

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

Remote Meeting

Energy and Air Quality Working Group  
Meeting Notes

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May 25, 2021, 2:00 pm

**Meeting Called to Order at 2:01 pm**

**Electric Aggregation: A Tool for Local Clean Energy Deployment and Sustainability Planning** – *Mat Roberts and Luke Sulfridge, Sustainable Ohio Public Energy Council (SOPEC)*  
Click [here](#) for the presentation.

**Policy Update** – *Joe Garrity, MORPC*  
Click [here](#) for the presentation.

**Ohio EPA Update** – *Member Erica Fetty-Davis, Ohio EPA*  
Ozone season began March 1. The Central Ohio region has had no exceedances of the ozone standard of 70 ppb. The highest reading monitor in the area is in New Albany, with readings in the 60s ppb.

The 2021/2022 Annual Air Monitoring Network Plan was opened for comments on May 7. Comments will be accepted until June 8.

**MORPC Staff Updates**

Regional Sustainability Agenda – *Brandi Whetstone*

The Regional Sustainability Agenda (RSA) was revised by the RSA Subcommittee over the past several months. The RSA was approved by the Sustainability Advisory Committee on April 21, and was adopted by Commission May 13.

Overview of the process used to gather input for the RSA:

- Subcommittee Members and Staff conducted the Sustainable2050 member survey & interviews,
- Staff held a workshop focused on equity considerations,
- Subcommittee Members and Staff proposed and vetted goals, objectives, and strategies,
- Staff conducted a regional stakeholder survey,
- Subcommittee Members and Staff held a regional stakeholder presentation.

Dr. Jason Reece, OSU, has created an Equity Resource Document as a supplement to the RSA. This document will be online at MORPC.org and will be linked to the online version of the RSA. The Equity Resource Document will include:

- Examples of peer (best practice) data tools to analyze equity elements,
- Strategies and best practices to foster robust engagement with equity communities,
- Examples of best practices (in planning and policy to support equity in sustainability),
- Inventory of additional resource tools (data, best practices).

The RSA will have four main goals, with objectives and strategies supporting those goals:

Goal 1: Improve air quality and reduce climate change impacts to protect public health and the environment.

- 1.1 Reduce per capita vehicle miles traveled.
- 1.2 Increase alternative fuel vehicles and infrastructure.
- 1.3 Reduce per capita energy consumption across all sectors.
- 1.4 Increase local renewable energy generating capacity.
- 1.5 Reduce regional greenhouse gas emissions.
- 1.6 Increase the number of days with good air quality.

Goal 2: Protect and preserve natural resources to support a healthy and resilient region.

- 2.1 Reduce the amount of municipal solid waste per capita disposed in the landfill.
- 2.2 Reduce per capita water consumption.
- 2.3 Improve water quality in central Ohio watersheds.
- 2.4 Increase the amount of land devoted to natural areas and ecosystem services.
- 2.5 Reduce the conversion rate of farmland.

Goal 3: Improve quality of life for all residents by creating sustainable and equitable communities.

- 3.1 Improve transportation and mobility safety for all residents.
- 3.2 Prioritize infrastructure development which supports multi-modal transportation options for all users.
- 3.3 Increase access to parks and regional trails.
- 3.4 Reduce household energy cost burden.
- 3.5 Reduce the rate of elevated blood lead levels among children.

Goal 4: Promote robust, inclusive, and sustainable growth and development.

- 4.1 Increase the number of businesses with established sustainability policies and practices.
- 4.2 Maximize infill and redevelopment along existing infrastructure.
- 4.3 Increase availability of affordable housing options near transit or job centers.
- 4.4 Increase employment in green jobs.

Air Quality Program – Brooke White

MORPC is involved in a low-cost air quality monitoring project in partnership with Franklin County Public Health and American Geophysical Union's Thriving Earth Exchange. The low-cost particulate monitors to be used are not as robust or as precise as Ohio EPA's monitoring technology. However, the Ohio EPA will allow MORPC to collocate its monitors with the Ohio EPA monitors, which will allow calibration of the monitors together to receive the best possible data.

**Subcommittees**

Solar Subcommittee – Member Craig Foster, Energility

MORPC has been awarded the Silver SolSmart Designation. SolSmart is a national program designed to recognize local governments for encouraging solar energy growth. Communities that pursue SolSmart designation receive no-cost technical assistance from a team of national solar experts. This designation will allow MORPC to leverage the resources it has already made available to its member communities, such as the Central Ohio Solar Energy Toolkit for Local Governments, to encourage them to install solar energy systems.

**Adjourned at 3:05 pm.**