



HALFMOON TOWNSHIP

COG PARTICIPATION

CENTRE REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

WHAT IS COG?

- The Council of Governments (**COG**) is a **voluntary** association of elected public officials from College, Ferguson, **Halfmoon**, Harris, and Patton Townships and the State College Borough. Additionally the Bellefonte Borough participates in the Code Administration program, and Benner Township is a participant of the Refuse and Recycling Program.
- The Centre Region COG was established on **December 2, 1969** to:
 - Promote coordinated land use and infrastructure planning
 - Facilitate the exchange of information
 - Provide a forum for discussion of regional issues
 - Provide cost effective public services
- COG is **not** another layer of government. It provides the means of communication, cooperation, and **joint action** in the interest of the municipalities, individually and collectively.
- COG's are *authorized in Pennsylvania under State Act 180: Intergovernmental Cooperation Law (Codified as Title 53, Chapter 23).*



MENU OF SERVICES

- Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes – **Title 53**
Municipalities can delegate any function, power, or responsibility to another municipality or a newly created governmental unit.
 - COGs have **no taxing power**.
 - COG's structure, membership, and voting requirements are matters of **local choice**.
 - COG programs are approved by municipal ordinance (COG or Program Articles of Agreement).
- COG offers municipalities a **menu of programs** that they can choose to participate in. Currently **Halfmoon Township** participates in:
 - COG Administration
 - Centre Region Code Administration
 - Emergency Management
 - Centre Regional Planning Agency
 - Schlow Centre Region Library
- In addition, the COG also offers the following programs for municipalities:
- Regional Fire Protection
 - Parks and Recreation
 - Refuse and Recycling



ADMINISTRATION



- Municipal members of COG must be participants of the Office of Administration.

The COG Office of Administration provides staff support for:

- Agendas, minutes, reports, correspondence, etc. to the municipal elected officials for meetings of the General Forum and many standing and special committees.
- Responsible for the overall **financial** and **personnel management** of the Centre Region COG agencies which support its member municipalities.
- Provides **facilities management** services.
- Responds to questions and concerns from the public and from elected officials regarding regional programs.
- Halfmoon Township 2022 support for the Office of Administration is **\$25,997**. *This includes a cost share of an IT and Classification and Compensation Study currently underway.*

The Office of Administration is the central administrative/coordinating office for all the Centre Region COG agencies, programs, and activities.



CENTRE REGION CODE ADMINISTRATION

- Code inspection services have been entirely **self-funded** through permit fees **since 1978**.
- Hosts and completely funds the regional software package for Code Administration and Zoning.
- Rated the top Code Agency in the state by Insurance Services Office (ISO) with a rating of 1 for commercial and 2 for residential out of a scale of 10. These excellent ISO ratings can translate into lower insurance rates for homeowners and businesses.
- All Code Officials have **six or more** national certifications.
- \$229 million in permitted new construction during 2021.
- Although Halfmoon does not participate in the Existing Structures program, the Agency inspects **21,422** units, once every three years, performs fire inspections to **2,433** businesses, and has **3,050** homes in its Sewage Management Program.
- Provides sewage enforcement (SEO) services to four municipalities with six PA DEP Certified SEO's.
- Provides fire safety education to the region.

Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code makes **Halfmoon Township responsible for administering and enforcing the statewide building code**. Within the Township, **these services are provided by the Centre Region Code Administration (CRCA)**. It enforces the building, plumbing, mechanical, and electrical codes in a professional, fair, and cost-effective manner.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- Regional Emergency Operations Plan for Centre Region municipalities.
- Joint Emergency Operations Center with Penn State University.
- Five emergency shelters with back-up power, including one in Halfmoon Township.
- COG Chair declares emergency then ratified by individual municipalities.
- Halfmoon Township 2022 support for the Emergency Management budget is **\$6,314**.

Pennsylvania **requires** Halfmoon Township and all other municipalities to have an Emergency Management Coordinator, capitalized Emergency Operations Plan, and an Emergency Operations Center. **Halfmoon Township's** participation in this COG program satisfies the Commonwealth's requirements in these three areas.



Halfmoon Christian Fellowship Church

CENTRE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

Local Planning: Three Municipalities, including Halfmoon Township

- Reviews of land development plans, ordinance preparation, zoning requests.
- Halfmoon's budget for local planning is budget is **\$57,504** in 2022.

Regional Planning: Six Municipalities

- Comprehensive Plan
- Sewage Facilities Plan
- Regional Growth Boundary
- Climate Action & Adaptability
- Regional Development Capacity
- Halfmoon's support for the regional planning is budget is **\$15,486**.



