



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

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NOTICE OF A MEETING
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
111 Liberty St., #100
Columbus, OH 43215
September 20, 2023, 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm

AGENDA

- 2:30 – 2:40 pm** **Welcome and Introductions – Ben Kessler, Chair**
- 2:40 – 2:55 pm** **MORPC Updates**
- **Executive Director's Report** – William Murdock, MORPC
 - **Summit on Sustainability** – Kerstin Carr, MORPC
 - **Leaders Listen Sustainability Survey** – Dave Dixon, MORPC
 - **Policy Updates** – Joe Garrity, MORPC
- 2:55 – 3:15 pm** **Climate Pollution Reduction Grant – Brian Filiatraut, MORPC and Alana Shockey, City of Columbus**
- 3:15 – 3:35 pm** **Sustainable2050 Tier Status Certification for City of Columbus – Kerstin Carr, MORPC**
- 3:35 – 3:50 pm** **Working Group & Board Updates – Ben Kessler, Chair**
- **Energy & Air Quality Working Group:** Matt Stephens-Rich
 - **Central Ohio Greenways Board:** Mike Andrako
 - **Sustaining Scioto Board:** Glenn Marzluf
 - **Sustainable2050:** Laurie Jadwin
- 3:50 – 4:00 pm** **New Business and Member Updates – Ben Kessler, Chair**
- 4:00 pm** **Adjourn – Ben Kessler, Chair**

Please notify Lynn Kaufman at 614-233-4189 or LKaufman@morpc.org to confirm your attendance at this meeting or if you require special assistance.

**The next Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting
will be on December 13, 2023, at 2:30 pm**

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Erik J. Janas
Chair

Chris Amorose Groomes
Vice Chair

Michelle Crandall
Secretary

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

In-Person Meeting

Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

September 20, 2023

Members Present

- Mike Andrako, Franklin County Engineer's Office
- Vice-Chair, Mayor Laurie Jadwin, City of Gahanna
- Chair, Mayor Ben Kessler, City of Bexley
- Linda Rosine, Grove City
- Dan Sauer, Ohio EPA
- Alana Shockey, City of Columbus
- Mayor Matt Starr, City of Mt Vernon

MORPC Staff Present

- Todd Bradley
- Kerstin Carr
- Brian Filiatraut
- Joe Garrity
- Lynn Kaufman
- William Murdock
- Jennifer Noll
- Edwina Teye
- Brandi Whetstone

Public Present

- Elizabeth Ellman, City of Bexley

Called to Order at 2:30 pm.

Welcome and Introductions

MORPC Updates

Executive Director's Report

William Murdock provided updates on passenger rail applications submitted for Chicago-Columbus-Pittsburgh and Cleveland-Columbus-Dayton-Cincinnati corridors. He also highlighted the recent designation of 11 Central Ohio counties as a Central Ohio Economic Development District, improving access to federal grants.

Summit on Sustainability

Kerstin Carr reported that the Summit on Sustainability is scheduled for October 26 with over 400 registered attendees. Featured speakers include Bernita Reese (Columbus Recreation & Parks), ODNR Director Mary Mertz, and Mitchell Silver (former NYC Parks Commissioner). Attendees were encouraged to register or promote attendance via social media and community channels.

Leaders Listen Sustainability Survey

MORPC recently launched a regional sustainability survey with a goal of 1,000 responses to gain geographic and demographic representation. Responses will be used to inform the Summit and broader sustainability planning. The survey remains open beyond the Summit deadline to maximize participation.

Policy Updates

Joe Garrity reported that the State operating budget includes a new \$100M/year Low Income Housing Tax Credit and raised the competitive bidding threshold from \$50K to \$75K. \$100M was recently appropriated for Wayside Detector Grants and \$270M for the H2Ohio water initiative. Federal updates included the threat of a government shutdown and an upcoming Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for \$100M in EV charger repair grants. Joe encouraged attendee organizations to apply for EV charging grants and highlighted regional coordination efforts.

