# A Shared Energy Vision for Greater Philadelphia, January 2016

## Introduction

The Energy Vision Working Group was convened in October 2015 by Penn’s Kleinman Center for Energy Policy and Drexel’s Institute for Energy and the Environment. Facilitated by Raab Associates, [*Number of signatories*] leaders on energy, the economy, and the environment worked through four months of intensive, confidential meetings and exercises, and ultimately agreed on the statement below. This effort is intended to provide a basis for further discussions, among larger numbers of stakeholder groups and citizens, exploring specific technical and social issues, and informing the decisions of public policymakers over the coming years.

## The Vision

Greater Philadelphia should commit to **realizing the region’s full potential** for an economy that provides many good-paying, long-lasting jobs for residents while promoting clean air and water, providing clean and reliable energy, protecting ecosystems, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions consistent with city, regional, state, and national goals as they are adopted.[[1]](#footnote-1)

## The Framework

To achieve this vision, the region must **leverage a range of energy resources and technologies** over time.

1. Renewable energy, energy efficiency, nuclear energy, and other low-emission resources in the energy and transportation sectors are essential to achieving GHG emissions reduction goals, and accelerated development and deployment should begin immediately.
2. Where it displaces current use of coal and oil or increases the efficient use of other energy resources (e.g., combined heat & power and the integration of renewable energy into the electric grid), and provided that methane leakage is controlled, natural gas can reduce GHG emissions and other environmental impacts while meeting critical energy demand.
3. Greater Philadelphia should support a utility of the future strategy that promotes infrastructure modernization of the distribution systems, environmental improvement, and customer-focused innovation that maximizes the efficient use of our energy resources while recognizing the ongoing need for affordable, universally-available utility service.
4. Energy-related public investments, subsidies, incentives, and approvals should be **evaluated by accounting** for economic, social, environmental, and health impacts over the life of the measures.

## The Opportunities & Challenges

The **proximity of shale resources** to Greater Philadelphia’s workforce and infrastructure provides a potentialeconomic development opportunityfor the region. Shale resources include both natural gas and natural gas liquids, which together could offer multiple potential value-chains in the region. Transportation investments to connect these resources to the region must be part of the evaluation framework above. Capitalizing on this opportunity must be consistent with city, state, regional, and national goals for protecting health, the environment, and the climate.

The preservation of existing **low-emission energy resources** and the accelerated deployment of renewable energy, energy efficiency, and other low-emission energy resources development can also provide significant economic development benefits for Greater Philadelphia.

The **broad and equitable distribution** of these benefits requires a new career pipeline framework co-created by a partnership of employers and the education sector (including high school, community college, secondary, and workforce development) to support skills demanded by employers in all aspects of the energy economy and related fields throughout the entire value chain. The evolving energy economy in Greater Philadelphia should provide appropriate opportunities for entering, transitioning, and chronically un/underemployed segments of the regional population.

Important Next Steps

1. Develop a strategy for Greater Philadelphia to immediately accelerate the development and deployment of renewable energy, energy efficiency, and other zero/low-carbon energy resources.
2. Evaluate whether the use of natural gas for energy production or other purposes might reduce GHG emissions in Greater Philadelphia.
3. Evaluate potential uses for natural gas and natural gas liquids in Greater Philadelphia, including for consistency with economic development, health, and environmental goals.

*The following individuals participated in the Greater Philadelphia Energy Vision Working Group and endorse this Shared Vision statement.  We note these individuals' organizational affiliation for identification purposes only, and not to imply formal endorsement of their organization.*

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| FINAL SIGNATORIES TO BE ADDED |  |
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*A special thanks to all those who served as alternates in this process:*

1. We note that the goal being adopted by many governments since 2007 is an 80% reduction in GHG emissions by the year 2050. The United States has stated this goal in national policy and in multi-national agreements with the Group of 7 (G7) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and it has been adopted by 16 U.S. states [http://goo.gl/hxCvkz] and 37 U.S. cities [http://goo.gl/DSMxWN] [↑](#footnote-ref-1)