



# PROTECTING CLEAN WATER TOGETHER

By Carol Hillestad for the Brodhead Watershed Association

## How to Make Earth Day Count This Year

April 2023

Earth Day is April 22. If you've been paying attention, you might feel like you've heard it all before — the "tips," the "five things you can do," the "green" cleaning product how-tos.

Maybe you already reuse grocery bags. Cut out plastic. Walk, bike, and carpool when you can. Eat the food you buy. Plant natives and cut down on lawn mowing and fertilizer. Compost. Reduce, reuse, recycle.

All admirable. All necessary.

But the single biggest thing you can do to protect Planet Earth? Get involved with local government. That's where decisions begin that can help — or harm — Mother Earth.

You don't have to run for office (though that's a great way to make a difference). You don't have to serve on the Planning Commission (though that's where big things happen). You don't even have to go to meetings (though if you do, you'll be first to know what's going on).

The easy first step in learning about what's happening in your township or borough is spending some time on the municipal website.

Some are better organized and more informative than others. But you'll learn about meetings coming up, subjects that will be discussed, and decisions that have been made. You'll find the minutes of past meetings and find out who voted for what. There will be information about events like cleanup days, community celebrations, parks and recreation, and volunteering.

Contact information for municipal offices throughout the Brodhead Creek watershed and the county is below. The better informed you are, the better advocate you can be for safe drinking water, pure air, and a green future for all.

Barrett Township 570 595-2602 <http://www.barretttownship.com>

Chestnuthill Township 570 992-7247 <https://www.chestnuthilltpw-pa.gov>

Coolbaugh Township 570 894-8490 <https://coolbaughtwp.org>

Borough of Delaware Watergap 570 476-0331 <https://dwgpa.gov>

Borough of East Stroudsburg 570 421-8300 <https://eaststroudsburgboro.org>

Eldred Township 610 381-4252 <http://www.eldredtpw.org>

Hamilton Township 570 992-7020 <https://hamiltontwp.org>

Jackson Township 570 629-0153 <http://jacksontwp-pa.gov>

Middle Smithfield Township 570 223-8920 <https://www.middlesmithfieldtownship.com>

Mount Pocono Borough 570 839-8436 <https://mountpocono-pa.gov>

Paradise Township 570 595-9880 <https://www.paradisetownship.com>

Pocono Township 570 629-1922 <https://www.poconopa.gov>

Polk Township 610-681-5376 <https://polktpw.org>

Price Township 570 421-2497 <http://pricetownshippa.com>

Ros Township 570 992-4990 <https://rosstwp.com>

Smithfield Township 570 223-5082 <https://smithfieldtownship.com>

Stroud Township 570 421-3362 <https://stroudtownship.org>

Borough of Stroudsburg 570 421-5444 <http://www.stroudsburgboro.com/sbpa/>

Tobyhanna Township 570 646-1212 <https://tobyhannatownshippa.gov>

Tunkhannock Township 570 646-3008 <https://www.longpondpa.com>



*This Earth Day, why not learn more about actions your local government supports that can help — or harm — the native woodlands that produce Spring Beauty flowers like these.*

*For humans, fish, and every living thing, Brodhead Watershed Association protects water quality and quantity throughout our area. Get involved! Become a member today. <https://www.brodheadwatershed.org>.*