



# Cumberland County

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## Smart Growth & the Environment

.....  
*Preserve farmland and  
promote agriculture as a  
key industry*  
.....

.....  
*Preserve open space and create  
recreational opportunities*  
.....

.....  
*Reduce emissions and  
improve air quality through  
a biofuels initiative*  
.....

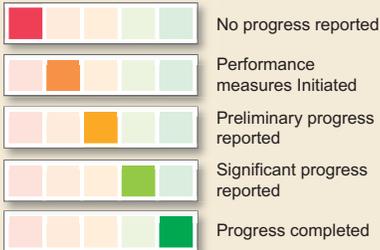
# Cumberland County Benchmarking

## at a glance

### PERFORMANCE KEY



### Strategy Target Progress



### Measures Progress

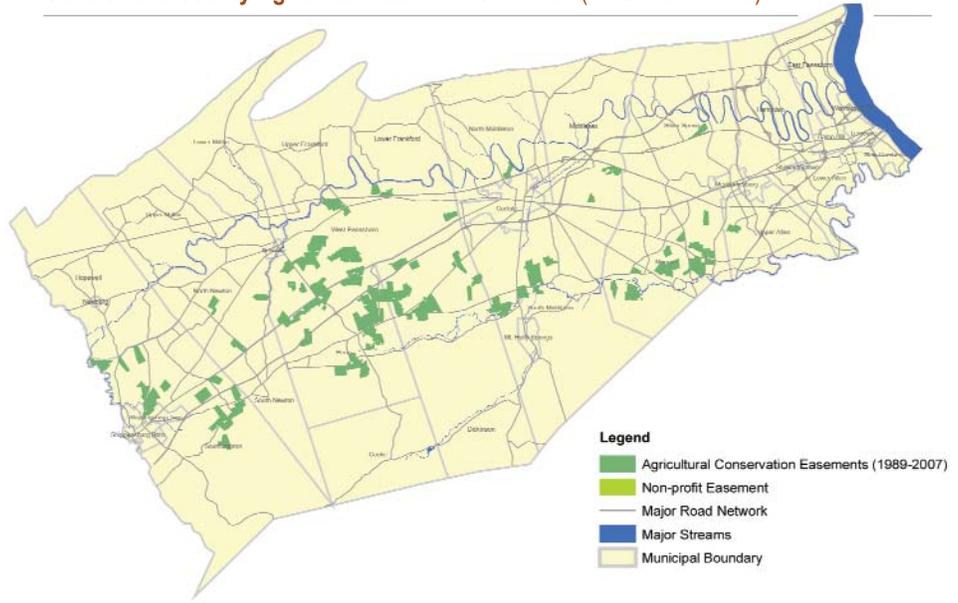
- 76%-100% performance achieved
- 51%-75% performance achieved
- 26%-50% performance achieved
- 0%-25% performance achieved
- Measurement data not available

# Performance-Based Management

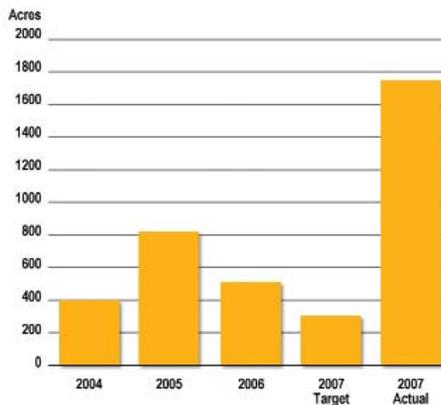
## CONTINUAL ANALYSIS SUPPORTS COUNTY OPERATIONS

Cumberland County has adopted a Performance-Based Management initiative that drives the allocation of resources toward areas of excellence and encourages objective benchmarking across County operations. Aggressive goals and targets ensure strong fiscal management and promote long-term planning.

## Cumberland County Agricultural Land Preservation (Preserved Farms)



## Farmland Preservation



Record State funding resulted in over 1700 acres of farmland preserved in 2007.

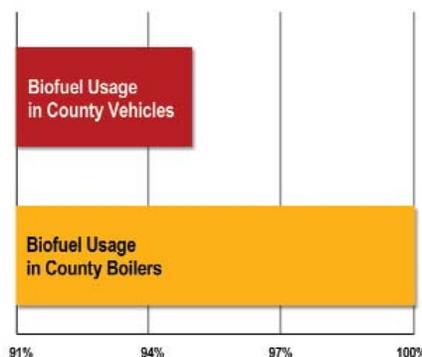
## Mission:

The most livable community with the most efficient and effective public services in Pennsylvania.

