



## Advisory Council Participating Organizations

- **Erin Miller**, Director  
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- **Matt LaMantia**, Planner  
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- **Shari Saunders**, Administrative Coordinator  
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- **Leslie Strader**, Outreach Specialist  
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The **Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission** works to enhance the quality of life and competitive advantages of the central Ohio region by working through local governments and other constituents.

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) is the place where visions and ideas about our growing region are created, designed, discussed, and embraced. We are a voluntary association of local governments serving central Ohio. A catalyst for regional change, evidence of our work is seen every day through planning, programming and public policy in the areas of economic development, energy, environment, housing, transportation and land use.

[www.morpc.org](http://www.morpc.org)

## Center for Energy and Environment Founding Members

- **Sandy Nessing**, Director  
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**Founding Member**

**American Electric Power** is one of the largest electric utilities in the United States, delivering electricity to more than 5 million customers in 11 states. AEP ranks among the nation's largest generators of electricity, owning nearly 38,000 megawatts of generating capacity in the U.S. AEP also owns the nation's largest electricity transmission system, a nearly 39,000-mile network that includes more 765 kilovolt extra-high voltage transmission lines than all other U.S. transmission systems combined. AEP's transmission system directly or indirectly serves about 10 percent of the electricity demand in the Eastern Interconnection, the interconnected transmission system that covers 38 eastern and central U.S. states and eastern Canada, and approximately 11 percent of the electricity demand in ERCOT, the transmission system that covers much of Texas.

[www.aep.com](http://www.aep.com)

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- **Michelle Jorgenson**, Senior Account Executive  
(614)297-0921  
mjorgenson@ameresco.com



**Founding Member**

**Ameresco** is an independent energy solutions company delivering long-term customer value through innovative systems, strategies and technology. Ameresco has all the resources needed to successfully plan and execute a comprehensive energy solutions program that will create real, sustained economic benefit. We deliver across North America with regional execution resources. We'll work with you on a single-site project or a corporate-wide initiative. From consultation and planning through construction and ongoing operations, we can handle all the steps.

[www.ameresco.com](http://www.ameresco.com)

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- **Jeff Strung**, Vice President  
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At **EMH&T**, we embrace your vision as our own—partnering to provide holistic solutions to your complex engineering and environmental issues. We serve small to large commercial and municipal clients, including: local and state governments, federal government/military, small and large commercial developers, residential developers.

[www.emht.com](http://www.emht.com)

- **Toni Cunningham**, President  
American Association of Blacks in Energy  
(614)629-5031  
tmcunningham@aep.com



The **American Association of Blacks in Energy** (AABE) is a national association of energy professionals founded and dedicated to ensure the input of African Americans and other minorities into the discussions and developments of energy policies regulations, R&D technologies, and environmental issues.

[www.aabe.org](http://www.aabe.org)

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- **Susan Ashbrook** , Environmental Steward  
City of Columbus  
(614)645-0807  
seashbrook@columbus.gov

Representing: Central Ohio City Managers

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- **Jack Laverty**, Manager, Warm Choice Program  
(614)460-4714  
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**Columbia Gas of Ohio**, headquartered in Columbus, is an investor-owned public utility that sells natural gas and provides gas transportation services to customers in Ohio. The company serves 1.3 million of Ohio's approximately three million natural gas customers. Columbia Gas is the state's largest natural gas utility, serving more than 1,000 communities in 64 of Ohio's 88 counties with a service territory covering approximately 25,400 square miles. The primary Ohio metropolitan areas served include Columbus, Toledo, Parma, Mansfield and Springfield.

[www.columbiagasohio.com](http://www.columbiagasohio.com)

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- **Sharon Tinianow**, Director of Sustainability Initiatives  
(614)629-3146  
stinianow@mail.cosi.org



**COSI** provides an exciting and informative atmosphere for those of all ages to discover more about our environment, our accomplishments, our heritage, and ourselves. We motivate a desire toward a better understanding of science, industry, health, and history through involvement in exhibits, demonstrations, and a variety of educational activities and experiences. COSI is for the enrichment of the individual and for a more rewarding life on our planet, Earth.

[www.cosi.org](http://www.cosi.org)

- **William J. Lhota**, President/CEO  
(614)275-5850  
lhotawj@cota.com



The **Central Ohio Transit Authority** is committed to excellence and will deliver superior transportation services and conduct our business courteously, safely, ethically and reliably. We will demonstrate leadership that is fiscally responsible and maintain a work environment that is safe and productive. All employees are expected to embrace and practice our values and standards to achieve the objectives of our vision.

[www.cota.com](http://www.cota.com)

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- **James R. Schimmer**, Director  
Economic Development and Planning  
Franklin County  
(614)462-3095  
JRSchimmer@franklincountyohio.gov

Representing: MORPC Commission  
**Center Advisory Council Chair**

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- **Doug Smith**, Board of Commissioners  
Licking County  
(740)670-5116  
dsmith@lcounty.com

**Licking County** is located in central Ohio directly east of Franklin County, home of Columbus. Geographically, Licking County is the second largest county in Ohio. Regarding population, the 2000 U.S. Census shows Licking County as the seventeenth largest and the seventeenth fastest growing county in Ohio.

[www.lcounty.com](http://www.lcounty.com)

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- **Barb Burgie**  
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barb@burgiemediafusion.com



**LIME Marketing** uses proven strategies to increase sales and build your business, but with a green mindset. We work to determine and implement the most cost effective, environmentally sensitive methods of achieving your goals.