Climate Pollution Reduction Grant

Brian Filiatraut, MORPC and Alana Shockey, City of Columbus described the two-phase EPA grant: \$250M for planning (Phase 1) and \$4.6B for implementation (Phase 2). Phase 1 includes developing a Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) by March 2024 and a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) by 2026. The City of Columbus MSA's project team includes Sustainable Columbus, MORPC, Power a Clean Future Ohio, OSU, and IMPACT Community Action. Community engagement survey received ~230 responses, mostly from older, affluent residents; further outreach is being planned to improve diversity. The CPRG subcommittee meetings are planned for November and December. A breakout session and exhibit booth related to this grant will be featured at the Summit on Sustainability.

Cash In on Clean Energy Tour

The City of Columbus will host the third event in a national Clean Energy Tour on October 10, led by RMI and supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies. The event will focus on helping local governments understand how to access federal tax credits and direct pay opportunities under the Inflation Reduction Act. Members were encouraged to promote the event to nonprofit and public sector partners.

Sustainable2050 Tier Status Certification for City of Columbus

Kerstin Carr reported that the City of Columbus has completed actions to be recertified at the Platinum + Equity Champion level. The City earned 121 points under the new framework, including 31 DEI points. Key initiatives were the Climate Action Plan, Urban Forestry Master Plan, LinkUS Transit and Bikeways Plan, and the Empower Workforce Program.

A member moved to approve the recertification; the motion was seconded. Motion carried.

Working Group & Board Updates

Energy & Air Quality Working Group

The Working Group recently reconvened after a grant-related hiatus; nominations for new leadership are underway. He encouraged the recruitment of new members. Topics discussed at the most recent Working Group meeting included wildfire-related air quality issues and updates on CFI and CPRG grants.

Central Ohio Greenways Board

Member Andrako (COG Board Chair) reported that the Board recently approved a streamlined working group structure with Trail Towns and Trail Development as ongoing groups. A Trail Alerts page was recently launched to improve communication on trail closures. The Wayfinding Strategy and Trail Town Framework (Urban Expansion) projects are progressing. A Trail Forum will be hosted in Westerville on October 12.

Sustaining Scioto Board

The Board is accelerating its regional water study timeline. Members are completing a stakeholder survey to inform the Farming for Cleaner Water project.

Sustainable2050

Vice-Chair Jadwin announced that Sustainable2050 Members will be invited to join a regional subcommittee for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant, and that promotion of Members' sustainability accomplishments via social media will be continued during "Sustainable September."

New Business and Member Updates

Adjourned at 4:00 pm.



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

Next meeting: Sept 20, 2023

The Central Ohio Greenways Board met on July 19th to approve updated Strategic Plan Action Items. The Board will meet again on September 20th to review and approve a new working group structure that will support the advancement of the updated Action Items. The proposed new structure will include two ongoing program-based working groups, time constrained project based working groups, and annual collaboration meetings.

The Outdoor Trails Pass partnership with Experience Columbus was relaunched in April. Since the relaunch we have seen a significant increase in the number of people interacting with and using the pass. Over 1000 people have checked into destinations along the COG trails since April.

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. The team has met with stakeholders and has drafted a recommended signage strategy. Over the next month they will integrate Trail Towns concepts into the wayfinding strategy.

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 interests, needs, and concerns with a Trail Town Program. The project is expected to be completed in October.

COG is hosting a Trail Forum in Westerville on October 12. The results of the Trail Towns Project, updates to the Wayfinding work, community trail spotlights, and other tourism related topics will be shared.

