

Turtle Creek Valley COG Director's Report

TCVCOG Board Meeting
October 2025

Upcoming Meetings – Please HOLD these dates:

Thursday, Dec 18, 2025: Holiday dinner meeting, Location TBD

Friday, Feb. 20, 2026: TCVCOG Annual Dinner, Edgewood Country Club

Reconnecting Communities Federal Planning Grant (RCP)

The initial kick-off meeting took place on 9/23/25. We're "on hold" during the government shut down.

ARC Grant – Appalachian Regional Commission

TCVCOG is partnering with SRCOG (applicant) on an ARC Power grant. The [Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization \(POWER\) Initiative](#) targets federal resources to expand economic opportunities for coal communities by creating high-quality, in-demand jobs, attracting new sources of private investment, and providing comprehensive workforce services and skills training. Here's the scope summary:

- Convene a "MOVING Task Force" of municipal, county, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, federal, private sector and manufacturing representatives, workforce development and job training organizations, and economic development organizations to guide this strategic plan and be the emissaries from and to the region.
- conduct market studies, supply chain assessments, competitive advantage assessments, project and site feasibility assessments, and labor demand analyses for sparking new Mon Valley economic diversification and community revitalization focused around innovative steel, advanced manufacturing, energy and clean-tech, data center supply chain, and other economic sectors. This project component will be fully integrated with the land use and site assessment planning activities that will be conducted by the two COGs under the \$1,000,000 "Reconnecting Communities Program" initiative that will be deployed in 2026 through this same Mon Valley region. This task will create an inventory of brownfields and vacant or underutilized sites that could be well suited for these future manufacturing sectors, and create a "Resource Roadmap" document that identifies resources and key next steps to leveraging other funds for implementation.

Clean Tech Roundtable

On October 7th, tcvcog and srcog hosted our first clean tech round table at the Monroeville convention center. The Heinz Endowments commission RMI report was discussed, and our partners at the Reinvestment fund focused in on our communities. I will share a one page summary document when it becomes available. We plan to reconvene in December.

Utility Billing

We've submitted proposals for Churchill Sewage and Latrobe refuse and stormwater.

Local Government Consortium

Municipal fraud was a topic the consortium covered at their Local Government Forum. It's clear that municipalities could benefit from a financial service that provides a more complete financial picture, and that incorporates checks and balances for fraud prevention.

Municipal Finance Shared Service

As previously discussed, our current software will no longer be supported after this year. Furthermore, It has been recommended that we consider broadening the scope of services we offer through our accounts payables program. The change in software will require some changes and improvements in our program. We are still conducting research.

We met with Mt. Lebanon staff to learn about the acclaimed service they are providing to municipalities. It is a great service whereby the municipalities pay for their own financial software subscription in addition to a product called Stampli that automates invoice processing. Participating communities pay:

\$1,500 annually for the service/expertise of Mt. Lebanon

\$7,500 annually for accufund

\$1,200/mo for Stampli

In addition, towns pay an hourly rate for staff time to accomplish the day to day work.

Each town has it's own share point where documents are housed and are fully accessible.

They shared some of their pinch points: It was a LOT of work in the beginning. It took 18 months to get the program established. They also needed to move communities to electronic payments (ACH) for repetitive bills – eliminating the need for multiple check runs per month. Furthermore, the need for process standardization across municipalities was emphasized.

Service includes Accounts Payables, Bank Reconciliations, ACH management, debt notes. The communities print their own checks.

Accufund may be able to accommodate multiple accounts under one user. If so, that could save a significant amount of money.

On the Road

A well functioning COG requires the participation of its member towns. I would love to have informal conversation with your elected body and staff about the COG, and ideas you may have for intergovernmental cooperative programs/shared services. Please let me know if you're interested so we can get a date on the calendar.

I've enjoyed meeting with Churchill, East McKeesport, Wilkinsburg and Wilmerding.

