encouraged Morris Township’s governing body to pass a “Resolution Supporting the Conservation of the Drew Forest.”

**Regional Collaboration** – worked together with the EC’s of more than 15 nearby municipalities (who together comprise the NJSMA - Northern Jersey Sustainable Municipal Alliance) to gather information, promote dialogue and problem-solving across municipalities, and create shared model documents on such topics as Green Transportation (various EV ordinances); Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance; and Climate Action Plan template.

**Sustainable Jersey Certification Program** – members of the Township’s Green Team are working actively to compile the documentation necessary to achieve SJ certification for Morris Township for the first time ever – the accomplishment of which recognizes and enhances our achievements as a community that values environmental preservation and sustainability in everything we do.

**WHEREAS**, more information about these (and other) EC initiatives can be found in the EC’s End of Year Reports for 2020 and 2021 which are located on the EC page of the Township’s website and which members of the public are encouraged to seek out and read;

**WHEREAS**, current members of Morris Township’s Environmental Commission include:

**Full Members**

*Barbara Buda*  
*Brian Morgan*  
*Cecile Kent*  
*Charles Schachter*  
*Jennifer Carcich*  
*Joshua Saks*  
*Siva S. Jonnada*

**Alternate Members**

*Leslie Jones-Wentz*  
*Margy McKibbin-Favreau*

**Associate Members**

*Balakrishnan Iyer*  
*Carolyn McLain*  
*Daniel Haines*  
*Hart Coven*  
*John Landau*  
*Ned Gardner*  
*Sanjiv Sharma*

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Morris recognizes and commends the members of Morris Township’s Environmental Commission for your devotion to environmental stewardship and sustainability and for the excellence of your work in pursuit of the myriad number of initiatives and activities that includes. We applaud EC members for your efforts, congratulate you on your accomplishments, and extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation for your dedication and service to our community.

*Mark J. Gyorfy*  
Mayor

*Catherine J. Wilson*  
Deputy Mayor

*William “Bud” Ravitz*  
Township Committee Member



*Peter V. Mancuso*  
Township Committee Member

*Tara Olivo-Moore*  
Township Committee Member

*In Recognition and Appreciation of*  
*Daniel “Buz” Kenney*

**WHEREAS**, Morris Township’s Environmental Commission (EC) is an advisory body, first established in 1969 by Ordinance No. 22-69 in accordance with New Jersey Statute 40:56A-1; and

**WHEREAS**, between 2019 and 2022, under the leadership of Daniel “Buz” Kenney as he served as Chair, the Environmental Commission pursued a rigorous schedule advancing initiatives to better our environment, educate the public, and work towards lessening the environmental impact Morris Township has on our environment; and

**WHEREAS**, Chairman Kenney led local volunteers in helping to protect our ecosystem, preserve natural resources, and build a legacy of a more sustainable community for future generations; and

**WHEREAS**, During Chairman Kenney’s diligent leadership tenure, the Township of Morris:

- 1) Became one of the first municipalities in the County of Morris to prohibit single use plastic bags.
- 2) Completed Morris Township’s first energy audit, encouraging the Township to enhance its ability to be a good steward of our community.
- 3) Established critical relationships with other groups and organizations from neighboring towns to collaborate.
- 4) Enhanced public outreach initiatives to keep residents informed of pertinent Environmental Commission activities and encourage participation.
- 5) Adopted a resolution to discourage the planting of invasive species, which harm not only the local ecosystem, but the integrity of public lands.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Township Committee of the Township of Morris recognizes and commends Chairman Kenney for his ongoing devotion to environmental stewardship and sustainability and educating our friends and neighbors on the importance of such initiatives; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Township Committee applauds your work leading the Environmental Commission on behalf of the Township of Morris and extends our sincere gratitude and appreciation for your dedication and service to our community.

*Mark J. Gyorfy*  
Mayor

*Catherine J. Wilson*  
Deputy Mayor

*William “Bud” Ravitz*  
Township Committee Member



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