Energy and Air Quality Working Group (EAQWG)
Hybrid Meeting

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
111 Liberty St., #100, Columbus, OH 43215

Wednesday, November 20, 2024, 1:00 – 2:30 PM

AGENDA

1. **Welcome & Introductions**

2. **MORPC Updates**

   Sustainability

   Karina Peggau provided a detailed update on regional sustainability efforts, focusing on the progress and future plans of the Regional Sustainability Agenda (RSA).
   - New Initiatives: Introduced new sustainability initiatives, including enhanced community engagement projects and the launch of targeted sustainability education programs aimed at increasing public awareness and participation across the region.
   - Collaborative Projects: Highlighted recent collaborations with local governments and non-profit organizations designed to foster a unified approach to sustainability challenges. Specific attention was given to joint ventures that leverage resources for greater environmental impact, such as shared green infrastructure projects and regional waste reduction programs.
   - Framework and Goals: Discussed the development of a new framework for the RSA, which is set to be updated every four years. The framework aims to align with broader environmental goals, including improving air quality, reducing regional greenhouse gas emissions, and enhancing public health.
   - Community Impact: Emphasized the importance of these initiatives in making the Central Ohio region a better place for its residents through sustainable practices that support long-term ecological health and community well-being.

   Energy Programs

   Brian Filiatraut provided an in-depth update on the current status and future direction of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission's (MORPC) energy programs.
   - Advancements in Sustainable Energy Solutions: Highlighted recent advancements in sustainable energy technologies being implemented across the region. This includes the integration of solar and wind energy into the local grid, improvements in energy storage systems, and the enhancement of energy efficiency in public and private buildings.
   - Federal Funding Impacts: Detailed the significant impact of recent federal funding, particularly from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). These funds have enabled the expansion of electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure, the retrofitting of buildings for energy efficiency, and the support for low-carbon public transportation options.
   - Program Successes: Shared successes from specific projects such as the community solar power initiatives that allow residents to benefit from solar energy without installing panels on

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Chris Amorose Groomes
Chair

Michelle Crandall
Vice Chair

Ben Kessler
Secretary

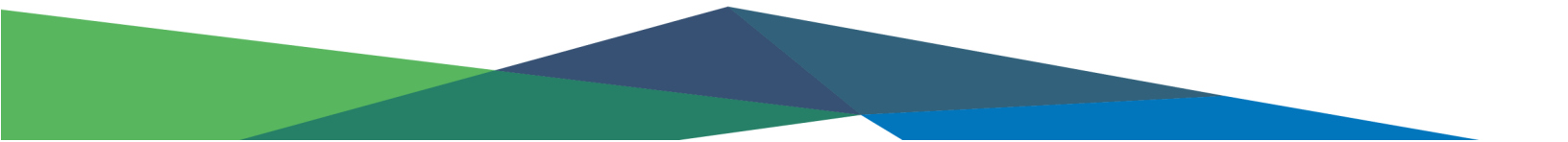their property, and the smart grid technology deployments that improve grid reliability and energy use analytics.

- Challenges and Opportunities: Discussed the challenges facing the energy sector, including the need for increased capacity for renewable energy generation and the integration of distributed energy resources. He also outlined opportunities for future projects that could further enhance the region's energy sustainability, such as the potential development of a regional hydrogen hub to support clean energy distribution.
- Community Engagement and Partnerships: Emphasized the importance of community engagement and partnerships with local businesses and other stakeholders to drive the adoption of sustainable energy solutions and ensure that the benefits of federal funding and technological advancements are maximized.

Air Quality Programs

JR Diaz-Hernandez provided a comprehensive update on the air quality improvement programs being implemented by MORPC.

- Deployment of New Air Quality Sensors: Detailed the ongoing initiative to deploy air quality sensors throughout the region. He explained that 40 new sensors have been installed, with a focus on high-priority areas identified through previous air quality data. These sensors are part of the Community-Led Enhanced Air Quality Network (CLEAN) project aimed at providing real-time, localized air quality information to the public.
- Data Utilization and Public Health: Highlighted how the data collected from these sensors will be used to better understand pollution sources, track air quality trends, and inform public health responses. The project aims to enhance the granularity of air quality monitoring, which can directly influence policy-making and community health initiatives.
- Community Outreach Events: Reported on recent and upcoming community outreach efforts designed to engage the public and raise awareness about air quality issues. These events include workshops, public forums, and school programs, where residents can learn about the impact of air quality on health and how they can contribute to air quality improvements.
- Educational Campaigns and Resources: Shared updates on educational campaigns that utilize the data collected from the new sensors. These campaigns aim to inform residents about air quality management and encourage actions that reduce pollution, such as reducing vehicle idling and choosing greener transportation options.
- Collaborations and Partnerships: Discussed the importance of collaboration with local health departments, environmental groups, and educational institutions to maximize the impact of air quality programs. These partnerships help to disseminate information more effectively and co-develop solutions to improve regional air quality.

3. **Central Ohio Climate Action Plan (COCAP) Update of USEPA Climate Pollution Reduction Program --** *Roberto Burga, Sustainable Columbus, Brian Filiatraut & Karina Peggau*
   - Progress Overview: Staff provided a detailed overview of the progress made in the development of the COCAP. They highlighted significant milestones achieved, including the completion of the preliminary regional greenhouse gas inventory and the establishment of a comprehensive engagement strategy with local stakeholders.
   - Alignment with USEPA Goals: The team discussed how COCAP's objectives are aligned with the USEPA Climate Pollution Reduction Program goals. This alignment is crucial for securing federal support and ensuring that the regional efforts contribute to national climate objectives.
   - Strategic Initiatives: Outlined the strategic initiatives that have been launched as part of COCAP, focusing on reducing greenhouse gas emissions in key sectors such as transportation, residential, commercial, and industrial. Each initiative is designed to
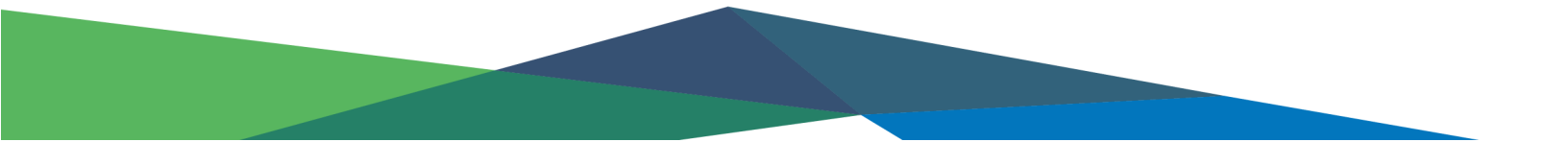
contribute towards the ambitious targets of reducing regional emissions by 50% by 2030 and achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

