

Saucon Valley Partnership COG

History

The Borough of Hellertown, Township of Lower Saucon and the Saucon Valley School District are charter members of the Saucon Valley Partnership. Established in 2004, this Council of Governments (COG) is comprised of elected and appointed officials designated by the respective members.

The Saucon Valley Partnership, evolved from an Ad-Hoc Committee of Hellertown Borough and Lower Saucon Township officials, which had been meeting over the years to discuss joint issues. This Council of Governments is a forum for officials to discuss common interests with the goal of improving the quality of life for residents of the Saucon Valley area in the face of increasing pressures due to economic and population growth. The Partnership will provide an opportunity for the members to foster communication, regional cooperation and joint action on regional issues and problems. By working together as a group, the partners can build stronger relationships and pursue strategies that improve the efficiency and effectiveness of municipal services to save tax dollars.

Members

Borough of Hellertown
Lower Saucon Valley Township
Saucon Valley School District
County of Northampton

Glenn Kern, Chair kern@enter.net

Meeting Time and Location

Second Wednesday of the month, 7:00 PM at alternate locations.

COG Activities

- Completing a two year planning process on a Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan for the Saucon Region encompassing the Township, Borough and School District
- The Saucon Valley Compost Center, a jointly operated yard waste facility, will be re-opening for its 3rd season this April
- Working as a coalition with the five (5) municipalities contiguous to the City of Bethlehem to maximize the receipt of gaming host fees from the Sands Bethworks Casino to ameliorate casino impacts
- The Public Works Departments from the Township and Borough, and the School District Campus Operations, will be working together for the second year on Joint Paving projects which coordinates the use of equipment and manpower to achieve economies with resurfacing of roads and parking lots
- A Joint Fire Services Group, comprised of the four (4) Township volunteer fire companies and Dewey Fire Company in Hellertown, have joined together to begin meeting with a facilitator from the DCED Governor's Center to explore regional opportunities for fire services
- The Township and Borough are working jointly with Upper Saucon Township and Coopersburg Borough in Lehigh County on the acquisition and development of a rail trail on the abandoned SEPTA rail line
- Joint planning for traffic flow and signalization
- Joint bidding and purchasing of equipment and materials
- Joint grant funding applications to support Partnership activities