



Green Pact Meeting Notes

March 26, 2015

Location: Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District

Attendees: Kristin Hilson (Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District), Mike Andrako (City of Marysville), Dottie Franey (City of Gahanna), Kyle Kridler (City of Dublin), Paul Wise (Genoa Township), Andia Sangale (Metro Parks), Clyde Seidle (City of Hilliard), Erin Miller (City of Columbus), Willie Overmann (City of Columbus), Justin Milam (City of Upper Arlington), Pat Bowman (City of Grandview Heights)

MORPC Staff: Brandi Whetstone, Evelyn Ebert, Claire Jennings

Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District Presentation

- Sara Ernst presented about FSWCD's new expanded [GreenSpot Backyards program](#).
- The rain barrel program has moved to a rebate system. Rain barrel, compost, native plants are available for a rebate of up to \$50. Vouchers will be reviewed by FSWD and then processed.
- Some municipalities offer cost-sharing for rain gardens, including Gahanna, Canal Winchester, Westerville, and New Albany. More information available at [centralohioraingardens.org](#). Plants available for program include perennials, shrubs, and trees.
- OSU Extension offers [soil testing](#) for \$11.
- The overview of a compost workshop and more information is available at [greenspotbackyards.org](#). The first in-person workshop will be at the FSWCD's office on April 11.

Energy Efficiency Small Group Discussion

This group did a round robin of energy efficiency issues within their communities/agencies.

Hilliard

- Heritage Preserve is a conservation development in Hilliard that is enacting an array of sustainability measures. It assessed its lighting strategy. There will be fewer street lights and some pedestrian level lighting boosts.
- New streetlights will be LED and new public buildings must have LED lighting. Conference rooms are being redone.
- Hilliard received a grant through ChargeUp via Clean Fuels Ohio to install level 1 and level 2 charging stations for electric vehicles. The charging stations will be pay-per-use through the power company. A small percentage of the price will go to the City to be earmarked for green initiatives.

Upper Arlington

- Upper Arlington is getting support to retrofit public buildings, and replace lighting and HVAC units after years of research and budget-related delays.
- A comprehensive street lighting update will include poles and electric.
- Enterprise will lease city vehicles. This is more cost-effective than replacing old fleet with new fleet.
- The City received a grant from AEP for \$80,000 for lighting at parks.

Metro Parks

- They did an AEP rebate program at the Metro Parks headquarters.
- They did an energy audit with MORPC and are tracking energy usage as they start to make adjustments to buildings.

- Lighting will now be updated to sustainable option from inception in new buildings.

Dublin

- The Dublin Recreation Center will have a combined heat and power system through partnership with IGS Energy. 60% of the building's energy is being produced. It also heats the water for the building. This sort of program is best for buildings that are used around the clock.

Grandview Heights

- Initially, Nationwide was resistant to LED lighting at the Grandview Yard, but as prices have come down and technologies have changed, they are convinced. All of it will be LED lighting.
- All of the signals in the City need to be replaced and they will be evaluating LED for replacements.

Columbus

- The Department of Public Utilities will convert 52,000 streetlights to LED in phases over the next 5 years.
- The City has a Solar Power Purchase Agreement through contract with a 3rd party which means that within 5 years there will be 3 solar installations.
- They are updating lighting in public buildings.

***Recycling* Small Group Discussion**

This group discussed different subtopics under the topic of recycling.

Organic Material Recycling

- Organix recycling has a waiver pending to permit it to haul source-separated organic in-district food wastes to outside of the district with a variance for 5% of contamination per load.

Curbside Recycling

- Incentivizing recycling helps. Allowing for larger bins helps with increasing recycling diversion.

Education/Marketing

- There is a common need for education about what is recyclable or not. There was a suggestion of creating magnets with what is allowable or not to address contamination.

Plastic Bags

- Discussion of an educational program about changing habits around plastic bag usage, both for consumers and baggers.
- Discussion of encouragement of using own bag versus plastic bag bans.

Round Robin Sharing from Green Pact Members

Metro Parks

- The study of the Olentangy trail extension to High Banks was concluded and nothing has been determined. It may get put on hold.
- Two new parks are being developed: Rocky Fork in New Albany and Scioto Grove in Grove City.
- They are doing some storm water work at the Grange Audubon Center, which will include some education aspects. They are looking to see if they can get some credits on their water bill.

Columbus

- A climate change vulnerability assessment was conducted by the University of Michigan and OSU's Byrd Polar Center. It will assess health risks and infrastructure risks of climate change.
- The urban tree canopy assessment by Planet Geo will be complete in April. Currently the City is at 22% coverage and the goal is to get to 31%. This would mean adding 600,000 trees in 20 years. At the moment, with pests and other blights, they are losing more trees than they can plant.
- The [Green Community Plan Memo III](#) has been released.

MORPC

- MORPC prepares for establishment of a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) district.
- Sustainability Advisory Committee: Regional Sustainability Agenda moving towards adoption in April.
- Riverfest planning is underway; website will be up soon.
- Pedestrian and bicycle counts will be held Wednesday, May 13. If you are interested and able to volunteer your time, please either register online at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4fa5af23a6f58-spring2> or contact Jordan Whisler at jwhisler@morpc.org or (614) 233-4148.

Accurate IT

- Accurate IT visited the Green Pact meeting. They are an e-waste recycler. They are trying to get an OEPA grant for equipment to process consumer electronics. The service will be available statewide if they get the grant.

Gahanna

- The City is piloting installation of pervious pavers with underground retention. A 319 grant may allow expansion of this project to more streets.

Marysville

- They will host document shredding and e-recycling day on April 25.

Hilliard

- The City's Environmental Sustainability Commission has been in existence for 3 years. Code updates and development standards will allow for sustainability projects to move forward with greater ease.
- They are looking for permeable paving possibilities for parking lots.

Upper Arlington

- They are investigating car-sharing and bike-sharing options.
- All new buildings in Upper Arlington will be required to be LEED certifiable.

Grandview Heights

- The Grandview Yard will be the first LEED Neighborhood development in Central Ohio.