- Stakeholder Engagement: Emphasized the importance of stakeholder engagement in the plan's development and implementation. The presentation covered the various forums, workshops, and public consultations that have been conducted to gather input and build consensus around the plan's goals and strategies.
- Challenges and Solutions: Addressed the challenges encountered in the process, such as integrating diverse community needs and balancing economic growth with environmental sustainability. The team shared insights into the adaptive strategies used to overcome these challenges, including leveraging technology and innovation, enhancing intergovernmental cooperation, and increasing public-private partnerships.
- Future Steps: Laid out the next steps for COCAP, which include finalizing the detailed action plans for each targeted sector, continuing to refine the greenhouse gas inventory with more granular data, and increasing the scope of public engagement to include more diverse community segments. Additionally, plans for upcoming reporting to the USEPA and other stakeholders were discussed to ensure transparency and accountability.

4. **Post-Election Discussion, Other Business, & Announcements, Matt Stephens-Rich, Chair**

5. **Adjourn**

Please notify Brian Filiatraut at (614) 233-4137 or bfiliatraut@morpc.org to confirm your attendance.
The next Energy and Air Quality Working Group meeting is:
TBD in February

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Remote Meeting
Energy & Air Quality Working Group Meeting
November 20, 2024

Members Present
- Vice-Chair Dale Arnold, Ohio Farm Bureau Federation
- Brian Billing, AEP Ohio
- Kristeena Blaser, Columbus Zoo & Aquarium
- Christine Boucher, Columbus Chamber of Commerce
- Roberto Burga, Sustainable Columbus
- Vincent Carpico Fairfield County
- Eric Cellar, South Central Power
- Clinton Davis, Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Agency
- Elizabeth Ellman, City of Bexley
- Irina Filippova, Electrada
- Andrea Flory, ODRC
- Ryan Foshee, Clintonville Green Team
- Michael Goldman, Ohio Energy Project
- Randall Hunt, Lancaster Fairfield Community Action
- Rebecca Karason, Energy.AI
- Paul Kennedy, John Glenn Columbus International Airport
- Jon Kochis, Fairfield County
- Beth Mallett, Energi.AI
- Jennie McAdams, Franklin County Public Health
- Chelsea Nichols City of New Albany
- Logan O'Neill, Chambers for Innovation & Clean Energy
- Dennis Payne, Madison County
- Brandon Standley, Jerome Township (Union County)
- Chair Matt Stephens-Rich, Electrification Coalition
- Jennifer Tisone, Power Connect
- Ben Vollrath, Logan County Chamber of Commerce
- Neil Wittberg, GoSustainable Energy
- Mark Zappe, AEP Ohio

Staff Present
- JR Diaz-Hernandez
- Brian Filiatraut
- Lynn Kaufman
- Jessica Kuenzli
- Karina Peggau
- Brandi Whetstone

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2. **MORPC Updates,** *MORPC Staff* **| 1:10 PM**
   a. **Legislative Update,** *Brian Filiatraut*
   b. **Sustainability,** *Karina Peggau*
   c. **Energy Programs,** *Brian Filiatraut*
   d. **Air Quality Programs,** *JR Diaz-Hernandez*

3. **Central Ohio Climate Action Plan (COCAP) Update of USEPA Climate Pollution Reduction Program,** *Roberto Burga, Sustainable Columbus, & Brian Filiatraut & Karina Peggau, MORPC* **| 1:40 PM**

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REMEMBERING MAYOR TOM JOHNSON

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MORPC STAFF UPDATES

Legislation & Policy
Brian Filiatraut

Sustainability Program
Karina Peggau

Energy Program
Brian Filiatraut

Air Quality Program
Mauro "JR" Diaz-Hernandez

KYLE PROBERT
Public Policy Coordinator
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

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REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY AGENDA UPDATE

November 20, 2024

Brandi Whetstone, Director of Sustainability

MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY AGENDA (RSA)

- The guiding document for MORPC's sustainability-focused programming and committees, and framework for members and regional partners to align around common goals.

- Contains goals, measurable objectives, and strategies that make Central Ohio a better place for its residents.

- Updated every 4 years. The time horizon for the next agenda is 2025-2028.

CONSIDERATIONS

MORPC

Considerations for shaping the RSA

Consider existing goals, plans, or surveys such as MTP, Regional Trail Vision, Central Ohio Climate Action Plan, Leaders Listen Surveys.

Inclusive of broader 15-county region to promote participation from local governments of all sizes and capabilities.

Consider other frameworks that set the standard for sustainability.

DRAFT GOALS & OBJECTIVES UNDER REVIEW

MORPC

Aspirations that unify the objectives

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

Objectives

1.1 Reduce per capita vehicle miles traveled.

1.2 Increase alternative fuel vehicles and infrastructure.

1.3 Reduce energy consumption across all sectors.

1.4 Increase local clean energy generating capacity.

1.5 Reduce regional greenhouse gas pollution.

1.6 Increase the number of days that meet federal standards for ozone and fine particulate matter pollution.

Specific
Measurable
Attainable
Relevant
Time Bound

MORPC

	Objectives
Goal 2: Protect and restore natural resources to support a healthy and resilient region.	**2.1** Reduce the amount of solid waste disposed of in the landfill.
	2.2 Reduce water consumption across all sectors.
	2.3 Improve water quality in Central Ohio watersheds.
	2.4 Increase land area designated for conservation of biodiversity and natural resources.
	2.5 Support agricultural best management practices that enhance production and environmental quality.

DRAFT GOALS & OBJECTIVES UNDER REVIEW

MORPC

	Objectives
Goal 3: Improve quality of life for all residents by advancing healthy, connected, and equitable communities.	**3.1** Improve transportation and mobility safety for all residents.
	3.2 Increase and enhance transportation options for all users.
	3.3 Increase access to parks, greenspace, and regional trails.
	3.4 Reduce household energy cost burden.
	3.5 Reduce the rate of elevated blood lead levels among children.
	3.6 Increase access to and knowledge about local foods and agricultural products.

DRAFT GOALS & OBJECTIVES UNDER REVIEW

MORPC

	Objectives
Goal 4: Advance sustainable, attainable, and equitable economic growth and development.	**4.1** Increase support for businesses to develop and execute sustainability policies and practices.
	4.2 Prioritize development in locations along existing infrastructure.
	4.3 Increase availability of attainable housing options near transit or job centers.
	4.4 Increase employment and availability in green jobs.
	4.5 Protect agricultural lands and support best management practices. AND/OR Enhance and expand the local food and agricultural economy.