## Vision:

A place where family-sustaining economic opportunity is promoted, our environment is respected, public safety is ensured, and our quality of life is preserved for the future.

## Biofuel Consumption



Of the 27 biofuel compatible vehicles used in Cumberland County 95% are filled with biofuel.

Of the 7 biofuel capable boilers in County buildings 100% use biofuel.

# Smart Growth & the Environment

## Strategic Objectives

### Smart Growth & the Environment

#### PRESERVE FARMLAND AND PROMOTE AGRICULTURE AS A KEY INDUSTRY

Cumberland County will pursue Smart Growth promoting livable communities through a balance of economic development and appropriate comprehensive land use planning.

Cumberland County's successful farmland preservation programs employ a holistic approach that focuses on preserving both the land and the farmer. The Planning Department administers the County's agriculture conservation easement program. Through this program, the best agricultural soils are preserved in perpetuity, guaranteeing farmers of today and future generations an optimum location to do business.

#### at a glance

The Planning Department also partners with the County's economic development agency to administer the agriculture retention and expansion program. Through this program, staff regularly meets with farmers enrolled in the agriculture conservation easement program to discuss the successes and challenges of their agriculture operation. The program offers farmers a variety of grants, loans, and business services that help to provide for their long-term economic viability.

#### County Highlights

##### 2007 Farmland Preservation Dollars

|                           |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| County Dollars in Program | \$251,470   |
| State Dollars in Program  | \$977,529   |
| Total Program Dollars     | \$1,228,999 |

In 2007, sixteen farms comprising 3,091 acres were preserved through the agriculture conservation easement program. The high number of farms and acres preserved in 2007 resulted from record levels of State and County funding in 2006. Projections for the number of farms and acreage preserved in 2008 will be considerably lower than 2007 due to lower funding from State and County sources.

##### Farmland Preservation Results

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Farms Preserved in 2007                         | 16     |
| Acreage Preserved in 2007                       | 3,091  |
| Total Farms Preserved to Date                   | 102    |
| Total Acreage Preserved to Date                 | 12,556 |
| County Statewide Rank (Acres Preserved to Date) | 7      |

Through the agriculture retention and expansion program, staff visited with sixteen farms enrolled in the conservation easement program in 2007. These visits resulted in 4 requests for assistance and included a \$200,000 loan for construction of a new chicken barn.

##### 2007 Agriculture Retention & Expansion Program

|                          |    |
|--------------------------|----|
| Farms Visited            | 16 |
| Assistance Requested     | 4  |
| Expansion Loans Provided | 1  |

#### DESIRED RESULTS:

Preserve prime farmland; retention and expansion of existing farms.

#### STRATEGY:

Countywide agriculture conservation easement program.



#### Measures:

- 1. Number of acres of prime farmland preserved.

#### DESIRED RESULTS:

Preserve prime farmland; retention and expansion of agriculture industry.

#### STRATEGY:

Agriculture industry retention and expansion program.



#### Measures:

- ▲ 1. Sixteen farms were visited in 2007.
- \* 2. Number of farms expanded or retained.

*In 2007 the State revised the number of farm visits, reducing visits from 25 to 4 per year, from July 1 to June 30. Cumberland County had already visited a number of farms which accounts for the 16 visits and 4 requests for assistance from the Economic Development agency. One of the visits resulted in a \$200,000 loan to a farmer to build a new chicken barn.*



The agriculture conservation easement program offers farmers a variety of grants, loans, and business services that help to provide for their long-term economic viability.

## at a glance

### County Highlights

14 of 35 projects completed.

900 acres of open space and critical habitat preserved.

2 community swimming pools restored.

5 park development and improvement projects.

2 municipal planning documents updated to include open space and smart growth techniques.



Located at the Carlisle Army War College Military History Institute, Army Heritage Trail provides an educational walk through our nation's military history.



Natural resource protection and smart growth was adopted by the Commissioners in 2006.

## PRESERVE OPEN SPACE AND CREATE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Cumberland County's unique natural and cultural resources contribute to the high quality of life and strong economy that County residents enjoy. Clean air, clean water, public parks, abundant open space and safe neighborhoods all serve to attract residents, visitors, and businesses to the County. If Cumberland County is to maintain its reputation as an excellent place to live, work, and play, the natural and cultural resources of the County must be preserved and balanced with future development pressures.

*Land Partnerships*, Cumberland County's plan for open space preservation, natural resource protection and smart growth, was adopted by the Commissioners in 2006. The Commissioners provided \$1,054,425 of County bond funds to support a pilot grant program for projects that would implement the plan's goals and objectives.

