

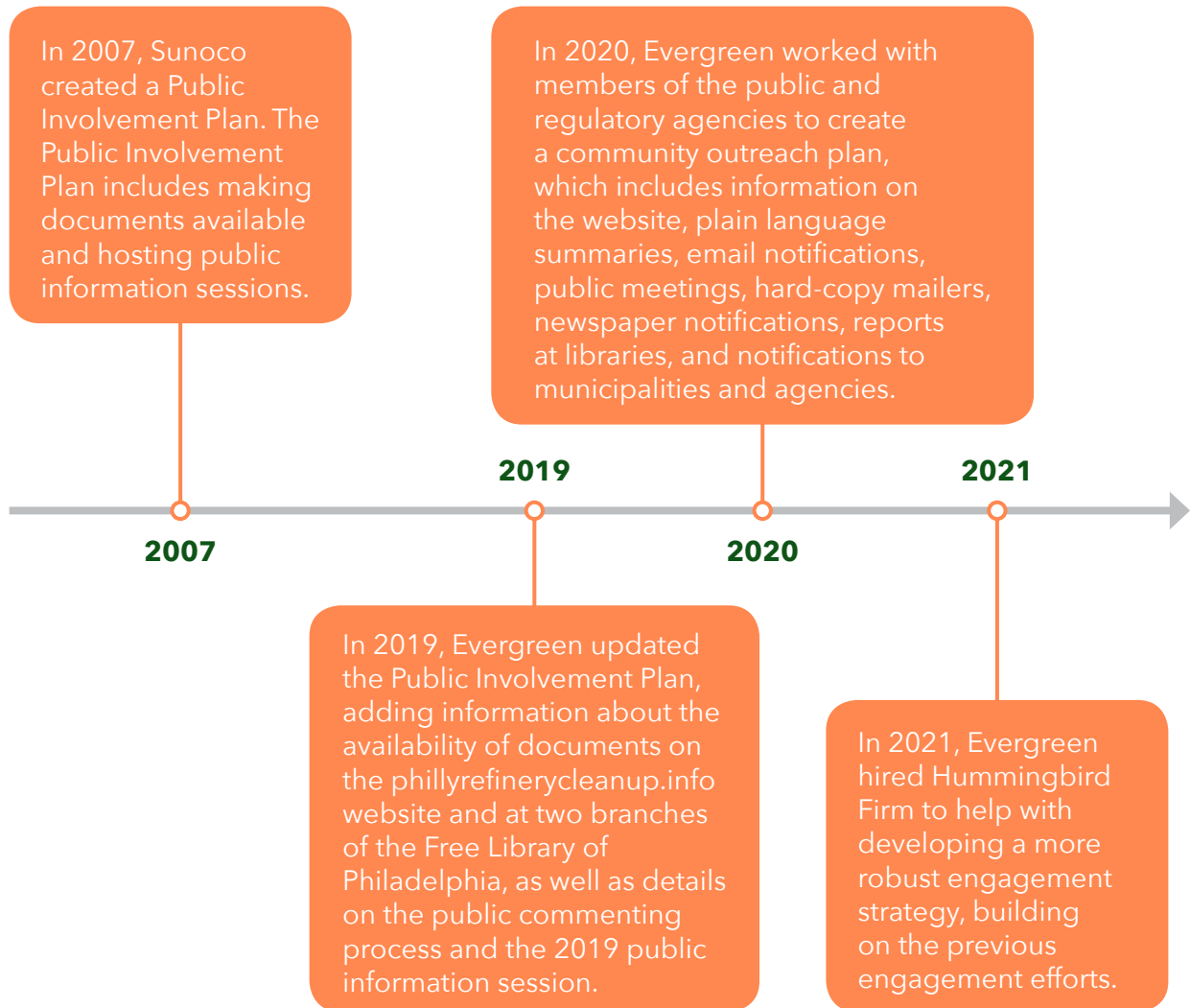
# Public Engagement Plan

Philadelphia Refinery Legacy Remediation



# I. Public Engagement Plan Overview

A Notice of Intent to Remediate (NIR) the former Philadelphia Refinery was submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in 2006, formally entering the site into the Act 2 Program (Pennsylvania’s Land Recycling Program). In addition to the public notices that are a part of the NIR process, the City of Philadelphia requested a public involvement plan that was in line with the requirements of the Act 2 regulations. Since then, public engagement efforts have continued to evolve to better address the public’s needs.



This Public Engagement Plan (PEP) was developed by Hummingbird Firm, with feedback from Evergreen. The development of this PEP was informed by ideas and suggestions that residents and other stakeholders shared during interviews conducted as part of Hummingbird Firm’s situational analysis (June to September 2021). The PEP was also reviewed by the regulatory agencies responsible for technical oversight of the remediation of this site. The PEP has been designed to answer two questions:

1. **“What are the goals of public engagement?”** and
2. **“How will these goals be met?”**

## II. What are the goals of public engagement?

- Goal #1:** To clearly **communicate to the public the specific role of Evergreen and the legal requirements** to remediate historic contamination at the former Philadelphia Refinery site - including identifying the local, state, and federal agencies responsible for ensuring that Evergreen follows the applicable laws and regulations
- Goal #2:** To **build strong, long-term relationships with area residents and the affected public** by implementing a **focused and effective public outreach, communication, and information-sharing** program that aims to meet the expressed needs of the community
- Goal #3:** To **implement a risk communication program** that can help inform and educate residents about Evergreen's remediation and to respond to questions and concerns about human health and the environment

## III. How will these goals be met?

- Goal #1: To clearly communicate to the public Evergreen's specific role and legal requirements**



Post key communication from the agencies to Evergreen regarding local, state, and federal laws and regulations to the [Philadelphia Refinery Legacy Remediation website](#).