[www.limemarketing.org](http://www.limemarketing.org)

- **Michael Jones**, Executive Director  
(614)263-5662  
mj@mjchef.com



**Local Matters** is a charitable, educational and networking organization whose goal is to ensure that *all* members of our community have access to affordable, nutritious, fresh and local foods.

We are helping to create a vibrant, sustainable and regional food system. In the process, we strive for positive environmental, social and economic change in the community of Columbus, Ohio and surrounding areas.

[www.local-matters.org](http://www.local-matters.org)

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- **John O'Meara**, Director  
(614)895-6202  
O'Meara@metroparks.net



Established in 1945, Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District, "**Metro Parks**", features 15 outstanding natural area parks and protects more than 23,000 acres of land and water in seven Central Ohio counties. Metro Parks offers free educational and recreational opportunities every day of the year that will excite your senses and rekindle your spirit.

[www.metroparks.net](http://www.metroparks.net)

Also Representing: Chair, MORPC Greenways Working Group

The **Greenways Working Group** provides leadership to MORPC staff and implements the Greenways Plan. The Working Group consists of representatives throughout Central Ohio (local government, nonprofit organizations and private interests) and meets at MORPC the first Friday of every other month at 9:00 a.m.

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- **Rick Rogala**, Vice President  
rrogala@wcmh.com  
(614)261-4700



For more than 50 years, **NBC 4** (WCMH-TV) has been a community-oriented company, striving to bring the newest and the best in broadcasting to its viewers.

[www.nbc4i.com](http://www.nbc4i.com)

- **Keith Dimoff**, Executive Director  
(614)487-7506  
keith@theOEC.org



The mission of the **Ohio Environmental Council** is to secure healthy air, land, and water for all who call Ohio home.

We are Ohio's leading advocate for fresh air, clean water, and sustainable land use. The OEC has a widely respected 40-year history of innovation, pragmatism, and success.

Using legislative initiatives, legal action, scientific principles, and statewide partnerships, we secure a healthier environment for Ohio's families and communities.

[www.theoec.org](http://www.theoec.org)

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- **Scott Miller**, Director  
Ohio University, Consortium for Energy, Economics & the Environment  
(740)593-0827  
CE3@ohio.edu



**The Consortium for Energy, Economics and the Environment (CE3)** is an interdisciplinary organization that builds on the strengths of three entities at Ohio University – the Voinovich School, the Russ College of Engineering, and the College of Arts and Sciences. CE3 brings together scientists and engineers to work side-by-side with social scientists and policy experts. Together, they develop practical solutions to regional and national problems related to energy production, environmental health and economic growth.

[www.voinovichcenter.ohio.edu](http://www.voinovichcenter.ohio.edu)

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- **Joseph Fiksel**, Director  
OSU Center for Resilience  
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fiksel.2@osu.edu



The **Center for Resilience** is an interdisciplinary research center dedicated to improving the resilience of industrial systems and the environments in which they operate. In a nutshell, we believe that short-term risk management and long-term sustainability are two ends of the enterprise resilience continuum.

To pursue our mission, we have developed a powerful network of engineers, scientists, and business scholars at The Ohio State University and collaborating institutions, leveraging over \$20 million in ongoing research programs.

[www.resilience.osu.edu](http://www.resilience.osu.edu)

- **Rhonda Border-Boose**, State Director  
Ohio Field Office  
(614)837-6782  
rhonda@railtrails.org



**Rails-to-Trails Conservancy** is a nonprofit organization working with communities to preserve unused rail corridors by transforming them into trails, enhancing the health of America's environment, economy, neighborhoods and people.

[www.railtrails.org](http://www.railtrails.org)

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- **Marilyn Welker**, Director  
(614)447-0296  
mwelker@ctcn.net



The purpose of **Simply Living** is to educate ourselves and others to live responsibly and sustainably in joyful relationship with the earth and one another.

[www.simplyliving.org](http://www.simplyliving.org)

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- **Ronald J. Mills**, Executive Director  
(614)871-5100  
ron.mills@swaco.org



The **Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO)** serves Franklin County and neighboring areas with solutions for solid waste. Our mission is to provide a comprehensive, environmentally sound, cost-effective, and technically reliable solid waste management program for all people living and working within the jurisdiction of the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio.

[www.swaco.org](http://www.swaco.org)

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- **Charles Hall**, Board of Commissioners  
**Union County**  
(937)645-3012  
commissioners@co.union.oh.us

[www.unioncounty.org](http://www.unioncounty.org)

- **Derrick Clay**, Vice President  
New Visions Group Inc.  
(614)280-1299  
dclay@newvisionsgroup.com

Representing: Chair, MORPC Air & Energy Working Group

The **Air Quality and Energy Working Group** provides leadership and guidance to MORPC staff. The Working Group consists of representatives throughout central Ohio (local government, nonprofit organizations and private interests) and meets at MORPC the first Tuesday of every other month at 1:30 p.m.

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- **Chrissy Bateman**, Student  
New Albany High School

and

- **Emily Mendenhall**, Student  
Amanda-Clearcreek High School



Much of the work of the Center for Energy and Environment will be done with the welfare of future generations in mind. Offering a valuable experience for central Ohio Students, MORPC formed a **Youth Advisory Council**, comprised of local junior and senior high school students. Without being inhibited by political parameters, perceived limitations, and financial restrictions, youth will have the freedom to add a new perspective to the way we plan our community. Throughout the year students will be invited back to MORPC to weigh in on important environmental issues facing our region.