



MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

111 Liberty Street, Suite 100  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
morpc.org

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info@morpc.org

**NOTICE OF A MEETING  
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission  
111 Liberty St., #100  
Columbus, OH 43215  
June 21, 2023, 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm**

**AGENDA**

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>2:30 – 2:40 pm</b> | <b>Welcome and Introductions – <i>Ben Kessler, Chair</i></b>  |
| <b>2:40 – 2:55 pm</b> | <b>Summit on Sustainability – <i>Amanda McEldowney, MORPC</i></b>   |
| <b>2:55 – 3:10 pm</b> | <b>Policy and Funding Updates– <i>Joe Garrity and Brian Filiatraut, MORPC</i></b>   |
| <b>3:10 – 3:20 pm</b> | <b>Climate Pollution Reduction Grant and Regional Sub-Committee –<br/><i>Brian Filiatraut and Brandi Whetstone, MORPC</i></b>   |
| <b>3:20 – 3:30 pm</b> | <b>Air Quality Alerts and Wildfire Smoke – <i>Brandi Whetstone, MORPC</i></b>   |
| <b>3:30 – 3:50 pm</b> | <b>Working Group &amp; Board Updates – <i>Ben Kessler, Chair</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Central Ohio Greenways Board: <i>Mike Andrako</i></li><li>• Sustaining Scioto Board: <i>Glenn Marzluf</i></li><li>• Sustainable2050: <i>Laurie Jadwin</i></li><li>• Energy &amp; Air Quality Working Group – <i>Matt Stephens-Rich</i></li></ul> |
| <b>3:50 – 4:00 pm</b> | <b>New Business and Member Updates – <i>Ben Kessler, Chair</i></b>  |
| <b>4:00 pm</b>        | <b>Adjourn – <i>Ben Kessler, Chair</i></b>  |

**Please notify Lynn Kaufman at 614-233-4189 or [LKaufman@morpc.org](mailto:LKaufman@morpc.org) to confirm your attendance for this meeting or if you require special assistance.**

**The next Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting  
will be on September 20, 2023 at 2:30 pm**

**William Murdock, AICP**  
*Executive Director*

**Erik J. Janas**  
*Chair*

**Chris Amorose Groomes**  
*Vice Chair*

**Michelle Crandall**  
*Secretary*

# SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Brandi Whetstone, Sustainability Officer  
June 21, 2023



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**MORPC**

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- Executive Director's Report – William Murdock
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- 2:55**     **Policy & Funding Updates** – *Joe Garrity & Brian Filiatraut, MORPC*
- 3:10**     **Climate Pollution Reduction Grant & Regional Sub-Committee** – *Bethany Bella, City of Columbus, & Brandi Whetstone, MORPC*
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- Central Ohio Greenways Board – *Mike Andrako*
  - Sustaining Scioto Board – *Glenn Marzluf*
  - Sustainable2050 – *Laurie Jadwin*
  - Energy & Air Quality Working Group – *Matt Stephens-Rich*
- 3:50**     **New Business & Member Updates** – *Ben Kessler, Chair*
- 4:00**     **Adjourn** – *Ben Kessler, Chair*





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# **Save the Date for MORPC's annual Summit on Sustainability!**

October 26, 2023 | Hilton Columbus Downtown | 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.



**COLLABORATE. INNOVATE.**  
**INSPIRE.**  
**summit on sustainability 2023**

# SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABILITY REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS



LEADERSHIP IN SUSTAINABILITY	COLLABORATIVE ACHIEVEMENT	LEADERSHIP IN MOBILITY
Aryeh Alex, Columbus Department of Public Service & Keep Columbus Beautiful	City of Columbus and IMPACT Community Action for Solar Workforce Development Programs	Miguel “Geno” Tucker
Elizabeth Ellman, City of Bexley	Trail Towns Steering Committee	Mike Andrako, Franklin County Engineer’s Office
City of Westerville	The Sustainability Institute at OSU and Advanced Drainage Systems	Katie White, Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging

# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



MORPC



**TODD BRADY**

VP of Global Affairs & Chief Sustainability  
Officer  
*Intel Corporations*



**MITCHELL SILVER**

Principal, Urban Planning  
*McAdams*



# NEXT STEPS

- Registration Opens July 3, 2023
- Breakout Sessions
- Sponsorship Opportunities
  - PRESENTING SPONSOR - \$25,000
  - PROGRAM - \$15,000
  - NETWORK - \$10,000
  - PLENARY - \$5,000
  - SUPPORTING - \$3,000
  - BREAKOUT - \$2,000
  - EXHIBITOR - \$500



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**Amanda McEldowney**

*Community Engagement Manager*

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

[amceldowney@morpc.org](mailto:amceldowney@morpc.org)



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## POLICY & FUNDING UPDATES

Joe Garrity & Brian Filiatraut, MORPC



# CFI GRANT

## Mid-Ohio Regional Equity for Electric Vehicle Stations (MORE EVS)

Regional Approach for the USDOT  
Charging & Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Grant  
*Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting*  
06.21.23



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# OUR APPROACH

## MORPC | MORE EVS

### PROJECT MERIT CRITERIA

SAFETY

CLIMATE CHANGE, RESILIENCE,  
SUSTAINABILITY

EQUITY, COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT, JUSTICE40

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, JOB  
QUALITY, WEALTH CREATION

CFI PROGRAM VISION

### VISION

Improve access to EV mobility options  
for underserved populations.

#### SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION MODE



Personal  
Vehicle



Rideshare



Transit



Micro-  
mobility

#### USE CASES



Work



Daily Needs



Education



Housing

#### EV CHARGING LOCATIONS



Mobility  
Hubs



Underserved Urban  
Communities



Rural Charging  
Desert

#### OUTCOMES



Equity



Access to  
Jobs



Address Climate  
Change



Improve  
Safety



# MORPC | MORE EVS HIGHLIGHTS



MORPC

- **\$21.9M Total Project**
  - \$15M Federal request
  - \$6.9M in regional investment
- **62 Confirmed Charging Sites**
  - 5 mobility hubs
  - 31 urban underserved areas
  - 26 rural underserved areas
- **84% of project sites are located in:**
  - Disadvantaged communities;
  - >20% low-income population;
  - >30% minority population; and or
  - >20% over 64 years population
- **406 Total EV Ports**
  - Level 2: 334
  - DCFC: 72 Additional curbside EV ports planned
- **4,147 tons CO2 reduction benefits**
- **Locations compliment ODOT NEVI**

## **BRIAN FILIATRAUT**

*Energy & Sustainability Program Manager*

**Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission**

(614) 233-4137

[bfiliatraut@morpc.org](mailto:bfiliatraut@morpc.org)

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# Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG)

## Columbus MSA



MORPC SAC Meeting  
6/21/2023

# Grant Overview

- 4-year Grant Program administered by the EPA:
  - Phase 1: Planning grants to develop strong climate pollution reduction strategies administered through non-competitive cooperative agreements (\$250 million)
  - Phase 2: Competitive implementation grants to help put plans into action (\$4.6 billion)
- Grant Components:
  - A Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP), due March 1, 2024;
  - A Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP), due 2 years from the date of the award; and
  - A Status Report, due at the close of the 4-year grant period.