DRAFT GOALS & OBJECTIVES UNDER REVIEW

MORPC

	Objectives
NEW! **Goal 5: Create communities that are aware, prepared, and resilient to climate impacts.**	**5.1** Increase preparedness for extreme weather events.
	5.2 Increase community resilience to flooding, severe weather, and extreme temperatures.
	5.3 Create more resilient infrastructure and built environments.

RSA PROPOSED TIMELINE AND ACTIVITIES

- **November**: Sub-committee meeting 3 – Review/finalize feedback on Goals and Objectives and begin review of strategies.

- **December**: Report to Commission (Dec. 12) and report to SAC (Dec. 18)

- **January 2025:** Subcommittee meeting 4, survey members and stakeholders (stay tuned)

- **February 2025**: Subcommittee meeting 5 – review comments and make revisions

- **March 2025**: SAC review and make recommendation to Commission

- **April 2025:** MORPC Commission Adoption

Thank you!

Brandi Whetstone, LEED Green Associate
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Karina Peggau
Sr. Planner
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
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MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

ENERGY PROGRAM UPDATE

Brian Filiatraut
Energy and Sustainability Program Manager

MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

Joint Office of Energy and Transportation

MORPC

Aug. 27, 2024

Over Half a Billion in New Funding is Being Plugged into Every Corner of America for EV Charging

Today, the Biden-Harris Administration announced $521 million in Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Grant Program awards to continue the build out of electric vehicle (EV) charging and alternative-fueling infrastructure in communities across the country, along designated highways, interstates, and major roadways.

The CFI grants, made possible by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, will fund EV charging and alternative-fueling infrastructure in 29 states, eight Federally Recognized Tribes, and the District of Columbia.

MORPC & Central Ohio Awarded!

BRIAN FILIATRAUT

Senior Energy and Sustainability Program Manager
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

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Columbus, OH 43215

Air Quality Program Updates

EAQWG Quarterly Meeting
November 20, 2024

MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

CLEAN PROJECT UPDATES
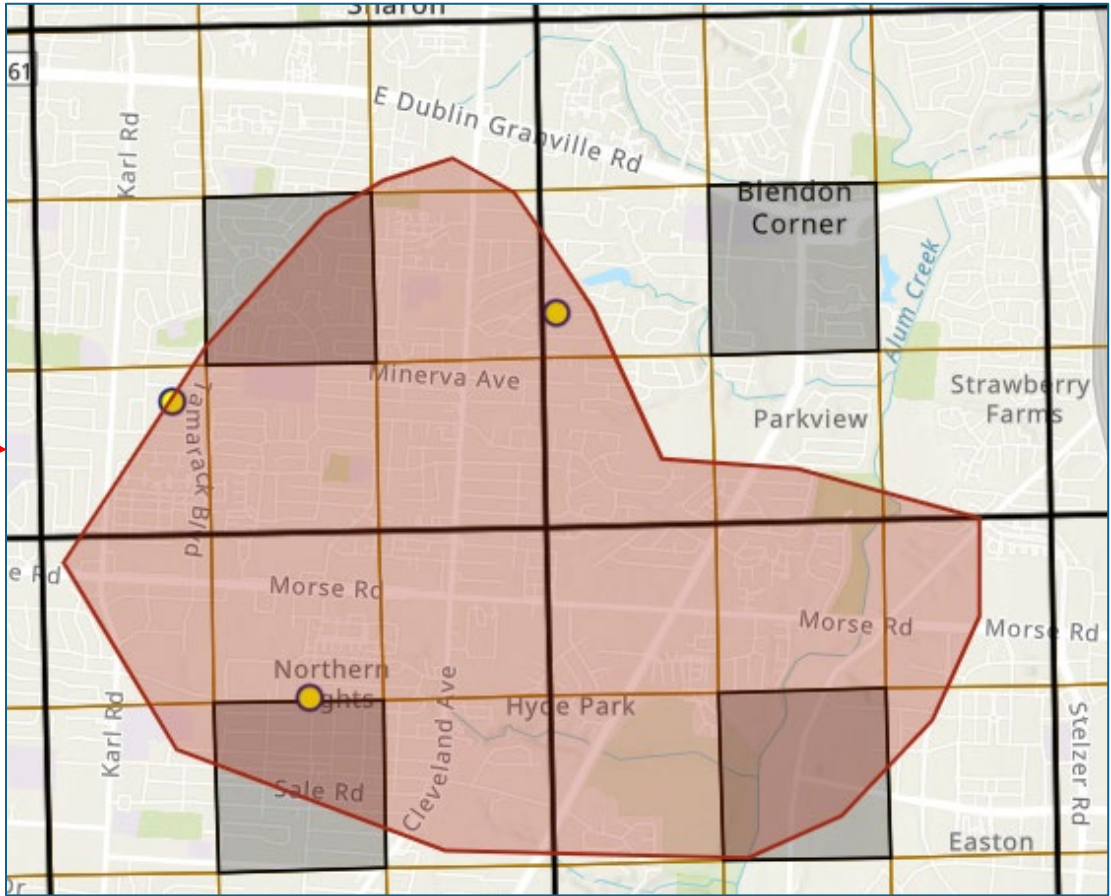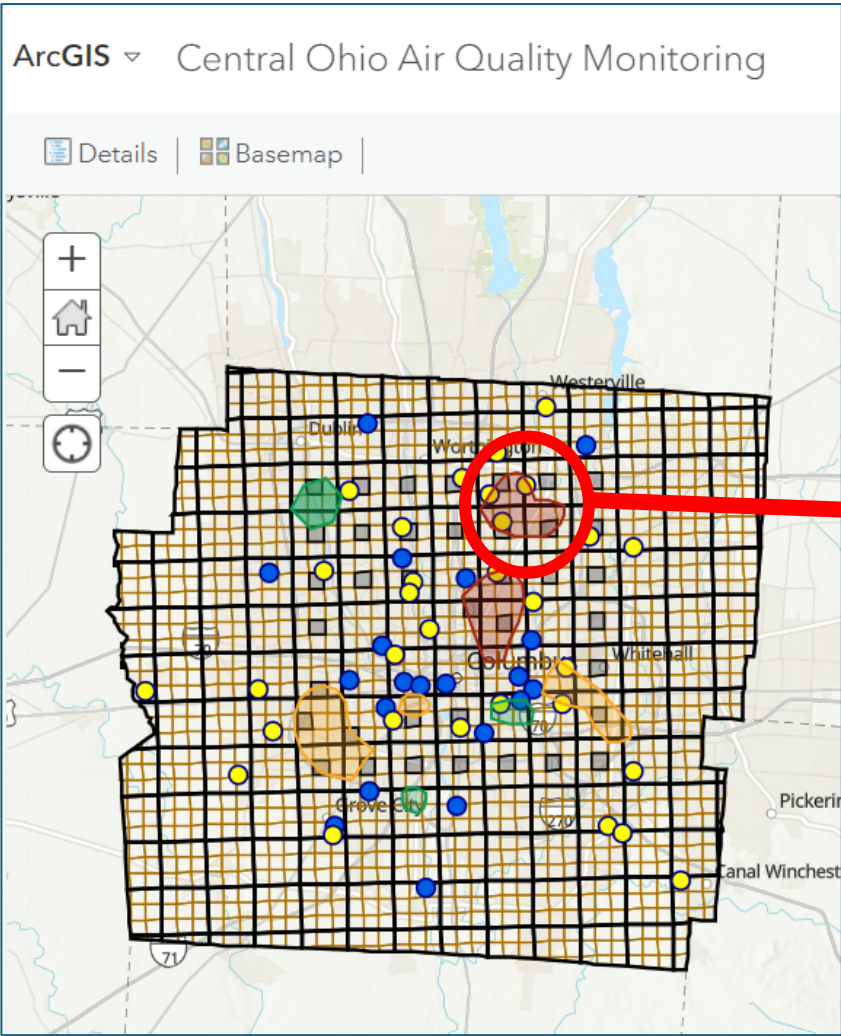## (Community Led Enhanced Air Quality Network)

