



Green Pact Meeting Notes

September 24, 2014

Attendees: Rick Sites (Ohio Hospital Association), Lisa LaMantia (City of Westerville), Erin Miller (City of Columbus), Lee Brown (City of Worthington), Mike Andrako (City of Marysville), Randy Bowman (City of Columbus), Justin Milam (City of Upper Arlington), Paul Wise (Genoa Township)

MORPC Staff: Christina O’Keeffe, Amelia Costanzo, Claire Jennings, Marion Dean

MORPC Updates

- Overview of Sustainability Advisory Committee – Claire Jennings
- Summit on Sustainability & the Environment – Amanda McEldowney

Ohio Hospital Association

- Rick Sites presented on how the Ohio Hospital Association is using Energy Star ratings to benchmark hospitals throughout Ohio on their energy usage
 - Cost savings and resilience during weather events

City of Columbus Energy Challenge

- Erin Miller presented on the City of Columbus’ Building Energy Efficiency Task force
 - Recommendations:
 - Focus on large buildings (over 50,000 square feet)
 - Start with benchmarking and reporting annual progress
 - Set targets (70% of building stock in 18 mo. and 20% energy reduction by 2020)
 - Make it easy- data availability, training and access to resources.
 - Opt-in program; 41 buildings totaling 10.5 million square feet have registered

Westerville

- They are in the process of updating their Community Plan. They are wrapping up the first leg of public outreach: community design charettes. They are putting together three growth scenarios to be presented to the public in December.
- They are putting together a Green Team business plan to breathe new life into the City’s green initiatives and to get clear direction on the community’s goals. This will probably be presented to the City Manager in January.

Worthington

- They are working on outreach about their recycling program in downtown and in public buildings throughout the city.
- Working to change employee habits in public buildings such as turning off lights.
- A 45-acre site across from city hall is going to be redeveloped, most likely as a mix of uses. They are looking at some storm water management options.

- They are updating their Comprehensive Plan.

Upper Arlington

- Partnership with Franklin Soil & Water Conservation District to reduce storm water pollution.
- They just completed their AEP energy saver program partnership. It was an effort to get homes, businesses, and other groups to participate in energy audits, online energy check-ups, rebates, etc. They got about 1,000 participants (goal of 900 exceeded). AEP would award the City a \$90k grant because they reached their goal. They will use the funds for lighting upgrades at the park. As a part of this, they are preparing a sustainability road map to work with participating groups on next steps. Justin says it's a lot of work, but worth it. He can give out contact info if anyone else is interested in pursuing this program.
- Prescription Drug drop-off program: they collected hundreds of pounds in April; thousands of pounds since the beginning of the program.

Marysville

- They are looking into the feasibility of an anaerobic digester to sell power back to power company.
- They recently switched to 96-gallon recycling "toters" to increase recycling capacity and participation. Issue: they are getting a lot of non-recyclable items. They are having a meeting tomorrow with the waste management company to talk about how to address this issue.
- DP&L energy rebates have been realized by the City

Columbus

- The City is updating its Thoroughfare Plan. It is going multi-modal. Completion is expected in 2016. Extensive community outreach will be necessary. This is one of the few in the country that will be this extensive as relating to multi-modalism.
- Public Utilities and Public Service are partnering to create a Green Infrastructure Manual for City staff and decision makers to use, but also for developers.
- City Council will begin to make car-sharing permanent was this week with a first reading; second reading coming up. Car-sharing is well-received in the Columbus community.
- All of the City's parking meters are now solar. Their batteries are recharged daily by the sun. They save money by not having to replace batteries and by burning less fossil fuels when maintenance crews drive around to change batteries.
- Public recycling bins are coming to the Short North.
- Public Service has gone to online bidding and proposals for all of its contracts for cost-savings in order to reduce gas consumption and greenhouse gas emissions by contractors and consultants having to go to meetings and make submittals by paper.

Genoa Township

- Comprehensive Plan update: They are working on a draft. They aim to finalize the Plan in 2015.
- They aim to use 50% less road salt. Leaning toward brine
- They recently signed a shared agreement with Liberty Township and Orange Township for waste hauling services (landfill and recycling) from Rumpke. The contract will go into effect February 1, 2015. This is the first time all three entities will collaborate on a major contract.

- The Township was deeded a large tract of land. They are considering making it into wetlands with educational opportunities. They are looking to partner with some entities to program it – higher education institutions, for example.

Questions & Comments

- Justin asked how communities manage leaves refuse.

Westerville did a composting project with Franklin Soil & Water which was similar to the rain barrel program. Columbus is going to do the same composting project.

Columbus does every-other-week yard collection.

- Erin asked if anyone has been approached to do the Star Communities Index. Upper Arlington and Westerville have been approached, but they aren't interested in participating. Cleveland and Dayton are participating Ohio companies.