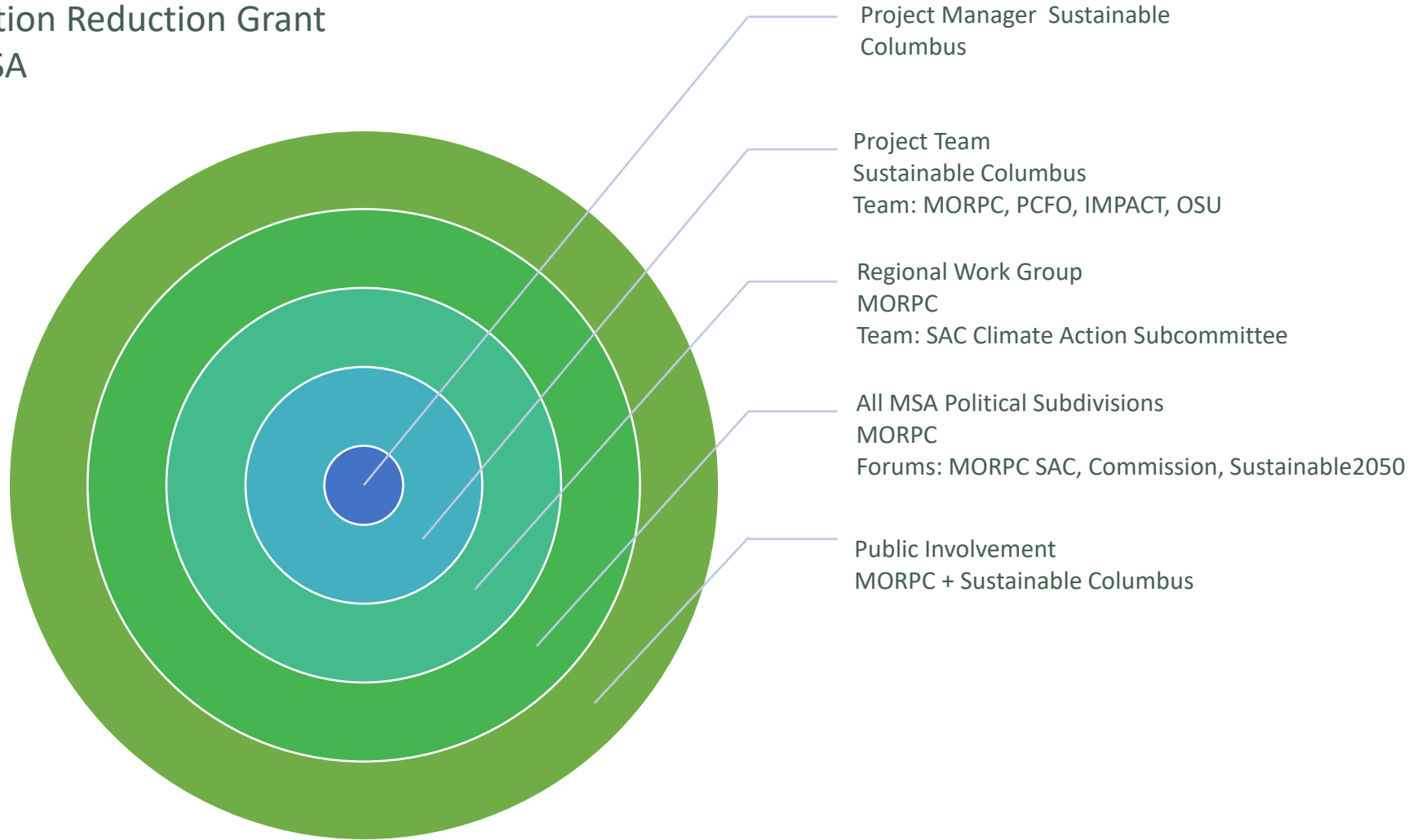
### Ohio Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs)

Developed by the United States Office of Management and Budget, Metropolitan Statistical Areas are integrated geographic regions comprised of at least one city or urban area (with a population of at least 50,000) and adjacent communities. Metropolitan Statistical Areas make it possible for federal statistical agencies to utilize the same boundaries when publishing statistical data.



# Planning Structure & Organization

Climate Pollution Reduction Grant  
Columbus MSA



# Project Team Roles & Deliverables

- **Sustainable Columbus** – project lead, project management
- **MORPC** – convener and connector with regional municipalities; GHG inventory (regional scope); regional planning engagement
- **PCFO** – technical assistance for GHG emissions projections
- **OSU** – regional benefits analysis, low-income disadvantaged communities analysis
- **IMPACT Community Action** – engagement and community outreach, workforce development analysis assistance

# Climate Action Subcommittee (CAS)

- Co-chaired by Sustainable Columbus + SAC member.
  - The SAC co-chair will represent MORPC members and regional stakeholders throughout the Columbus MSA.
  - Includes local governments who submitted letters of support with the CPRG application and members of the SAC.
- The CAS will meet bi-monthly to inform and assist in regional outreach among key stakeholders and to provide input at both the PCAP and CCAP stages of the planning grant.
  - PCAP (March 1, 2024): Feedback on priority actions.
  - CCAP (Summer-Fall 2025): Feedback on stakeholder engagement and actions for implementation.



