



Mid-Ohio Regional
Planning Commission

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GREEN PACT MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday, September 17, 2015
9:30 - 11:00 AM

Gahanna-Jefferson School District
Administration Office
160 S. Hamilton Rd, Gahanna, OH 43230

Participants:

Mike Long, Resource 100 Limited	Neil Drobny, Ohio State University
Dottie Franey, Gahanna	Mike Andrako, Marysville
Velvette DeLaney, Ohio State University	Sammie Keitlen, Ohio State University
Maggie Wehri, Ohio State University	Krishna Bobba, Ohio State University
Paul Wise, Genoa Township	Willie Overmann, Columbus
Randy Bowman, Columbus	Michelle Crandall, City of Dublin
Charlie Hottel, Franklin County	Larry Lester, Hilliard
Scott Schmidt, Gahanna Jefferson Public Schools	Mark Williams, Gahanna Jefferson Public Schools

MORPC Staff:

Claire Jennings

Welcome and Introductions

Claire Jennings started the meeting by thanking the Gahanna Jefferson School District for hosting the Green Pact meeting and for Dottie Franey for helping set it up. Introductions went around the room.

Recycle Now interactive app

Neil Drobny and Mike Long presented on the Recycle Now mobile application that was created within an Ohio State University class with funds from Alcoa. The purpose of the application is to help communities see the value in increasing different recycling streams. Now a graduate class in the business school is looking at how to make it commercially viable.

The application is an Excel model that monetizes the direct and indirect economic impacts of municipal waste stream recycling and allows for users to change the amounts of different recyclable materials to see how it might benefit the community. The application should be used to answer the question of how can a municipality leverage their recycling potential to create more income. The user can see what is currently being recycled and can move sliders on each recyclable to see how it would impact the waste stream and economy.

The creators of the application also see this as being a tool to help municipalities have a fuller understanding of the potential revenue stream from recycling when writing contracts with recycling contractors.

Currently the application is based on averages, but would be tailored to fit an individual community. The creators are interested in partnering with some municipalities to help them test the application with real world data.

A future vision for the application could also include waste and recycling collectors to let them see how they can expand their businesses within communities.

The slideshow for this presentation is attached. If you are interested in hearing more about the application, please contact Neil Drobny at drobny.3@osu.edu.

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Eric S. Phillips
Chair

Matt Greeson
Vice Chair

Rory McGuinness
Secretary

Green Pact member updates

City of Columbus (Randy Bowman and Willie Overmann)

- The American Public Works Association awarded the City its Sustainability Practices Award on August 31 for its work related to protecting the environment, including the Green Columbus Initiative and its Office of Environmental Stewardship.
- The City recently announced the latest sampling of participation in its recycling program. The current average for usage is 78% of homes in the City. They are currently partnering with a marketing team to see where they can improve those rates.
- The City had received a grant from the Ohio EPA earlier in the year to use recycled asphalt shingles in the repaving of streets. The final street using this was paved on September 16. Starting on October 1, there will be [new grants available from the Ohio EPA](#), if anyone is interested.
- The City has released an RFP for a rooftop solar project on a facility on the south side of the city. The project will be about 1 MW.
- The City will break ground on its third CNG station in the next 3-4 months.
- The City broke ground on the new building at 111 Front Street on September 23. The building will be 9 stories and will include a green roof, LED lighting and daylighting controls. The City will be trying to achieve LEED gold standard. Construction should take 2 years.

City of Marysville (Mike Andrako)

- The City has been using the 96 gallon recycling totes for the last two years, and continues to have increased acceptance, although they are getting a lot of non-recyclable materials in them. The City purchased stickers from their solid waste district to put on the lids of the totes that list recyclable items.
- The City recently opened a dog park. They were approached by [Green Scoop Pet Waste Recycling](#) about possibly contracting with them to collect the dog waste. The company then takes it to a methane recovery center. The idea was interesting, but not cost effective in the City's perspective.

City of Gahanna (Dottie Franey)

- The City is currently doing an energy audit of municipal buildings and they will be upgrading facilities to LED lights and more efficient boilers.
- The City has installed some rectangular rapid flashing beacons (RRFBs) at a couple of locations, including Rocky Fork Boulevard near City Hall. The City is hoping to receive a grant from the MORPC Systematic Safety Improvement Pilot Project to install some more.
- The City's current landfill diversion rate is 40.2%, which is a best for Gahanna.
- The City's pervious pavement pilot project has been successful and the City received an Ohio EPA 319 grant to continue the project.

City of Dublin (Michelle Crandall)

- The Dublin Community Recreation Center has combined heat and power with a geothermal project, which is complete.
- The City submitted a Bike Friendly Community application to the League of American Bicyclists. They are hoping to get silver in this round.

Genoa Township (Paul Wise)

- The Township is saving money on infrastructure projects by using their old asphalt in repaving projects. They are saving \$4 per ton through this. They are using finer grindings from the old asphalt on trails.
- This summer the Township has focused its trail development on the Maxtown trails. They have worked with a church and have connected the trail to its facility. The church did not have enough room for parking, and they gave some funding for the project.
- The Township has found that the purple martin houses around the community gardens have cut down on pesticide use.

Franklin County (Charlie Hottel)

- The program to recycle textiles from the jail had to end. The quality was not good enough to continue.
- The County is concentrating on a 1 acre pollinator garden on Frank Road and plans on bringing in beehives in the spring. They are looking for other facilities for hives, including within downtown.
- The County awarded Republic as its internal waste and recycling contract. They want to improve how they track metrics.

City of Hilliard (Larry Lester)

- The City is doing a fleet study with Norwich Township and Hilliard City Schools which is headed up by Clean Fuels Ohio. This kicked off at the beginning of September.
- The City continues to update LED streetlights, as well as in City Hall and in some buildings.
- The City is also looking to improve its community gardens.

Gahanna Jefferson Public Schools Solar Project

Scott Schmidt and Mark Williams presented on the solar project for the Gahanna Jefferson Public Schools (GJPS). In 2010-11, GJPS was looking for ways to reduce its energy costs, as energy rates were projected to continue to skyrocket. Solar Planet approached GJPS to partner on a solar project.

The investment was \$4 million dollars for 3 schools from Solar Planet, which paid for, operates, and maintains the solar panels. GJPS and Solar Planet have a power purchase agreement for 25 years. The project went online in December 2012.

All of the schools' energy production can be monitored online and used in instruction in classes. [Gahanna Lincoln High School](#) has the largest solar array, with 1 MW on its roof. [Gahanna Middle School West](#) has 480 KW on its roof and [Blacklick Elementary](#) has a 477 KW array in a field adjacent to the school.

All of the panels are fixed and do not track with the sun. There have been some minor issues with snow when it is subfreezing, but, for the most part, snow has not been a problem. There is also not an issue in the summer with overproduction of energy. All of the buildings have a certain level of air conditioning and energy consumption in the summer, plus they chose buildings that house summer activities.

There is no guarantee that there is an extension of the life of the roof, and all of these were retrofits onto older roofs. The environmental benefit so far has been an offset of 798.92 years of automobile pollution.

The meeting concluded with a tour of Gahanna Lincoln's rooftop solar array.

Next meeting date: December 16, 2015. Location: TBD.