



Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

State of the Region 2010

Issue: Place

Metric: Alternative Energy Sources

The pursuit of alternative energy sources is a growing industry in central Ohio. The use of wind and solar power is encouraged by groups such as Green Energy Ohio and Ohio Wind Working Group. The Ohio Department of Development offers incentives for households and businesses to use renewable power sources through the Advanced Energy Grant Program. Wind and solar power are becoming increasingly significant energy sources throughout the region.

Most of central Ohio has average wind speeds of 13-17 MPH at a 100-meter altitude, making the region a good place for the development of wind infrastructure in areas without obstructions such as tall stands of trees. The Glacier Ridge Wind Turbine was built in Union County in 2002 and continues to provide power.

Solar power is also a growing source of energy in the region. According to the Energy Information Administration, there is enough sunlight in central Ohio to produce an average of 4-5 kilowatt hours of electricity each day for every square meter of photovoltaic (solar) panel. This means that every square meter of solar panel could provide electricity for a 100-watt lightbulb to be left on for 40 - 50 hours.

Finally, vehicles using alternative, more environmentally friendly fuels represent a growing part of the transportation sector in the region. Both public modes of transportation and personal vehicles can utilize alternative fuels. COTA introduced the first six hybrid-electric passenger buses to its fleet in March 2010. COTA purchased the buses with the assistance of \$2.1 million in MORPC-Attributable Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program funds. The new hybrid buses will use less energy and fuel while significantly reducing carbon emissions.

As of the beginning of 2010, there are 39 stations offering 4 types of alternative motor fuels in the region. Between 2008 and the 2010, there was a decrease in fuel stations offering biodiesel and propane, but there was an increase in the number of fuel stations offering natural gas. Approximately 1/4 of the alternative fueling stations in the state are in central Ohio.

Alternative Motor Fuel Stations in Central Ohio, 2010

	Biodiesel	Natural Gas	Ethanol	Propane
Delaware	-	-	1	-
Fairfield	-	-	3	-
Fayette	-	-	-	-
Franklin	-	2	14	8
Knox	-	-	-	-
Licking	-	1	-	1
Madison	-	-	-	1
Marion	1	-	2	-
Morrow	1	-	1	-
Pickaway	1	-	1	-
Ross	-	-	-	-
Union	1	-	-	-
Region	4	3	22	10
Ohio	21	9	62	68

To search for stations, visit:

[U.S. Department of Energy](http://www.eia.doe.gov)

