

**AIR QUALITY & ENERGY WORK GROUP  
MEETING SUMMARY**

---

Tuesday, December 1, 2009  
1:30 p.m.

**Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission**  
Scioto Conference Room

**Members**

Brenda Caldwell, <i>COTA Volunteer</i>	Steve Koch
David Celebrezze, <i>Ohio Environmental Council</i>	Judy Kress, <i>Chair</i>
Mary Cunyningham, <i>Renewable Concepts &amp; Design</i>	Russ Meeker, <i>Renewable Concepts &amp; Design</i>
John Hollback, <i>American Electric Power</i>	Ira Weiss, <i>Fairfield Heritage Trail Association</i>
David Hull, <i>City of Columbus</i>	

**Staff**

David Abel	Shari Saunders
Ashley Lester	Jerry Tinianow
Chad Parasa	Nate Vogt

- 1. Welcome and Introductions** – Chair Judy Kress opened the meeting followed by a round of introductions.
- 2. Regional Fuel Conservation Policy** – David Celebrezze from the Ohio Environmental Council (OEC), gave a recap of his [presentation](#) at the last [Air Quality & Energy Work Group meeting](#). The goal of the OEC's proposed no idle policy is that on-road vehicles idle no more than five minutes within a sixty minute time period. This is for the central Ohio area.

The Work Group discussed the possibility of supporting the proposed no idling policy. David was asked how the policy would be enforced. Enforcement could vary from a misdemeanor to \$25,000 fine based on how polices are enforced in other communities. It could be enforced like the smoking ban or litter prevention campaigns are currently enforced. This would largely be an education campaign.

David is meeting with Green Pact members for their input on language and to get their feedback. He and David Abel have met with Councilwoman Tavares and she is excited about moving this forward and getting more stakeholders.

A question was asked about what the state is doing to help truckers with electrical equipment in their rigs. There are now eleven truck stop electrification sites around the state. The state also has grants available for fleets to purchase auxiliary power units. These units use less fuel to heat/cool the trucks. These grants are for public fleets only. Private fleets need a public sponsor to apply for them.

David is still investigating what it will cost to implement the policy. The main cost would be signage.

The policy is not a one shot solution for cleaner air. It is a piece of the bigger puzzle contributing to the solution.

David was asked how the work group can be supportive. The work group and/or individuals could sign a letter of support. David will send a template of specific language for the letter to Ashley Lester who will forward it to the work group for their comments. The work group can recommend this to MORPC's Regional Policy Roundtable who could then recommend this to the MORPC Board. The Regional Policy Roundtable's next meeting is Monday, December 7.

Generally, fleets are seeing a fuel savings after implementing a no idling policy. But it is hard to calculate savings for individuals. The increasing cost of fuel is changing individual behavior in those who have been educated. We need to put this in terms of dollars in order to pinpoint it to the average person. Nate Vogt and Chad Parasa have done work with software that quantifies emissions. The challenge is knowing how much idling is going on out there in order to use reasonable assumptions.

It was suggested that the OEC present the No Idling Policy Presentation to the Regional Policy Roundtable. Ashley will get with Laura Koprowski to see when/if this would be possible. Laura is the MORPC staff person who coordinates the Regional Policy Roundtable.

How can interstate truckers be educated on this issue? Work with the Ohio Trucking Association and other similar groups and springboard from there. Signage can be posted at weigh stations and rest areas.

Enforcement is still being figured out. It could be complaint driven which could be a nightmare and lead to abuses. It would be a good idea to check with communities that have no idling policies on how they enforce their policies.

- 3. National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program** – David Abel gave an update on MORPC's grant application to the National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program. The U.S. EPA made \$64 million available nationwide to reduce emissions from on-road and non-road heavy duty diesel equipment. David worked through the Ohio Diesel Coalition to identify eligible fleets.

A statewide solicitation was issued and over \$4.4 million worth of proposed projects was received. David had to whittle it down to \$1.5 million worth of projects which is the maximum we are allowed to submit for. David shared [the list of projects](#) selected.

Criteria for projects chosen include fleets in densely populated areas, fleets in non-attainment areas, and cost-effective projects. This list will be submitted on Friday. MORPC and the OEC will implement the projects. We will hear in February if approved.

- 4. Discussion of Peak Oil** – The work group watched a [video that helps explain peak oil](#). Jerry Tinianow feels that MORPC needs to take peak oil into consideration and address it. This is not an exercise in laying blame, but an opportunity to take the lead. Jerry asked the work group their thoughts on how we can create a competitive advantage by preparing proactively for the post-peak period.