The pilot grant program was unique in its array of eligible applicants and projects. Government organizations, non-profit groups, and private sector interests could apply for project funding in four categories; open space planning, ordinance updates, land acquisition, and park/trail development. Over 50 applicants with projects totaling over \$2 million applied to the program. While demand outpaced available resources, 35 projects were selected for funding with 14 of those projects being completed in 2007.

In 2008, the remaining 21 projects of the pilot grant program will be completed. The Commissioners will review the pilot grant program to consider future funding.

### DESIRED RESULTS:

Increase recreation opportunities for County residents.

### STRATEGY:

Implement a parks and a recreation development grant program.

### Measures:

- 1. Number of parks developed.



## at a glance

### Air Quality Highlights

*Biodiesel is made from a combination of soybean oil and petrodiesel.*

*Biofuels reduce the emission of carbon monoxide by approximately 50% and carbon dioxide by 78%.*

*In the US, biodiesel is the only alternative fuel to have successfully completed the Health Effects Testing Requirements of the Clean Air Act.*

### REDUCE EMISSIONS & IMPROVE AIR QUALITY THROUGH A BIOFUELS INITIATIVE

Cumberland County has exceeded its goal of using biofuels in County operations and sets a standard for local governments, school districts, and private businesses. During the winter of 2007-2008 the County filled 100% of its capable boiler fuel tanks with biofuel and will use biofuel in all diesel vehicles operated in the Carlisle area. Satellite vehicles operating in the Carlisle area will also be filled with biofuel. A grant received from PennDOT which covers the difference in cost of petroleum-based fuel and biofuels has made this possible. County vehicles are not yet capable of using E85 fuel, however, as E85 becomes more available the County will take steps to evaluate the utilization of this fuel.

#### DESIRED RESULTS:

Use as much biofuel as practically possible in County operations and set an example for local governments, schools districts, and private business to emulate.

#### STRATEGY:

Purchase biofuel for building boilers that can use it. Migrate to biofuel use in all County diesel vehicles. Evaluate E85 vehicles when purchasing vehicles.



#### Measures:

1. Percentage of capable boilers using biofuels.
2. Percentage of diesel vehicles using biofuels.
- \* 3. Percentage of County vehicles using E85 fuel.



Cumberland County will use biofuels in 100% of its County vehicles and capable boiler fuel tanks.

\* Photographs are part of the Cumberland County Photo Archival Collection

## CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

The Commissioners use a variety of forums to generate public participation and receive input on the operations of County government including regular open meetings of the Commissioners and the award-winning County website at [www.ccpa.net](http://www.ccpa.net) which provides public access to over 1,600 pages of information including public records, geographical information, meeting minutes, property ownership and tax records. The website is also a portal to the County Library System, tourism, economic development and various local municipality websites. Citizens can easily contact their elected officials with issues of concern through the website.

Valuable citizen input is gained through citizen advisory boards, authorities, commissions and task forces involving residents in the operations of various County departments. Over 250 volunteers serve the County on 30+ boards and authorities meeting on a regular basis.

The Commissioners create special boards to examine specific issues and provide recommendations to the Board. In 2007, the Common Level Ratio Task

Force was formed to examine the issue of reassessment and after extensive study, provided a final report to the Commissioners with recommendations.

Public participation in County government operations is invaluable and the importance of community volunteers willing to devote their time and energy to assist in improving the efficiency and effectiveness of County government programs, cannot be stressed enough. These dedicated volunteers assist the Commissioners in striving to attain their vision of *"the most livable community with the most efficient and effective public services in Pennsylvania"* and *"a place where family-sustaining economic opportunity is respected, public safety is ensured, and our quality of life is preserved for the future."*

## IN SUMMARY

The County has set aggressive goals and targets because of its desire to use indicators and measures to ensure strong fiscal management and promote long-term planning.

The overall message of this report is simple: It will give the reader a gauge to

view what the County is doing and how well it is being done. Due to growing population, which is above the State's average, Cumberland County is seeing an increase in demand for County services. The County is using innovative measures to control costs while still maintaining service levels. Performance measures reported in this document indicate the County has diligently focused on achieving the goals outlined in the 2007 County Strategy & Budget. It is working to ensure services required by the citizens are provided in an efficient and effective manner. Quality of life issues are the focus of both the County's vision and mission. Highlighted are areas where major progress has been made in 2007 to address and improve quality of life for the citizens.

The Commissioners once again applaud the efforts by County departments and employees to deliver high quality customer service for the benefit of citizens and commit to the mission of Cumberland County being *"the most livable community with the most efficient and effective public services in Pennsylvania."*



Prepared by the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners

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visit [www.ccpa.net](http://www.ccpa.net) to see what your county does for you.