SENSOR UPDATES

- Sensors are being deployed
  - 10 installed within last 2 weeks; 25 to be installed by end of December
    - 40 total sensors but reserving 5 for backups
  - Timeline pushed back to accommodate site selection
  - Priority areas identified and best fit model being utilized
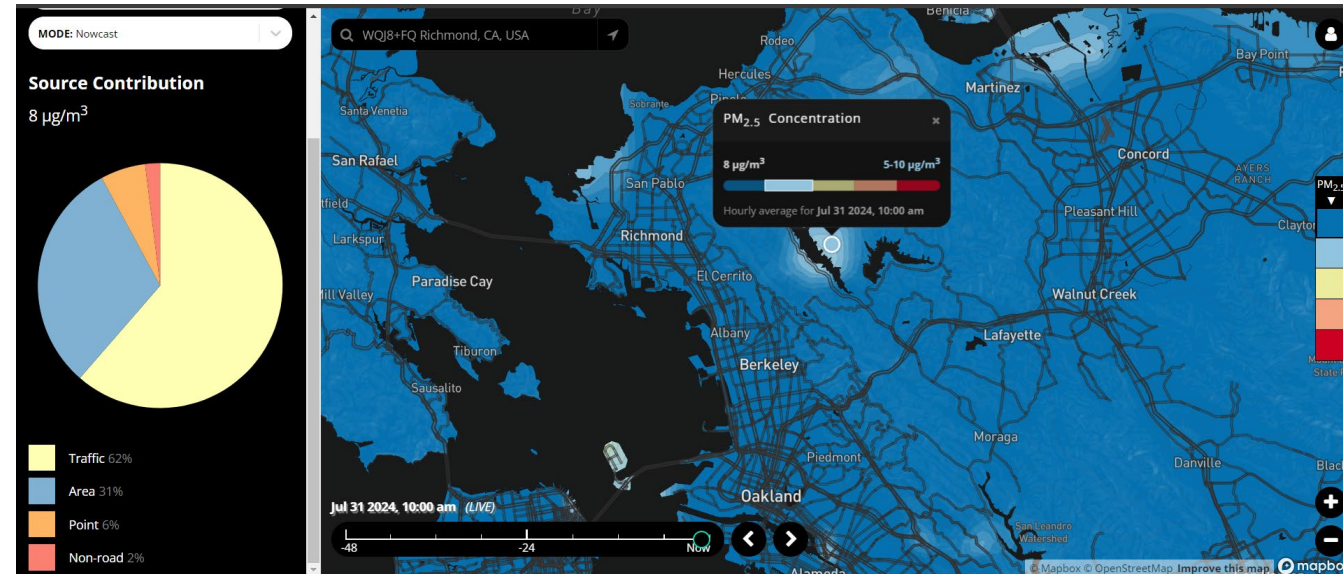
SENSOR UPDATES

RAMBOLL MODELING

- Ramboll Americas Engineering Solutions, Inc. ("Ramboll")
- Shair model will incorporate data from our sensors to create a better picture of pollution sources in neighborhoods
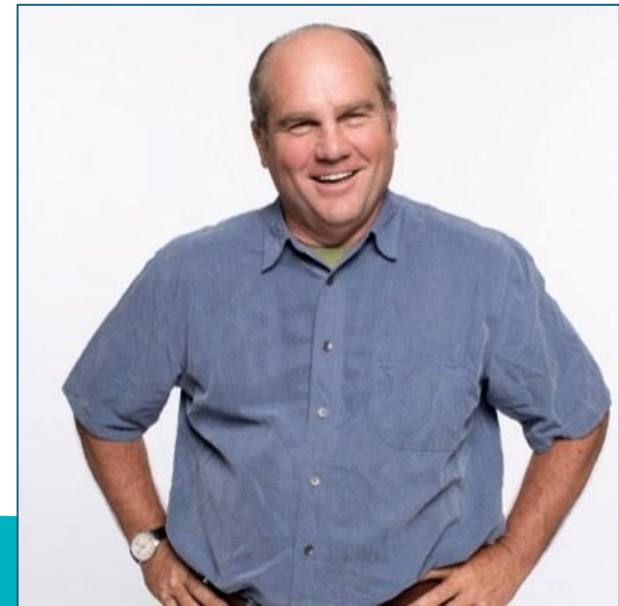- [Example of Shair dashboard in CA](#)

NEXT STEPS

- Community outreach events (libraries, community centers, neighborhood association meetings...)
- Creation of digital displays at public locations
- Ongoing maintenance

AS WE ENTER THE COLDER MONTHS…

- AQ issues can still happen
  - Colder weather can trap pollutants closer to the ground
  - Sign up for AQ alerts

- Heating systems, wood burning stoves can release lots of particulate matter
  - If using a wood burning stove: make sure firewood is seasoned
  - Change furnace filters regularly!