The Trail Development Working Group will be supporting Regional Partnership Meetings during the second half of 2023. The partnership meetings are scheduled for November 2023

COG received partial funding for a Natural Asset Mapping effort from the Columbus Foundation. When fully 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: September 27, 2023

The Energy and Air Quality Working Group met on July 25, which included updates on how the Canadian wildfires are affecting the region's air quality and the two energy-climate-related grants—the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Grant and the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant

(CPRG)—MORPC submitted earlier this summer. Additionally, Rachael Beeman of the Human Service Chamber spoke about their efforts to reduce energy use through solar and energy efficiency projects for Central Ohio nonprofits through their proposed USDOE Renew America's Nonprofits grant application. Lastly, the Working Group was reminded of the pending change in leadership with both Chair Matt Stephens-Rich and Vice-Chair Dale Arnold stepping down from their roles at the end of the year when their terms expire. If you recommend anyone as a leadership candidate, please contact Brian Filiatraut, MORPC's Energy & Sustainability Program Manager (bfiliatraut@morpc.org). The Energy and Air Quality Working Group will hold its next meeting, virtually, on Wednesday, September 27 from 1 – 2:30 PM.

The City of Columbus, in partnership with MORPC, The Ohio State University, Power a Clean Future Ohio, and IMPACT Community Action secured funding through the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. This formula-based grant will focus on developing benchmarks and metrics, a benefits analysis for low-income and disadvantaged communities, mitigation strategies, and an engagement and community outreach strategy in the ten-county Columbus Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) encompassing Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Hocking, Licking, Madison, Morrow, Perry, Pickaway, and Union Counties. This grant will better position the region for the \$4.6 billion CPRG Phase II: Implementation opportunities that should begin in early 2024. The project team distributed a survey asking residents and stakeholders in the 10-county planning area to provide their input on how to best conduct meaningful and representative engagement. This is the first of many opportunities the core project team plans to engage with the Columbus MSA region.

Air Quality: It has been an unprecedented year for wildfires in Canada, which brought hazy skies and unhealthy pollution levels across central Ohio in June and July. The team continues to respond to questions and data requests from members of the media and the public. During June and July, there were eight days with Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups or higher AQI (Air Quality Index) levels. The team is also ramping up the EPA air monitoring project working in partnership with Franklin County Public Health. The team has been developing plans, giving presentations, creating a project advisory committee, developing the Quality Assurance Project Plan, and reviewing quotes for sensor equipment.



Sustainable2050

Next meeting: September 28, 2023

The next meeting will take place on September 28 at 9:30am, which will include an informational presentation on the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant and how members can be involved in the process. From there, the team will be requesting confirmation from members to participate on a Regional CPRG Sub-committee.

The MORPC team also collected photos and brief descriptions of Sustainable2050 member accomplishments to feature on social media during "Sustainable September". The city of Columbus completed their workbook for Sustainable2050 recertification, which will be considered at the Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting on September 20.

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.



Sustaining Scioto Board (Chair: Glenn Marzluf)

Next Meeting: October 25, 2023

The Sustaining Scioto Board met on August 23, where board members heard a preliminary project overview of the Farming for Cleaner Water project in the Upper Scioto watershed. MORPC has received funding from American Farmland Trust to provide communication planning services and is working with New Reach Consulting. MORPC is asking members to complete a [survey](#) focused on gaining insights and information about their experiences as stakeholders involved in water quality activities in the Upper Scioto watershed. Input will help the team develop comprehensive messaging based on the needs and experiences of organizations and regions. Melinda Vonstein presented a new project which will inventory and map the natural assets within Franklin County's watersheds, which was partially funded by the Columbus Foundation. Finally, Brandi Whetstone presented an overview of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant and encouraged members to take a survey that will inform the engagement strategy. The Sustaining Scioto Board's next meeting is on October 25.

Agricultural and Rural Communities Outreach Team:

The working team met on July 20 and heard a presentation from Broc Sehen, District Technician – Wildlife Specialist with Madison Soil and Water Conservation District about the District's program. The working team is committed to strengthening partnerships and building relationships among the region's northern partners. The group continues to discuss ways to increase visibility of the working group and Board and support partner agencies around water quality and improvement. The working team will meet again on October 21.

SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Brandi Whetstone, Sustainability Officer
June 21, 2023



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AGENDA



MORPC

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- 3:35** **Working Group & Board Updates**
- Energy & Air Quality Working Group – *Matt Stephens-Rich*
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 - Sustainable2050 – *Laurie Jadwin*
- 3:50** **New Business & Member Updates** – Ben Kessler, Chair
- 4:00** **Adjourn** – *Ben Kessler, Chair*



COLLABORATE. INNOVATE.
INSPIRE.
summit on sustainability 2023

SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABILITY
REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!



SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABILITY

PECHA KUCHA SPEAKERS

Bernita Reese



Director
Columbus Recreation & Parks

Brandi Whetstone



Sustainability Officer
MORPC

Ivory Levert &
Angela Mitchell



Founders
Black Women in Nature

Mary Mertz



Director
ODNR



COLLABORATE. INNOVATE.
INSPIRE.
summit on sustainability 2023

LEADERS LISTEN SUSTAINABILITY SURVEY



MORPC





MORPC

POLICY UPDATES

Joe Garrity

**Senior Director of Government
Affairs & Community Relations**

Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG)

Columbus MSA



MORPC SAC Meeting
6/21/2023

Grant Overview

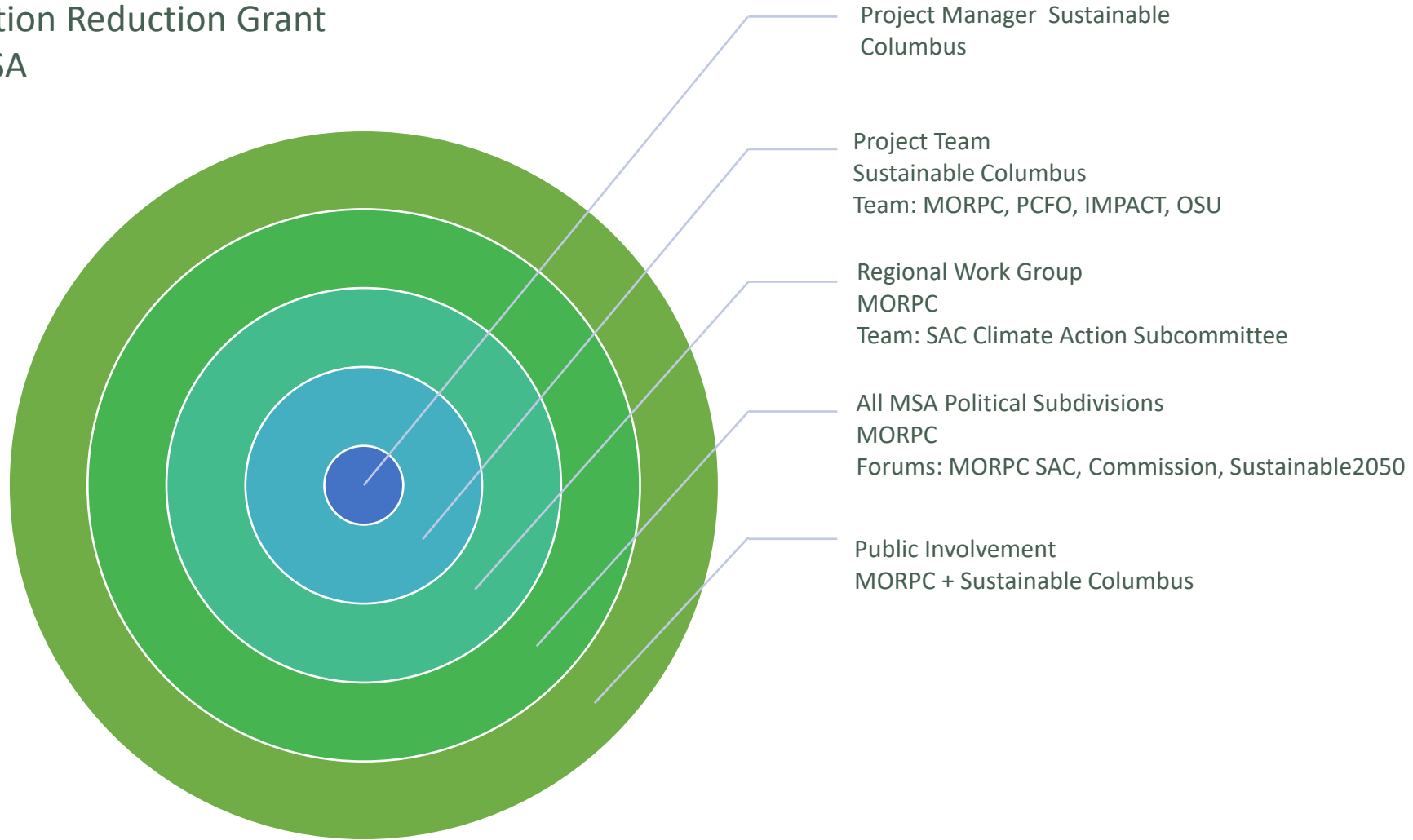
- 4-year Grant Program administered by the EPA:
 - Phase 1: Planning grants to develop strong climate pollution reduction strategies administered through non-competitive cooperative agreements (\$250 million)
 - Phase 2: Competitive implementation grants to help put plans into action (\$4.6 billion)
- 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.