# AIR QUALITY ALERTS AND WILDFIRE SMOKE

Brandi Whetstone, Sustainability Officer  
June 21, 2023



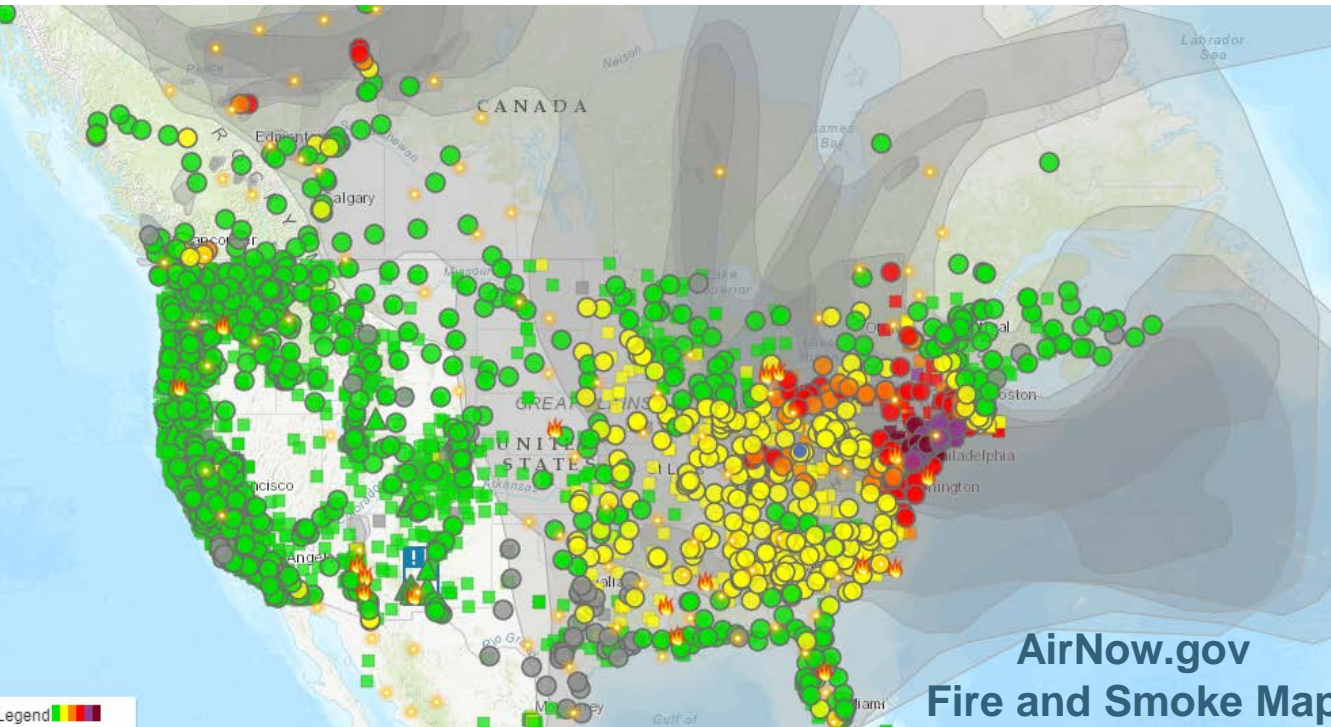
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# WILDFIRES LEAD TO UNHEALTHY AIR



MORPC



- 5 Air Quality Alerts in one week and Statewide Air Advisory for particle pollution
- Highest particle pollution (PM2.5) levels in 13 years

# AIR QUALITY FORECAST



MORPC

Pollutant	Tue 06/20	Wed 06/21	Thu 06/22	Fri 06/23	Sat 06/24	Sun 06/25	Mon 06/26
O3	46	48	44	44	47	58	44
PM2.5	45	55	46	42	38	46	42

## Discussion

Wednesday, June 21: Moderate and gusty easterly winds will increase mixing and dispersion in central Ohio. However, these winds will also transport Canadian wildfire smoke into the region, resulting in low-Moderate AQI levels.