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Priority Central Ohio Climate Action Plan

COLUMBUS MSA

Priority Climate Action Plan

MARCH 1, 2024

Prepared by:

SUSTAINABLE COLUMBUS
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

Power A Clean
Future Ohio
LOCAL COMMUNITIES LEADING THE WAY

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

IMPACT
Community Action
Serving Columbus and Franklin County

- 2030: 50% Reduction
- 2050: Net-zero
- Community Benefits
- 2025 City of Columbus CAP Update
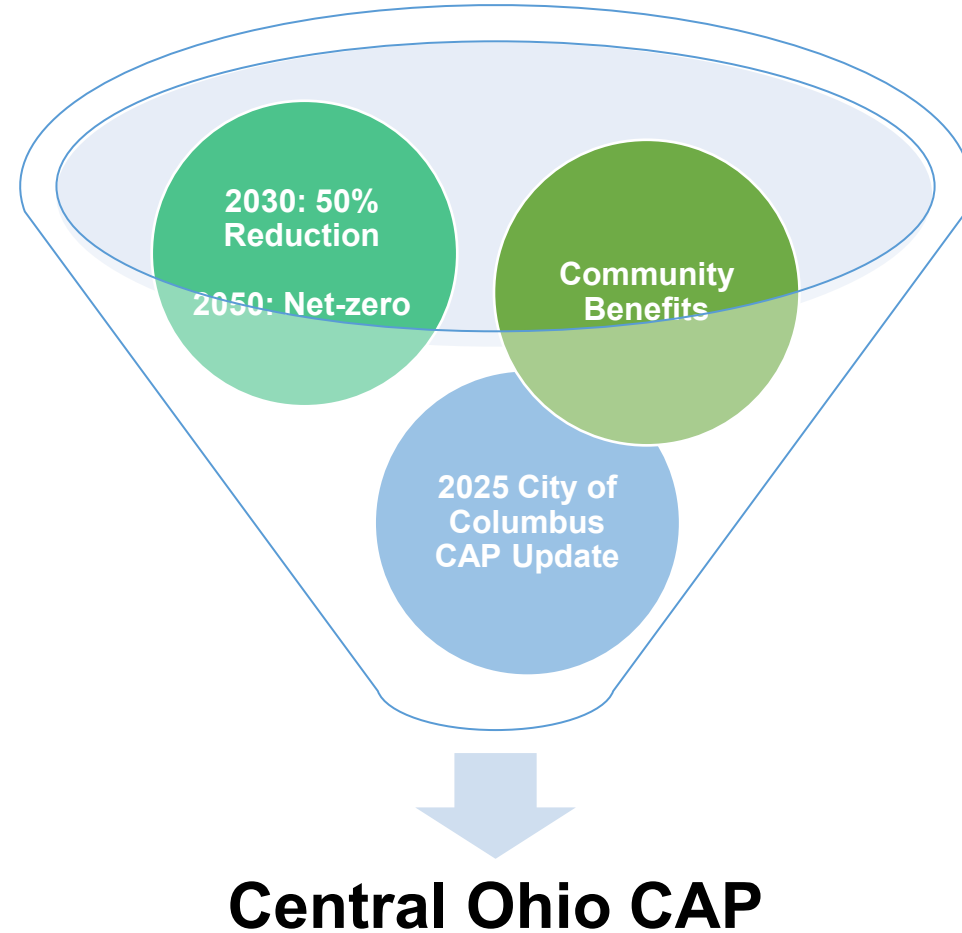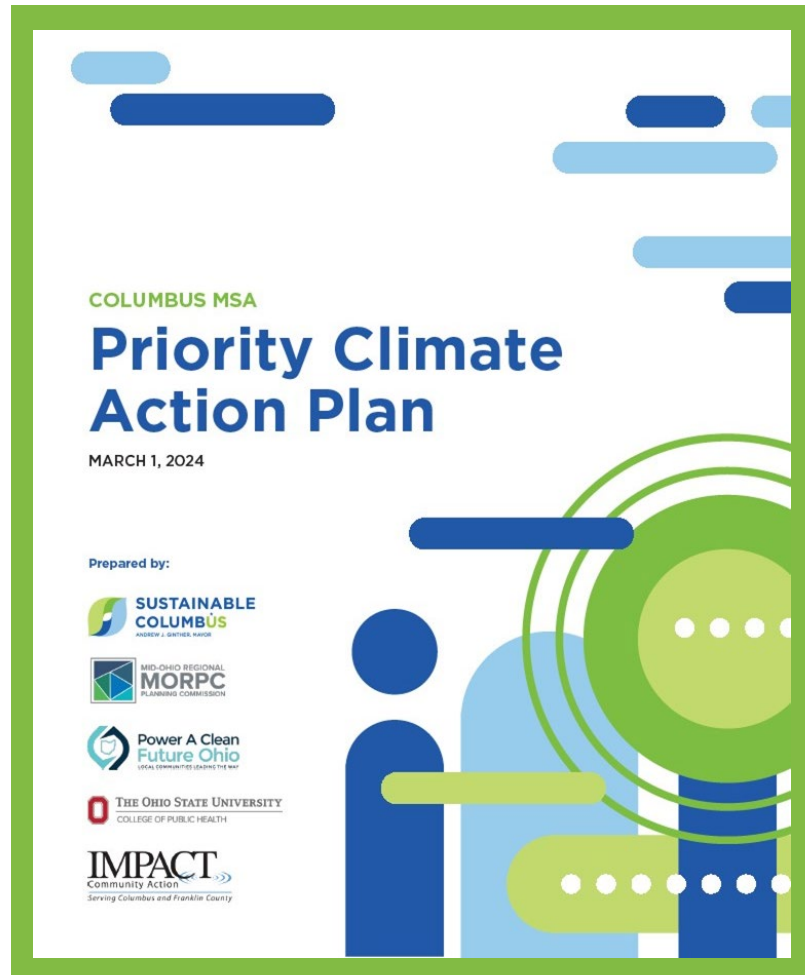
Central Ohio CAP

Priority Central Ohio Climate Action Plan

Sector	Goal	Actions
Electric Power	Increase energy efficiency in businesses and homes	• *Regional Community Energy Strategy* (ReCES) • *Solar in residential sector* • *Community solar*
Transportation	Increase (and electrify) regional transit options	• *LinkUS West Broad Corridor* • *MORPC Metropolitan Transportation Plan* • *Central Ohio vanpools*
Commercial & Residential Buildings	Increase energy efficiency in businesses and homes	• Commercial *Building Performance Standards* • *Home weatherization* and *energy efficiency programs*
Industrial	Increase water and wastewater treatment efficiency	• Reduce *municipal water usage* • *Waste-to-energy projects* at wastewater treatment facilities
Agriculture, Forestry, & Land Use	Preserve existing greenspace and tree canopy coverage	• Regional tree canopy and greenspace *inventory*, and *expand tree canopy* coverage • Identify and *conserve 1,000 acres of greenspace*
Waste & Materials Management	Reduce landfilled organic waste	• *Curbside composting* pilot program • *Regional composting* facility • *Food scrap drop-off* sites

