

**BOROUGH OF ALLENTOWN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
2025 ANNUAL REPORT**

The key concerns for the Commission in 2025 included recycling, electric vehicle (EV) charging, and gathering information to update the Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI), among others. Another priority was outreach to neighboring communities. The Commission, together with the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC), hosted a workshop attended by several local environmental commissions to discuss new Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) regulations; the program presenter was Jennifer Coffey of ANJEC. These initiatives aim to enhance sustainability in the community by promoting responsible waste management, supporting electric vehicle infrastructure, and ensuring compliance with updated environmental regulations.

The Commission had a number of accomplishments in 2025, each contributing to the Borough's environmental stewardship and community engagement:

- The Commission submitted comments on the site plan for 11 Church Street, resulting in improved stormwater management measures being incorporated into the project to help protect local waterways and reduce flooding risk.
- The Commission welcomed our watershed's ambassadors, Jessie Lisanti and later Felicity Cruz, and began collaborating with the Watershed Ambassador program to promote environmental education and stewardship projects involving local residents.
- Hosted an ANJEC workshop with surrounding municipalities' environmental commissions focused on MS4 regulations, which helped local commissions better understand these requirements and collaborate on compliance strategies for cleaner stormwater and community health.
- The annual rain barrel workshop was postponed and is now scheduled for ~~May~~ ^{April} 2026, ensuring residents will have the opportunity to learn about sustainable water practices and engage in rainwater harvesting next year.
- Nancy Tindall was involved with One Compost Can, providing residents with an accessible option to compost household food waste, thus reducing landfill use and encouraging sustainable habits in the community.
- Commission members worked on gathering the information required to update the Borough's Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI), which will serve as a valuable resource for future planning and community awareness.
- Vice Chair Keith Clayton researched and gathered data to bring EV charging stations to the Borough, supporting cleaner transportation options and preparing the community for increased electric vehicle use.

- Rick Jakobe, along with the watershed ambassador, performed a stream assessment of Doctors Creek near Breza Road, engaging in hands-on monitoring to maintain water quality and raise awareness of local ecological resources.
- Continued to inform and educate the community about recycling regulations, helping residents adopt responsible waste management practices and encouraging ongoing participation in local recycling efforts.

One might assume that a fully developed, 0.6 square mile Borough would have limited opportunities for environmental stewardship, but our experience proves otherwise. The Commission eagerly continues to serve as the advocate for caring for our environment and informing our citizens about the Borough's environmental vulnerabilities. Through initiatives such as community clean-up events, educational workshops, and advocacy for sustainable practices – including improved stormwater management, composting, environmental resource updates, and recycling education – the Commission demonstrates its ongoing commitment to protecting our local environment.

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