



ASWP awarded grant for second solar array from West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund

Succop Nature Park project includes two solar arrays that will generate 100% of the power at the nature park; “Test drives” will allow people to try out efficient induction cooktops

[Penn Township, Butler County; June 13, 2023] – With support from West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund (WPPSEF) and anonymous donors, Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania (ASWP) is actively transitioning Succop Nature Park away from reliance upon fossil fuels for energy.

Funded by anonymous donors, the first solar array, located on top of the T. W. Phillips Barn, consists of 80 panels and is rated at 38.8 kW DC. The panels are installed and when functioning, they will generate approximately 75% of the park’s current electric demands. Later this year, a second solar array—funded by a grant from WPPSEF—on the property’s garage will add 84 panels and 40.3 kW DC, resulting in the nature park self-generating all of the electric power it needs for operation.

In addition, the WPPSEF grant funded installation of an induction stovetop to replace the current natural gas burners in the property’s historic house—as well as three portable induction countertop units to be used in educational programs to tout the benefits of induction over natural gas. Notably, ASWP will lend the cooktops out to people for a “test drive” so that they may understand the benefits before committing to a new stove for their home. In addition to be much safer and healthier than gas, they are also very energy efficient.

ASWP has pledged to become a net-zero energy organization to complement its nature and conservation-based mission. WPPSEF is a long-term partner of ASWP, having funded the Windstax wind turbine at Succop Nature Park in 2018. To learn more about WPPSEF, please visit wppsef.org.

About ASWP

Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania (ASWP) is an environmental education and conservation engagement organization founded in 1916. ASWP maintains four public facilities – Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve in Fox Chapel, Allegheny County, Succop Nature Park in Butler, Butler County, and Todd Nature Reserve and Buffalo Creek Nature Park in Sarver, Butler County. ASWP conducts programs for all ages, advocates on behalf of birds and nature, and conducts conservation programs throughout western Pennsylvania. The mission of Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania is to connect the people of southwestern Pennsylvania to birds and nature through our programs, projects, and places.

The **West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund (WPPSEF)** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that invests in the deployment of sustainable energy technologies that benefit West Penn Power ratepayers in Pennsylvania. WPPSEF investments are focused in three broad categories:

- ✓ Deployment of sustainable and clean energy technologies;
- ✓ Deployment of energy efficiency and conservation technologies; and
- ✓ Facilitating economic development, environmental betterment, and public education as they relate to sustainable energy deployment in the WPP service region.

Visit <http://www.wppsef.org> for further information. [YouTube](#) – Listen to what our project partners have to say about us.

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