

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

- **12/3 Community Housing Plan Meeting** NCCC Fowler Family Southside Center 511 East Third Street Bethlehem, PA 6:00 P.M.
- **12/17 Think About Energy Briefing** ArtsQuest at Steel-Stacks, Bethlehem 101 Founders Way, Bethlehem Pa, 18015 11:30 A.M.
- **01/27 World Café Discussion—Environment** Veterans Sanctuary 24 s. 5th Street Allentown PA 5:30 P.M.
- **02/24 World Café Discussion** Veterans Sanctuary 24 s. 5th Street Allentown PA 5:30 P.M.
- **03/24 World Café Discussion** Veterans Sanctuary 24 s. 5th Street Allentown PA 5:30 P.M.
- **Check out our Virtual Town Meeting on [Fresh Food Access](#)**

Coming soon:

Stay tuned for more public meetings focused on improving the Lehigh Valley! These public meetings and input opportunities will be announced later this winter!

Where Will Our Food Come From?

During November five Fresh Food Forums were held by Envision consortium members in Bethlehem, Easton, Allentown, Emmaus and Pen Argyl. Lynn Prior, director of the Lehigh Valley Chapter of Buy Fresh Buy Local has posted the report “Lehigh Valley Local Food Economy” at envisionlehighvalley.com under documents. Prior, along with Holly Edinger, Lenore Pitsolis, and Joyce Marin, Executive Director of RenewLV have been presenting the findings of the report and seeking public feedback.

From Allentown to Pen Argyl, attendees of the meetings have learned that according to the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission 145,000 new people are expected to call the Lehigh Val-

ley their new home by 2030 and that by 2040 10 of our 17 rural municipalities will become suburban. This will leave only seven rural municipalities, five in the Lehigh Valley and two in



Northampton County. Attendees have learned that preserving these farms is not only important environmentally, but economically as well. Shopping at a large chain store returns only an average of 13.6% of the revenue, or \$0.14 for every dollar spent to the local economy.

According to the report, Tim Kelsey Ph.D. at Penn State University says local food purchases return on average \$0.45 of every dollar spent to the local economy. If each household spent only \$10 per week on locally grown food from May to November, an estimated \$67 million food dollars would be kept in the Lehigh Valley.

For those who missed these meetings but are interested in local food access as the Lehigh Valley develops we encourage you to take the survey found [here](#)



How do you Envision Home and Neighborhood?

Envision Lehigh Valley has been busy engaging people during October and November to the LVPC’s community housing plan and fair housing meetings. Meetings were held in Allentown and Bethlehem and welcomed the public to come and share their opinions about housing.

The LVPC Commission is undertaking a Regional Housing

Analysis of the Lehigh Valley. Discussions on housing availability and choice have been held to ensure that there is public input for the types of housing people want to see

The LVPC plans to utilize this information and other information they collect to update the 2007 document, “An Affordable Housing Assessment of the Lehigh Valley.” The

The LVPC hopes to provide information on the demand for residential housing based on household size, age of householder and income level as well as an analysis of demographic trends and projections as it relate to income level and household size.

If you missed the housing meetings, you can still make your voice heard through taking this [online survey](#)

Check out upcoming events and
give feedback online!
www.envisionlehighvalley.com

Envision Lehigh Valley

Phone: 484-893-1060

E-mail: smartgrowth@renewlv.org

www.envisionlehighvalley.com

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What will the Lehigh Valley be like in 5 years... 10 years... 20 years? Determine the future by choice, not by chance.

Envision Lehigh Valley is a public outreach effort designed to engage the citizens of Northampton and Lehigh Counties to create a truly sustainable Lehigh Valley.

The overall goal of **Envision Lehigh Valley** is to support the existing *Comprehensive Plan... The Lehigh Valley 2030* by creating a sustainable communities plan. Throughout this project, five different plans will be developed that coordinate with our five areas of focus: jobs/housing balance, affordable housing, climate and energy efficiency, fresh food access, and regional economic development. Additionally, the grant supports implementation work through four projects: transit-friendly development by LANta, the Little Lehigh Industrial Corridor in Allentown, the Eastern Gateway in Bethlehem, and the 13th Street Corridor in Easton.

Envision Lehigh Valley welcomes your input. Call us at 484-843-1060 or send an email to smartgrowth@renewlv.org to find out how to get involved.

Engaging the Public in the Discussion of the Future of the Lehigh Valley

On November 15 RenewLV and Envision hosted a free open public meeting at the Lehigh Valley Government Center asking the question "What would the Lehigh Valley look like if you were in charge of its future growth?" The format of the discussion utilized the Open Space Technology discussion method and allowed the participants to set the agenda.

The discussion centered on three topics: 1) the need to translate "sustainable" to regular citizens, 2) the need to communicate the ecological impacts of our present development choices and 3) the need to do a better job of connecting community development to economic development efforts. Goals, obstacles and an action plan were discussed for each topic.

RenewLV and Envision welcome citizens to additional discussions on these and other

Envision study topics. World Café Discussions will be held at 5:30 p.m. January 27th, February 24th,



A lively discussion explored opportunities for citizens to connect with each other and drive sustainable change

and March 24th, at the Veterans Sanctuary in downtown Allentown 24 S. 5th Street. Ultimately, we hope that engaged and passionate citizens will come together at these discussions and be inspired to enact real, positive change for the Lehigh Valley.

Call 484-893-1060 to reserve your spot.

Make sure to check envisionlehighvalley.com and our emails for more information on dates, locations and times for upcoming meetings.