CodeNforce

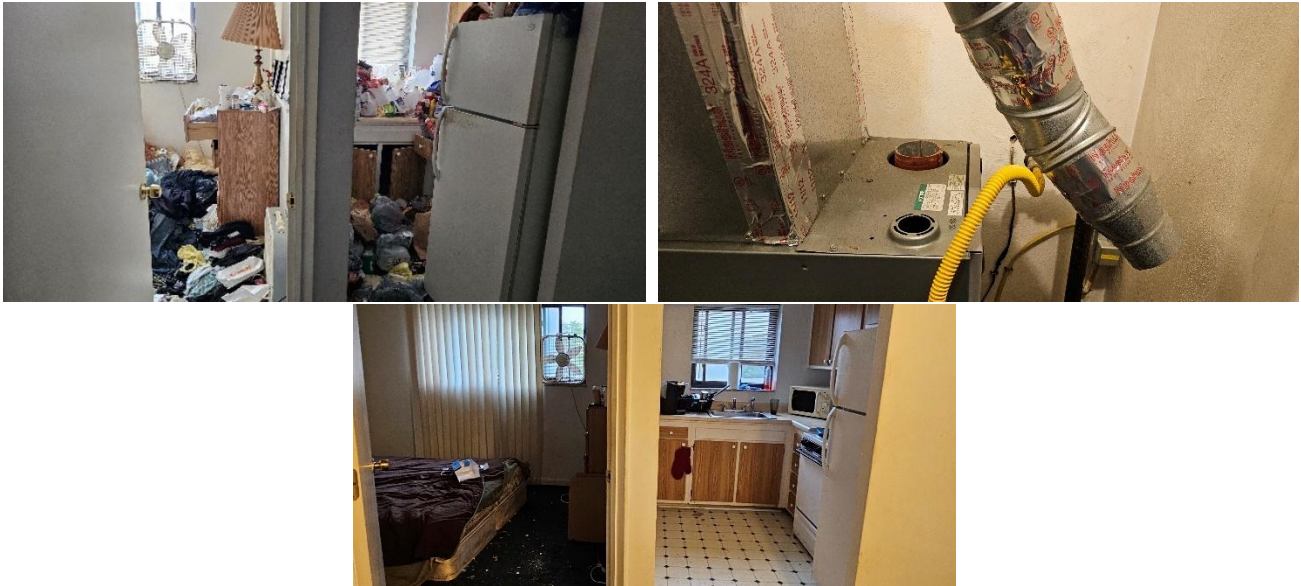
We've received word that the City of Latrobe council has approved the use of CodeNforce. We look forward to working with our first Westmoreland County community! The City of Duquesne is considering CodeNforce.

Life without Lead Summit

Women for a Healthy Environment, in conjunction with Lead Safe Allegheny, put together a one day summit on 10/22/25 to educate attendees on the latest and best research. In the afternoon, panels discussed strategies for mitigating lead. I was asked to be a panelist to talk about CodeNforce.

Code Enforcement

I present the following images to engage you in a conversation around the value of property maintenance code enforcement. Does the value of Code enforcement often go unseen?



Switch Together Program

TCVCOG is partnering with Solar United Neighbors, a non-profit organization, to offer residential group purchasing programs for solar and battery storage systems. Last chance to register! So far, 27 residences have registered, and 4 have moved forward to the contractual process.

Disaster Preparedness

I met with representatives from the Monroeville Convention Center and the Red Cross on 10/21. We are still in need of an event planner to get this off the ground and to take the lead.

Vactor

If approved by the board, the 2026 Vactor Budget will allow for a decrease in price for the use of this service. We can do this because our loan is paid, and we want to do this to encourage more use of the truck. Maintaining catch basins and sewers is a part of routine annual maintenance. 2026 will be a good value to get this work done affordably. Please sign up early. We start scheduling opt-in days in late March.

PACOG

The PACOG conference was fantastic. We had approximately 13 COGs represented, which is pretty good for the first year. I was elected as Vice President of the organization. We received very positive feedback from all who attended, and we look forward next years' conference! Stay tuned for some wonderful webinars coming soon.

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Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Settelmaier