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.



sustainable 2050

Central Ohio Communities
Working Toward a Better Future

Tier Status Certification
Presented to Sustainability Advisory Committee
September 20, 2023



PURPOSE

To recertify the City of Columbus



TIER STATUS DESIGNATIONS



Bronze

Silver

Gold

Platinum

Mandatory

3

3

3

3

Categories

2 of 4

2 of 4

3 of 4

4 of 4

Strategies

16 of 107

32 of 107

54 of 107

80 of 107

**Possible
Points**

22

44

73

109

(out of 145)




CITY OF NEW ALBANY

500,000
Pounds of leaves collected annually in the city that are composted and converted to topsoil


100%
of stormwater is maintained on-site at Rose Run Park phase I

2010
The year New Albany became a certified Tree City USA

ENGAGE
NEW ALBANY
You're part of the plan



2020 Strategic Plan

 **NEW ALBANY**
COMMUNITY CONNECTS US



-  **LAND USE**
-  **MOBILITY**
-  **SUSTAINABILITY**
-  **PARKS & RECREATION**
-  **COMMUNITY WELLBEING**
-  **FOCUS AREAS**



CITY OF NEW ALBANY

Objective: Increase local renewable energy generating capacity.

Eligible Activity: Solar panel project at Public Service

- 271 panels installed on public service garage.
- Removes 112 metric tons of CO₂ annually, the equivalent of planting 2,800 new trees.





CITY OF NEW ALBANY

- **Objective:** Reduce per capita energy consumption across all sectors.
- **Eligible Activity:** Prioritize energy performance and sustainability in the design and construction of existing and new builds through the Green Building Incentive Program.





CITY OF NEW ALBANY

Objective: Reduce the amount of municipal solid waste per capita disposed in the landfill.

Eligible Activity: Food waste composting program

- Over 15,000 pounds of food waste diverted from landfill so far.





CITY OF NEW ALBANY



sustainable
2050

A Silver-Rated Community
Working Toward a Better Future



NEXT STEPS

TODAY	1. Request Committee approval of members' Tier Status certification. 2. Request approval for additional point for establishing a sustainability advisory group or green team to promote engagement and collaboration.
October 13	(pending approval) Member recognized at Commission meeting
October 31	Deadline for new certification submissions
December 14	Any new Tier Status certifications will be presented to SAC



Central Ohio Communities
Working Toward a Better Future

Brandi Whetstone
Sustainability Officer
bwhetstone@morpc.org
614.233.4174

www.morpc.org/Sustainable2050



AGENDA



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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

Laurie Jadwin

Vice-Chair

Sustainability Advisory Committee

laurie.jadwin@gahanna.gov

Brandi Whetstone

Sustainability Officer

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

bwhetstone@morpc.org



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