Engagement Strategy

Major Goals:
- Identify Community Needs
- Create Education, Awareness, Opportunities, and Feedback
- Continuous Input
- Conclusions Based on Data
- Inclusivity and Meaningful Engagement
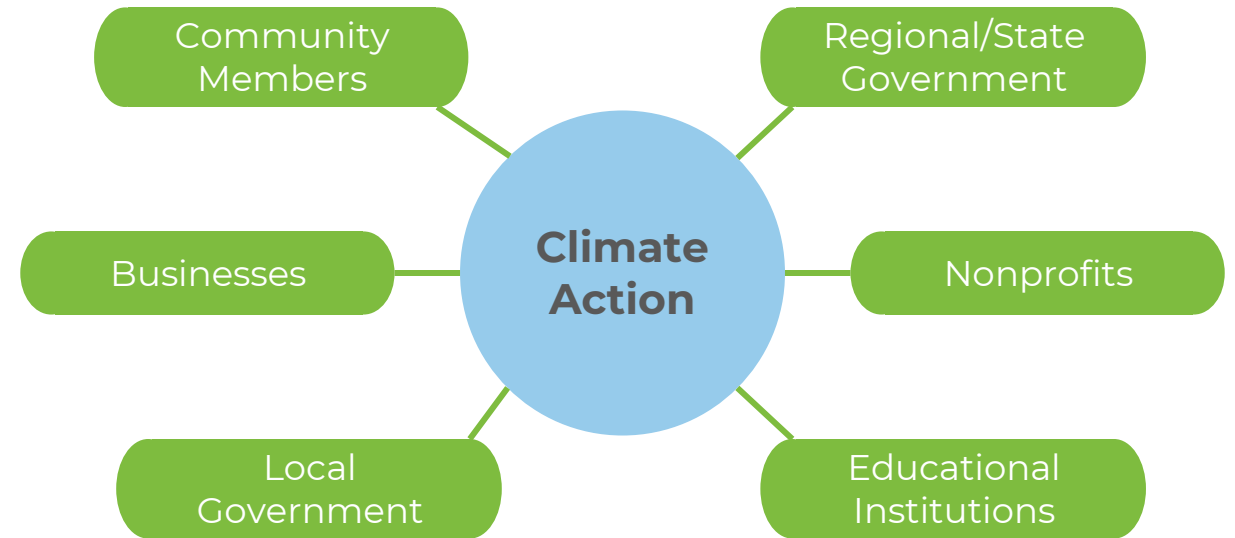
Reducing GHG Emissions...more than a math problem

GHG Reduction Potential Calculations

+

Nuanced insight about opportunities and barriers from stakeholders

=

Implementable and successful emissions reduction strategies

COCAP Technical Working Groups

COCAP Technical Working Groups:

- 4 sessions of interactive discussions including sector specific technical experts

- Open discussions and activities to refine GHG reduction measures

COCAP Technical Working Groups

Key Points and Takeaways

Large Businesses and Employers	Transportation	Energy and Water Systems	Agriculture, Forestry, Land Use

Large Businesses and Employers
- Improving building efficiency
- Adopting new tech to reduce emissions
- Barriers to improving building efficiency: cost, age of building, lease vs own

Transportation
- Expansion of mass transit options
- Expand public EV charging through ordinances
- More frequent/ extensive bus service
- Improve/expand pedestrian infrastructure

Energy and Water Systems
- Increase energy efficiency
- Utility run EE programs
- Incentives for efficient buildings
- Low cost retrofits
- Netzero BPS for new buildings

Agriculture, Forestry, Land Use
- Protect existing tree canopy through ordinances
- Conserve land by utilizing native species

Energy and Water Systems Questions

- How can participation in 100% renewable energy aggregation programs be increased?

- What will be the most effective ways to address energy efficiency in existing buildings?

- How should net zero building practices be increased for new construction?

- What are examples of incentivizing solar energy installations you think could work well in Central Ohio?

- Please share any waste-to-energy projects or programs underway in Central Ohio

Summit on Sustainability

Planning for Regional Climate Action
- COCAP Overview
- Engagement
- LIDAC
- Interactive GHG Reduction
  Measures Activity

PRELIMINARY COCAP R-GHGI
Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program | US EPA

- More in-depth, comprehensive inventory
- PCAP R-GHGI Scope
  - Only 4: Transportation, Residential, Commercial, & Industrial
- COCAP R-GHGI Scope
  - 10 Sectors
    - Transportation, Residential, Commercial, & Industrial
    - *Water & Wastewater, *Electrical Line Loss
    - #Natural Gas Process & Fugitive Emissions,
    - Solid Waste, Hydrofluorcarbon & Refrigerants, & Agriculture
  - Working Lands: trees, and related landscape changes due to development

* = previously baked into PCAP Residential, Commercial, & Industrial sectors
# = partially baked into PCAP Residential, Commercial, & Industrial sectors
= completely new