Thursday, June 22 through Saturday, June 24: Partly to mostly cloudy skies and scattered rain showers will reduce ozone production in the Columbus region. Furthermore, as an upper-level low pressure system gradually moves across Ohio, low-level mixing will improve. Therefore, AQI levels will be Good on all three days.

Sunday, calm to light southwesterly winds will reduce dispersion and gradually transport pollutants into the Columbus area. Additionally, mostly sunny skies and temperatures in the mid-80s will promote ozone development. As a result, AQI levels will be low-Moderate. Monday, as a low pressure system approaches from the northwest, clouds and rain showers will inhibit ozone formation. Additionally, moderate southerly winds will keep pollutants well dispersed in central Ohio. These conditions will lower AQI levels to Good.

*Issued 12:58 PM on Wednesday, June 21, 2023 by Forecasters at STI*



Scan to sign  
up for Air  
Quality Alerts





**Central Ohio Greenways Board (Chair: Mike Andracko, P.E.)**

*Next meeting: July 19, 2023*

The Central Ohio Greenways Board met on May 17<sup>th</sup> to review a draft update to the Strategic Plan as well as Working Group Reports. The Board will meet again on July 19<sup>th</sup> to approve a final version of the COG Strategic Plan Update.

The Marketing Working Group continues to support the Outdoor Trails Pass partnership with Experience Columbus, which was relaunched in April. Since the relaunch we have seen a significant increase in the number of people interacting with and using the pass.

A Trail Alerts page has been added to the COG website to communicate trail closures and detours. Partners are encouraged to share their trail closures with MORPC staff.

The Designing Local consultant team is under contract to complete the COG Wayfinding Strategy. Stakeholder and Steering Committee meetings are being scheduled throughout the next two months.

Cycle Forward is under contract to complete the COG Trail Town Framework- Urban Expansion project. The team has met with select communities in Franklin County along the Ohio to Erie Trail to learn more about their interest, needs, and concerns with a Trail Town Program.

The Trail Development Working Group will be supporting Regional Partnership Meetings during the second half of 2023.

COG is seeking funding for a Natural Asset Mapping effort through the Columbus Foundation. If funded the project will provide data to support holistic decision making around how development impacts the sustainability of our region's watersheds.



**Energy & Air Quality Working Group (Chair: Matt Stephens-Rich)**

*Next meeting: July 25, 2023*

The Energy and Air Quality Working Group cancelled their May meeting due to ongoing work by MORPC and working group leadership to develop the federal Charging and Fueling Infrastructure grant application. The next meeting will take place, virtually, on Tuesday, July 25 at 1:00pm.

MORE EVS (Mid-Ohio Regional Equity for Electric Vehicle Stations) – Central Ohio's Regional EV Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Grant Application was successfully submitted Tuesday, 6/13. As a region, we requested \$15M through the CFI Grant, with an additional \$6.9M in regional investment. MORE EVS is comprised of 62 confirmed charging sites across 13 counties serving underserved urban and rural communities and helping build out mobility hubs. We anticipate that we will learn the status of the application in Fall 2023. Thank you to our partners—AEP Ohio, City of Columbus, Electrification Coalition, HNTB, and Smart Columbus—for their hard work and support throughout the process.



Additionally, MORPC is working with City of Columbus, IMPACT Community Action, The Ohio State University, and Power a Clean Future Ohio on a comprehensive, regional planning approach through the US EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program Phase I: Planning Grant to conduct a regional greenhouse gas emissions inventory, develop mitigation goals and strategies, conduct community and stakeholder engagement, and to position the region for the pending \$4.6B of CPRG Discretionary Phase II: Implementation Grants. To inform the regional work, MORPC will be forming a sub-committee of the Sustainability Advisory Committee, made up of representatives from local governments, as well as SAC membership and other key regional stakeholders.

