

RESOLUTION #22-

RESOLUTION COMMITTING THE TOWNSHIP OF MIDDLETOWN TO THE SUSTAINABLE LAND USE PLEDGE

WHEREAS, land use is an essential component of overall sustainability for a municipality; and

WHEREAS, poor land-use decisions can lead to and increase societal ills such as decreased mobility, high housing costs, increased greenhouse gas emissions, loss of open space and the degradation of natural resources; and

WHEREAS, well planned land use can create transportation choices, provide for a range of housing options, create walkable communities, preserve open space, provide for adequate recreation, and allow for the continued protection and use of vital natural resources; and

WHEREAS, given New Jersey's strong tradition of home rule and local authority over planning and zoning, achieving a statewide sustainable land use pattern will require municipalities to take the lead;

NOW THEREFORE, the Township of Middletown resolves to take the following steps with regard to our municipal land-use decisions with the intent of making Middletown a truly sustainable community. It is our intent to include these principles in the next Master Plan revision and Reexamination Report and to subsequently update our land-use, zoning, natural resource protection, and other ordinances to reflect these principles.

1. Regional Cooperation - We pledge to reach out to administrations of our neighboring municipalities concerning land-use decisions, and to take into consideration regional impacts when making land-use decisions.
2. Transportation Choices - We pledge to create transportation choices with a "complete streets" approach by considering all modes of transportation, including walking, biking, transit and automobiles through, when planning transportation projects and reviewing development applications. We will reevaluate our parking with the goal of limiting the amount of required parking spaces, promoting shared parking and other innovative parking alternatives, and encouraging structured parking alternatives where appropriate.
3. Natural Resource Protection - We pledge to take action to protect the natural resources of the State for environmental, recreational and agricultural value, avoiding or mitigating negative impacts to these resources. Further, we pledge to complete an update to the Township's Natural Resources Inventory when feasible to identify and assess the extent of our natural resources and to link natural resource management and protection to carrying capacity analysis, land-use and open space planning.

4. Mix of Land Uses - We pledge to use our zoning power to allow for a mix of residential, retail, commercial, recreational and other land use types in areas that make the most sense for our Township and the region.
5. Housing Options - We pledge, through the use of our Zoning Ordinance and Master Plan Housing Element, to foster a diverse mix of housing types and locations, including single- and multi-family, for-sale and rental options, to meet the needs of all people at a range of income levels.
6. Green Design - We pledge to incorporate the principles of green design and renewable energy generation into municipal buildings to the extent feasible and when updating our site plan and subdivision requirements for residential and commercial buildings.
7. Municipal Facilities Siting - We pledge, to the extent feasible, to take into consideration factors such as walkability, bikeability, greater access to public transit, proximity to other land-use types, and open space when locating new or relocated municipal facilities.