PRELIMINARY COCAP R-GHGI
By Sector

NG Process & Fugitive Emissions
0.5%

Hydrofluorocarbon & Refrigerants
3.1%

Agriculture
2.6%

Electrical Line Loss
1.7%

Solid Waste
1.8%

Water & Wastewater
0.5%

Residential Energy
27.1%

Transportation & Mobile
34.8%

Commercial Energy
16.3%

Industrial Energy
11.5%
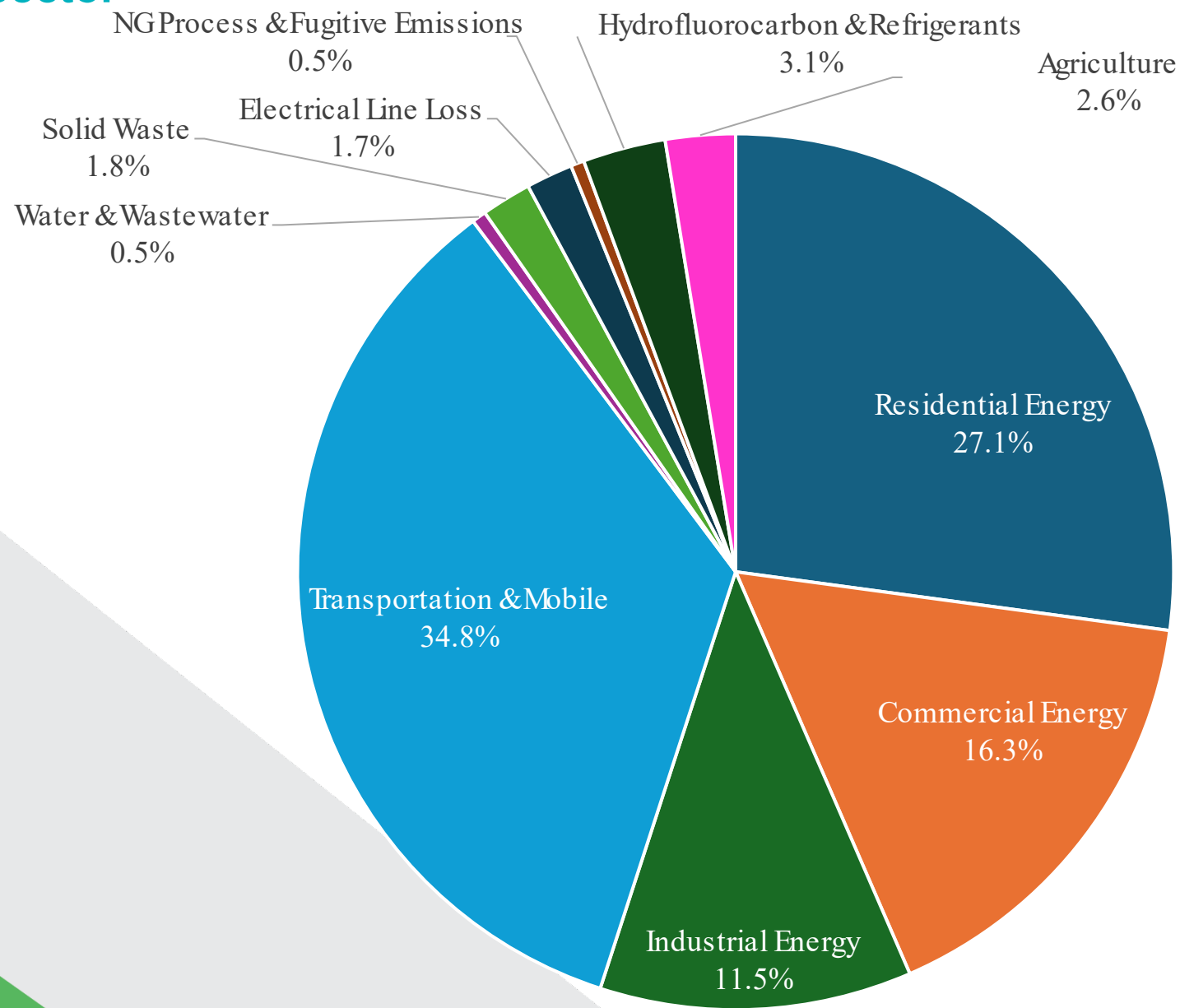
10-County MSA Total GHGe
By Sector

37,906,450 MTCO2e

PRELIMINARY COCAP R-GHGI
By County

10-County MSA Total GHGe
by County

37,906,450 MTCO2e

Pie chart: 10-County MSA Total GHGe by County
- Delaware 8.8%
- Fairfield 6.0%
- Franklin 56.8%
- Hocking 1.4%
- Licking 11.0%
- Madison 4.1%
- Morrow 2.5%
- Perry 1.4%
- Pickaway 3.7%
- Union 4.3%
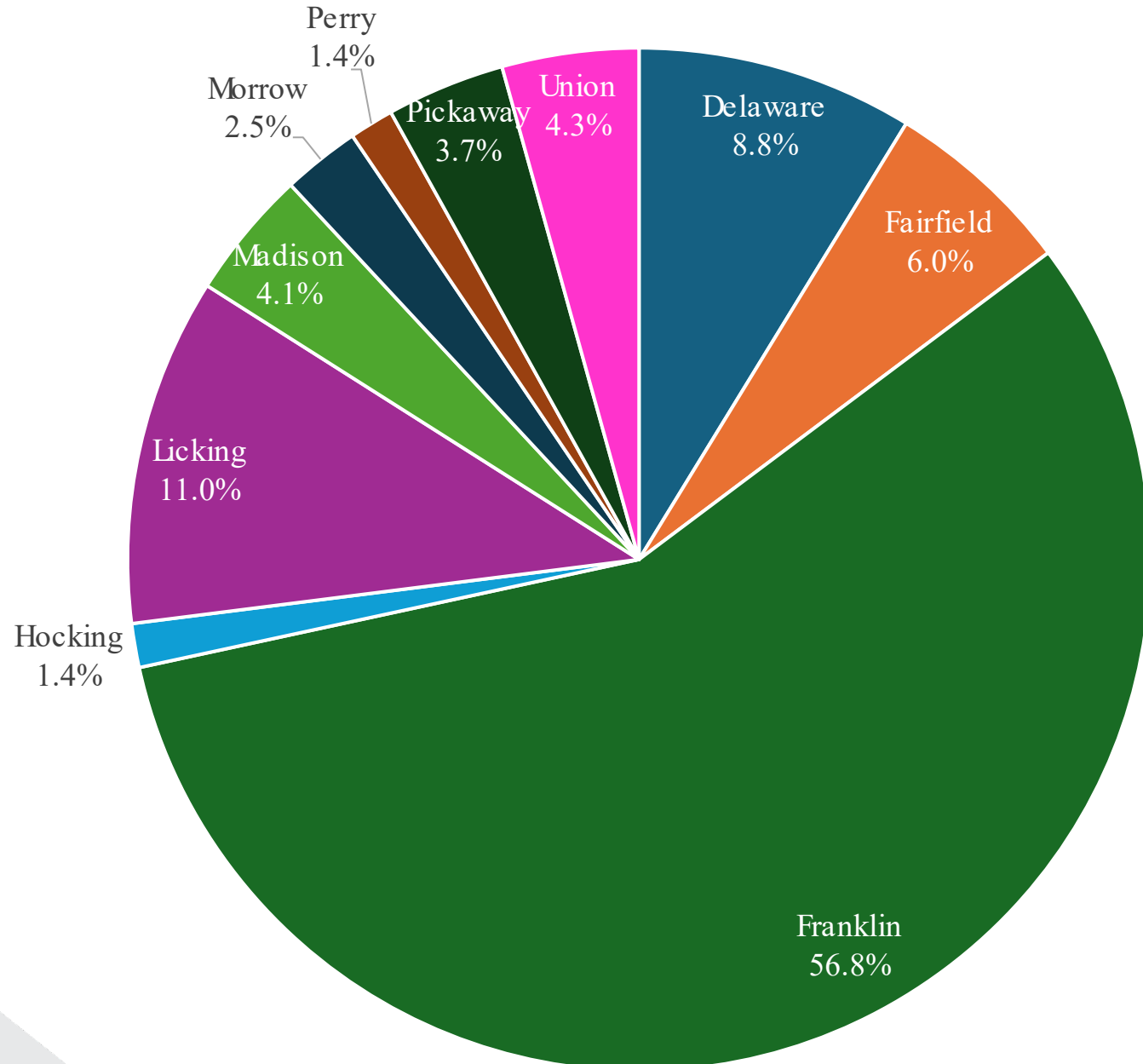
PRELIMINARY COCAP R-GHGI
By County by Sector