Peak oil is the maximum level of production that can occur before production goes down. It is not a useful term for discussing this issue with the public. It is often confusing and misunderstood. The messaging should be focused on the end of cheap oil/gasoline. How will our society adapt to higher oil costs?

The earlier you get started on a solution, the cheaper it is to resolve. There will be regional variations. Central Ohio is in a relatively good position due to our water resources and good soil, etc.

Currently gas is forty percent higher than it was at this time last year and that is with no appreciable increase in industrial output. The cost of gas will continue to rise. This lends itself to a positive responsive approach because it creates a market opportunity.

Jerry referenced the book, "[Resilient Cities: Responding to Peak Oil and Climate Change](#)" by Peter Newman, Timothy Beatley and Heather Boyer. The book takes an approach that Jerry recommends for MORPC. It is realistic, but optimistic. It focuses on cities around the world that are already becoming more resilient and how they are doing it. It describes four possible post peak scenarios:

- The World is Ending
- The Rural City – agriculture within cities will increase substantially. More simple society and cities isolated.
- The Gated Community – us vs. them mentality – those that can afford to do so will insulate themselves behind physical and financial walls at the cost of those outside the walls.
- The Resilient City – we need to study what is going on in these cities and how we can translate that here.

One response to peak oil will be increased electrification. This will create tremendous pressure to make electric usage more efficient. There will also be a trend in urban growth toward more multi-unit housing.

A community initiative, Transition Cities Central Ohio, is a grass roots movement whose goal is moving individuals/communities away from reliance on fossil based fuels. This needs to be supported with government response.

Ohio has a new initiative that allows individuals/businesses/communities/etc. to install solar electric and solar thermal through property assessed clean energy financing. MORPC needs to look at how to support communities that want to implement this type of program. How can MORPC work with agencies to make them facilitators of solar?

We need to educate people on how to be part of the solution and not part of the problem. How do we get individuals and communities to move quickly enough? Perhaps raise the price of fossil fuels through carbon trading or caps.

What are other cities doing that we aren't doing? We are headed in the direction of addressing this issue. We are focusing on this through health and economic issues.

MORPC needs to introduce the subject gently to the community. A lot of solutions for addressing peak oil are also solutions for climate change. This creates a tremendous opportunity for this region. We need to get ahead of the curve.

- 5. Developing Work Group Action Plan for 2010** – Judy asked the work group how they want to operate as a group. They would like to set goals, prioritize the goals and then focus on the issues. The goals need to be actionable and manageable (between three and four goals). It is also important not to mix regional goals with work group goals.

The meetings will be a blend of reporting and a move to action. What will motivate non-active members to get involved? We need to clearly define the platform of the work group and then recruit specific people. People need to feel needed and relevant.

The work group brainstormed for 2010 goals:

- Focus on meeting air quality standards.
- Energy's impact on air quality.
- Energy is the next issue to provide job growth and economic development.
- Offer solutions/alternatives for moving forward.
- Energy leadership.
- There is no energy efficiency or energy dependency solution that doesn't lead to cleaner air.
- Renewable energy/energy efficiency – people are not aware that energy audits are available.
- Better interfacing with already established groups such as Sustainable Westerville, etc. – be a catalyst for getting these groups together to share resources, ideas, etc. – not competition but cooperation.
- Understand what central Ohio can do to reduce our dependence on foreign oil.
- We will be out of attainment next year. Need to be ready to make energy efficiency part of the solution.
- Air quality and energy efficiency are flip sides of the same coin.

A task force was formed to take the brainstorming ideas and begin to formulate a work plan for the work group. Task force members are: David Celebrezze, Ira Weiss, Russ Meeker, John Hollback, Judy Kress and Ashley Lester. They will report back to the work group at the January 2010 meeting.

There will be a meeting on January 21, 1:30 p.m. for all Center for Energy & Environment work groups. This is to let the work groups know what their roles will be and how they fit in the process in terms of the regional plan.

6. **Other Business** – Mary Cunyngnam distributed information on the [31<sup>st</sup> Annual OEFFA Conference](#) being held February 13-14, 2010. Both she and Russ Meeker will be giving presentations in the breakout sessions.

The 2010 Air Quality & Energy Work Group will meeting bi-monthly on the last Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. Meeting dates are:

- January 26
- March 30
- May 25
- July 27
- September 28
- November 30

Questions or comments, please contact Ashley Lester at (614) 233.4168 or [alester@morpc.org](mailto:alester@morpc.org).