Some Regional Plans, for instance the Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan, are **required by state law**. Much of the work of your Local Planner relates to the Township's zoning and land development ordinances.

Transportation Planning:

- Centre County Long Range Transportation Plan
- Centre Region Bike Plan
- Integration with CATA
- PennDOT and FHWA coordination and guidance
- Centre County Metropolitan Planning Organization (CCMPO)
- Administration
- Halfmoon's support for CCMPO in 2022 is **\$4,929**.

Federal law requires the expenditure of federal and state highway funds for capital projects be reviewed by an organization like the CCMPO.

SCHLOW CENTRE REGION LIBRARY



Pick up your books here!

- Building is open **56** hours per week.
- **24/7** digital branch with over **1.2 million** visits a year.
- **176,000 items**, with over 500,000 checkouts including digital content.
- **40,888** library cards, **one** Grab-and-Go locker in Halfmoon Township and **Seven** remote book returns.
- Circulation of physical materials by **Halfmoon Township** residents increased by **22%** between January and February of 2022!

72.17% of households in Halfmoon Township have an active Schlow Library card.

- In 2021, Halfmoon Township residents checked out over **9,512 physical items**. *We are returning to pre-pandemic usage trends (in 2019 Halfmoon residents checked out almost **16,000** physical items).*
- In 2021, 1,749 items were returned to the remote book drop located at the Brother's Pizza in Stormstown and 3,835 items were returned to the Uni-Mart at Carson's Corner.
- Halfmoon Township support for Schlow Library in 2022 is **\$52,084**.

Although Halfmoon Township does not participate in the regional Parks and Recreation, Reuse and Recycling, or Fire Protection programs, basic operational information is shown below for each program.

PARKS AND RECREATION

- The service area includes **56** sites (1,004 acres) in State College Borough, and College, Ferguson, Harris, and Patton Townships.
- Operates the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center, the Welch and Park Forest Community Pools, and the Active Adult Center (*Nittany Mall*).
- **Regional Parks:** Oak Hall Regional Park, Whitehall Road Regional Park, and the John Hess Softball Complex.
- Provides numerous Instructional Programs, Health & Fitness, Summer Camps, Sports Leagues, and Special Events to residents.
- Although Halfmoon Township is a non-funding municipality of the Parks and Recreation program, its residents are welcome to participate in its programming and services at slightly higher non-member resident fees.



REFUSE AND RECYCLING

- The Regional Refuse and Recycling program services the townships of Benner, College, Ferguson, Harris, and Patton.
- The monthly cost of residential refuse & recycling collection in 2021 was **\$20.19** per household and the low usage rate was \$16.58.
- Before the regional program was established in 1991 the rate was \$20.50 month.

REGIONAL FIRE PROTECTION

- The regional Fire Protection program has a service area of **104** square miles, and houses three fire stations in the State College Borough, and College and Patton Townships.
- The program which has has \$7 million in fire apparatus and **100** active members, responds to between 1,110 - 1,300 service calls per year, including having provided mutual aid for **5** incidents in Halfmoon Township in 2021.
- The annual cost of fire protection in 2021 per capita, *excluding students* was **\$29.62**. *This remains less than 11% of the average per capita nation-wide for municipalities of similar population.*



LONG HISTORY OF WORKING WELL TOGETHER

- Halfmoon Township Supervisors provide valuable and guiding **leadership** to the COG and their input **influences decisions** and the direction of COG.
- COG staff **assists** Halfmoon Township:
 - HR assistance with recruitment
 - Facility advice
 - Finance and general management advice
- COG **budgets** are developed with Halfmoon Township **input** and are then unanimously approved by the COG municipalities.

ITEMS OF NOTE

- Oversight is provided by the elected officials of each member municipality through their representation and leadership on COG committees and the General Forum. The current standing COG committees are:
 - *Climate Action & Sustainability, Executive, Facilities, Finance, Human Resources, Land Use and Community Infrastructure, Parks Capital, and Public Safety.*
- **Non-Tax Funding**
COG Agency Directors work hard to pursue non-tax revenue and aid for COG programs and projects.
- **COG's Public Connections**
 - General Forum meetings are broadcast and re-aired on C-NET.
 - COG keeps the residents of the Centre Region **informed** through local newspapers, direct mailings, social media, and its agency websites.
 - COG meetings are advertised and **open to the public**. Most COG meetings are conducted using a hybrid format (in-person and Zoom).
 - Meeting information, agendas, minutes and so much more can be found on COG's website: **www.crcog.net**.