10-County MSA County Total Emissions
(MTCO2e)

Union — 4.3%
Pickaway — 3.7%
Perry — 1.4%
Morrow — 2.5%
Madison — 4.1%
Licking — 11.0%
Hocking — 1.4%
Franklin — 56.8%
Fairfield — 6.0%
Delaware — 8.8%

Legend:
- Residential Energy
- Commercial Energy
- Industrial Energy
- Transportation & Mobile
- Water & Wastewater
- Solid Waste
- Electrical Line Loss
- NG Process & Fugitive Emissions
- Hydrofluorocarbon & Refrigerants
- Agriculture

X-axis: 0 — 5,000,000 — 10,000,000 — 15,000,000 — 20,000,000 — 25,000,000

Comprehensive Central Ohio Climate Action Plan

- **Due Date:** December 1, 2025
- **Objective:** Expand upon the P-COCAP to develop a fully comprehensive regional plan for addressing climate change, featuring ambitious, actionable strategies that reflect community priorities and input.

- **Key Goals:**
  - **2030:** 50% GHG Reduction
  - **2050:** Net-zero
  - Promote community benefits
  - Support the City of Columbus CAP update in 2025

- **What's New:**
  - Workforce Development Analysis, Full Benefits and Costs Analysis
  - ~20 new strategies across six key sectors
  - Additional resident and stakeholder input

March 1, 2024 — Submit PCAP

Summer - Fall 2024 — Engage Public and Develop COCAP GHG Reduction Measures

February 2025 — Complete Remaining Deliverables

Spring 2025 — Share Preliminary COCAP for Public Input

Summer 2025 — Incorporate Community Feedback

Summer 2025 — Finalize COCAP alongside 2025 City of Columbus CAP Update
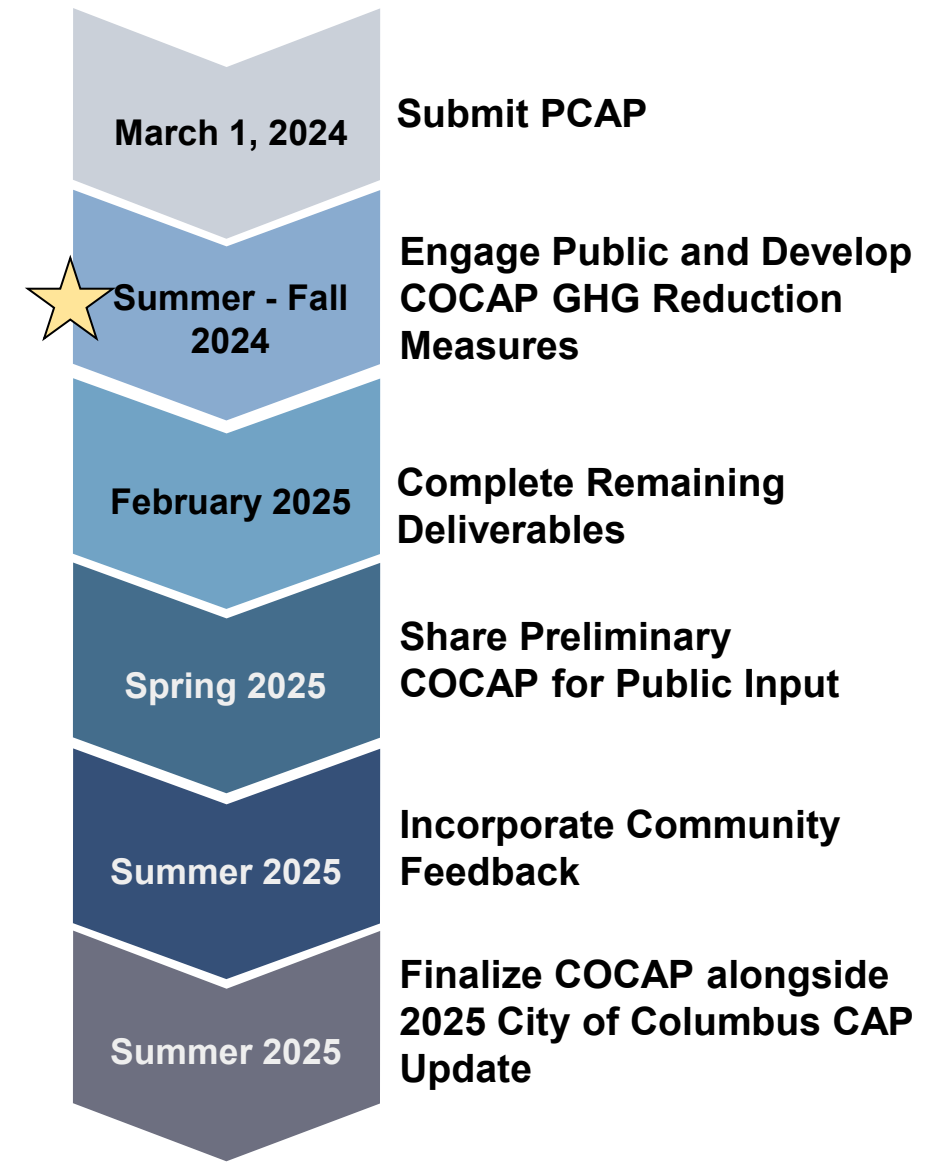
Next Steps

- **Finalize GHG Reduction Measures**
  - Follow up with a team member with any input
- **Develop remaining deliverables**
- **Open COCAP to public for comments**
  - Public meetings, virtual opportunities, stakeholder specific

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MORPC

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Next EAQWG Meeting:

February 2025, TBD

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