Provide opportunities for regulatory agencies to attend and participate in Evergreen's public meetings. This, in turn, provides a chance for participants to ask regulatory agencies questions regarding their oversight of the remediation.



Present clear information to the public on the difference between Evergreen and Hilco's roles in remediation and site redevelopment. When Evergreen and Hilco are coordinating on remediation activities, Evergreen will work with Hilco to share joint updates.

**Goal #2: To build strong, long-term relationships with residents and the affected public by implementing a focused and effective public outreach, communication, and information sharing program**



Use public-friendly, plain-language newsletters to keep stakeholders and the public informed.



Host routine public meetings, currently held quarterly, to inform the community about updates and provide opportunities for Evergreen and the community to have interactive conversations. Interactive components of virtual meetings will include using the meeting format so that participants can see each other, using breakout rooms, and providing opportunities to ask questions and make comments. When safe to do so, we will plan for hybrid and in-person meetings.



Update and refresh the Evergreen website to make it more user-friendly and ensure it provides more useful information that responds to public needs and interests. Updates will include adding more visuals, incorporating more interactive features such as interactive maps, and making the website easier to navigate.



Develop educational materials to help keep community members and the public as informed as possible. Educational materials will include, but are not limited to, videos, fact sheets, flowcharts, timelines, and infographics.



Prepare reports that meet DEP's expectations and address past and present comments in a manner that is more satisfactory to the public.



Regularly provide opportunities for residents and other stakeholders to give their input. Primarily, residents and other stakeholders will be able to ask questions and share their thoughts by phone, through surveys, through website forms, and at public meetings.



Conduct community outreach activities to more intentionally engage with community organizations and to provide members of the community with resources. Outreach activities may include activities like hosting a career workshop to teach students about career opportunities related to remediation and documenting neighborhood history through the stories of legacy residents.

### Goal #3: To implement a risk communication program



Keep residents informed about risks associated with the contamination at the former Philadelphia Refinery through different communication methods, including public meetings, newsletters, and website materials.



Conduct a survey to ask residents about the concerns they have about their health and the health of the environment and what health and environmental information they would like to see.



Provide resources about contaminants on the site and create fact sheets on contaminants and Evergreen's processes.



Keep the public informed about any unexpected events related to Evergreen's remediation-related procedures and processes.

## IV. How will we communicate with the public?

A diverse set of communication tools is necessary to engage a diverse community. For this project, various digital and print communication tools will be used to reach many people throughout the community. These communication tools will help Evergreen update its current strategy to share information with the public. Methods of communication may include:



**Emails**



**Phone Calls**



**Text Messages**



**Public Meetings**



**Newspaper Ads**



**Digital and Print Flyers**

Evergreen will also coordinate with community organizations to distribute flyers and post information on social media.

## V. A Commitment to Ongoing Communication

Evergreen is committed to strengthening its relationships and improving its communication with residents of nearby neighborhoods and stakeholders most directly affected by this remediation project. We recognize the need for this communication to be as open as possible, allowing for all points of view to be expressed and discussed. We understand that the best communication occurs with consistency and regularity. Evergreen is committed to an open, honest, and ongoing conversation as we move forward together.

### Public Comments on Evergreen Technical Reports

The Evergreen team recognizes and understands the desire of some members of the community to have input into technical remedial reports submitted to state and federal regulators. We will continue to use the public comment periods to ask for, and incorporate where appropriate, public comments into Evergreen's remedial reports [as outlined in PA DEP's Act 2 program]. Evergreen's current timeline to address public comments is as follows:

**Day 1:** Submit the report to agencies, with public notices, and post the report to the website to initiate a review.

**Day 1-30:** Public Comment Period Open

**Day 1-90:** DEP Review Period

**Day 30-60:** Evergreen must compile public comments and provide responses, actions, and amendments, if needed, to DEP so that they can consider those in their last 30 days of review (days 60-90).

Additionally, Evergreen will work with Hummingbird Firm to address "frequently asked questions" (FAQs) that the public may have regarding remedial reports at Evergreen's public meetings so that these questions and issues can be discussed with a broad range of residents and interested community stakeholders.

### Third-Party Audits

There was a suggestion for third-party audits. Evergreen has employed a team of experts working on the remediation and drafting the reports. Site activities and plans are discussed with regulators routinely and reports are also reviewed by licensed professionals at the regulatory agencies to ensure that we are meeting the regulatory requirements.

## **Community Advisory Group**

Similarly, we have received suggestions for a community advisory group, or CAG. Advisory groups, by definition, become a vehicle through which a limited number of individuals communicate with the project leads to “advise” the company about what the community and area residents want and need. During this time, Evergreen and Hummingbird Firm’s goal is to communicate directly and meaningfully with a wide range of residents, organized interest groups, and others affected by this remediation to learn what the communities need and want. Evergreen will continue to revisit this topic to consider the benefits of forming a formal CAG.

## **The PEP as a Living Document**

This PEP is a living document and will continue to evolve as Evergreen develops a stronger and more well-defined relationship with the residents and neighborhoods most affected by this project. We invite you to continue to offer your comments and suggestions to Hummingbird Firm and to Evergreen about how we can make public outreach, engagement, and information-sharing more responsive to your needs and more meaningful to you and your community. Thank you for your interest and participation in this project!



# Stay Involved!

[phillyrefinerycleanup.info/public-involvement](http://phillyrefinerycleanup.info/public-involvement)

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