**Air Quality Forecasting and Alerts:** June has been a busy month for Air Quality Alerts. Our team at MORPC issued five Air Quality Alerts at the Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups levels over the course of one week. Ozone Alerts were issued on June 1 and 2, and during the week of June 12 the region experienced high levels of particle pollution, or PM2.5, from Canadian wildfire smoke, creating a blanket of haze across the region. Alerts were issued for June 6-8, and during that time period the Ohio EPA issued a statewide air advisory.

The last time the region experienced a high particle pollution day was nearly 13 years ago, with an AQI of 107. For comparison, the highest observed level during the most recent event for PM2.5 is 140 AQI on Wednesday, June 7 at the Smoky Row site (24-hour average), which is a near-road monitor. Ohio EPA's continuously-reporting PM2.5 monitors are located at Smoky Row (Dublin area) and New Albany.

On Air Quality Alert Days, MORPC recommends limiting prolonged outdoor activity, especially for sensitive groups including young children, older adults and those with respiratory issues. Exposure to high pollution levels can lead to headaches, coughing, asthma attacks, and difficulty breathing.

You can check current air quality conditions at AirNow.gov to plan for your day. [The AirNow Fire and Smoke Map](#) is a great resource on wildfires and air pollution levels. Sign up for Air Quality Alerts at [www.morpc.org/airquality](http://www.morpc.org/airquality).



### **Sustainable2050**

*Next meeting: June 22, 2023*

MORPC is taking the next Sustainable2050 member meeting on the road to Del-Co Water on Thursday, June 22 from 9:30-11:30am. The meeting will be held at the new Wolf Water Center, with new office space on the ground floor, a training center on the second floor for the water and wastewater industry, and a venue for hosting local and regional events. Following the meeting, participants can take a tour of the plant and the reservoir. A special thank you to Glenn Marzluf for hosting.

The MORPC team is also encouraging Sustainable2050 members to submit photos and brief descriptions of their accomplishments to feature on social media during "Sustainable September".

Membership and tier status certification is open to MORPC members. Please contact MORPC's Sustainability Officer, Brandi Whetstone, for more information at [bwhetstone@morpc.org](mailto:bwhetstone@morpc.org).



## **Sustaining Scioto Board (Chair: Glenn Marzluf)**

*Next Meeting: August 23, 2023*

Members of the Sustaining Scioto Board participated in an Agricultural Field Trip on April 26. The group learned about conservation practices being undertaken at Coyote Run, a 230-acre preserve in Northern Fairfield County containing mature forest with several vernal pools. The owners of Coyote Run are committed to maintaining the greenspace and restoring it to its pre-settlement status as much as possible.

At the second stop, Members learned about conservation practices aimed at improving soil health including no till and cover crops. The group also learned about water quality monitoring being undertaken by the farm owner – Mr. Brandt - in collaboration with OSU Extension. The June board meeting is cancelled. Board members will meet on August 23, 2023.

### **The Agricultural and Rural Communities Outreach Team:**

The working team met on May 18 to discuss priority areas of establishing relationships and deepening partnerships between utilities and the agricultural and rural communities. The members discussed opportunities including positioning the working team as a resource in areas experiencing growth and areas expected to experience growth with a particular focus around farmland conversion for development. Additionally, the working team tasked its leadership to identify avenues for collaboration and listening opportunities as well as resource sharing among utility providers and agricultural communities. The Team will meet again on July 20.

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- 4:00**     **Adjourn** – *Ben Kessler, Chair*

# SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE



## 2023 Meeting Schedule\*

- September 20
- December 13

\*All meetings occur 2:30-4:00PM



**Ben Kessler**

*Chair*

Sustainability Advisory Committee

[bkessler@bexley.org](mailto:bkessler@bexley.org)

**Laurie Jadwin**

*Vice-Chair*

Sustainability Advisory Committee

[laurie.jadwin@gahanna.gov](mailto:laurie.jadwin@gahanna.gov)

**Brandi Whetstone**

*Sustainability Officer*

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

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