



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

111 Liberty St., Suite 100
Columbus, Ohio 43215
www.morpc.org

**NOTICE OF A MEETING
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Jeffrey Mansion
165 N. Parkview Ave.
Bexley, OH 43209
December 18, 2024, 2:15 - 4:00 p.m.**

AGENDA

- 2:15 p.m.** **Holiday Music by the Green Elves**
- 2:30 p.m.** **Welcome and Introductions – *Ben Kessler, Chair***
- 2:40 p.m.** **MORPC Updates**
- Government Affairs & Policy Update – *Joe Garrity, MORPC*
 - Planner Pool Services – *Karina Peggau, MORPC*
 - Summit on Sustainability – *Amanda McEldowny, MORPC*
- 3:00 p.m.** **Gahanna Sustainable2050 Certification – *Brandi Whetstone, MORPC***
- 3:20 p.m.** **Board and Working Group Reports**
- Regional Sustainability Agenda Sub-Committee – *Mike Shelton/Brandi Whetstone*
 - Central Ohio Greenways Board – *Mike Andrako*
 - Sustainable2050 – *Laurie Jadwin, Vice Chair*
 - Sustaining Scioto Board – *Glenn Marzluf*
 - Energy & Air Quality Working Group – *Matt Stephens-Rich*
- 3:45 p.m.** **New Business – *Ben Kessler, Chair***
- 2025 priorities & member updates
- 4:00 p.m.** **Meeting Adjourned**

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 March 19, 2025, at 2:30 p.m.

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Chris Amorose Groomes
Chair

Michelle Crandall
Vice Chair

Ben Kessler
Secretary

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

Location: City of Bexley, Jeffrey Mansion,
365 N. Parkview Ave., Bexley, OH 43209

In-Person Meeting

Sustainability Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes

December 18, 2024, 2:30 pm

Members Present

Mike Andrako, Franklin County Engineer's
Office
Christine Houk, Grove City
Vice-Chair, Mayor Laurie Jadwin, City of
Gahanna
Carol Kauffman, The Ohio Environmental
Council
Emily Keeler, City of Grandview Heights
Chair, Mayor Ben Kessler, City of Bexley
Joe Lombardi, SWACO

Glenn Marzluf, Del-Co Water Company
Jennie McAdams, Franklin County Public
Health
Mike Shelton, OSU
Alana Shockey, City of Columbus
Megha Sinha, NBBJ
Matt Stephens-Rich, The Electrification
Coalition
Carolyn Thurman, Civic Uplift
Mayor Christie Ward, Village of Lockbourne

Public Present

Andrew Bittner, Guaranteed Community
Advisors

Elizabeth Ellman, City of Bexley
Steve Tugend, Kegler Brown, Hill & Ritter

MORPC Staff Present

J.R. Diaz-Hernandez Joe Garrity
Dave Dixon Lynn Kaufman
Brian Filiatraut Jessica Kuenzli

Amanda McEldowney Brandi Whetstone
Karina Peggau
Edwina Teye

Called to Order at 2:33 pm.

Welcome and Introductions

MORPC Updates

Planner Pool Services

Karina Peggau gave an overview of MORPC's Planner Pool Program (<https://www.morpc.org/planner-pool-program/>). She asked Members if they have Sustainability needs that can be addressed by this program, and what services the Members would like to see the Planner Pool Program provide. Projects in process or recently completed are a car/parking permit survey for the City of Grandview Heights, a visioning project for the City of Newark, and traffic studies for several MORPC Member communities.

Summit on Sustainability

Amanda McEldowney announced that the Summit on Sustainability will be on September 30, 2025. She asked for feedback from Members on the sessions of the 2024 Summit. Chair Kessler asked Members to forward topics and ideas to MORPC staff.

Gahanna Sustainable2050 Certification

The City of Gahanna was previously a Silver-certified community and worked with the MORPC team to meet the requirements for the Sustainable2050 Gold certification. The presentation included a few highlights from each of the Regional Sustainability Agenda's goals:

Goal 1: Improve Air Quality and Reduce Climate Change Impacts to Protect Public Health and the Environment

- In 2024, the City of Gahanna joined Power Clean Future Ohio (PCFO) to help the community build a clean future and provide the city with tools and resources to create carbon reduction plans and implement them in a way that is achievable, measurable, equitable and economical. PCFO helped the City of Gahanna conduct their Greenhouse Gas Reduction study in 2024.
- The City of Gahanna joined SOPEC, helping the City create its Community Choice Aggregation Program offering 100% renewable energy for City residents. The City also held a public meeting regarding the Community Choice Aggregation Program where residents had the opportunity to speak with City staff on this issue.
- The City contracted with Donovan Energy to perform site evaluations at all current electric vehicle charging stations to identify applicable improvements the City should make to their current infrastructure.
- The City purchased their first Electric Vehicle, a 2023 Nissan Leaf, which will be used by fleet technicians to drive to and from sites to make repairs on other vehicles, transport drivers, and perform other maintenance as needed.

Goal 2: Protect and Preserve Natural Resources to Support a Healthy and Resilient Region

- The City of Gahanna participated in Goats on the Go, an event held for targeted grazing of poison ivy, honeysuckle, multiflora rose, grapevine and other problem vegetation. The purpose of this event was to explore alternative mitigation methods to the use of herbicides for invasive species control.
- The City of Gahanna and SWACO teamed up with The Recycling Partnership to improve the curbside recycling program and bring recycling education to Gahanna. The program intends to increase the amount of quality recyclables – items that are accepted for recycling that are empty and dry, so they can circulate back into the recycling system to become new products or packaging.

Goal 3: Improve Quality of Life for All Residents by Creating Sustainable and Equitable Communities

- In 2023, the City adopted its first-ever Capital Improvement Plan and Parks Master Plan. Both plans discuss future projects for park and trail construction, sidewalk improvements, and other sustainability initiatives. The Parks Master Plan includes plans to complete the Big Walnut Trail within the next two years, as well as the creation of the Link to Literacy trail connecting with the new library. As a part of the City's Capital Improvement Plan, a citywide sidewalk program aims to close gaps in sidewalks and to prolong the life of current infrastructure through maintenance and upkeep.
- In 2023, the City of Gahanna Department of Parks and Recreation was awarded a grant for assistance to develop an Active Transportation Plan. The City expects to adopt the Plan by Q1 of 2025. The purpose of the Active Transportation Plan Assistance Grant was to support local governments with the development of a standalone active transportation plan that impacts Ohio's Active Transportation goals: Safety, Equity, Network Utilization, Livability, and Preservation.

Goal 4: Promote Robust, Inclusive and Sustainable Growth and Development

- The City's new Municipal Complex is being reimaged from an existing building that was previously an office building. In 2024, the City received funding from the US Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant to upgrade and/or deploy clean energy technologies within the new Municipal Complex construction.

- The City of Gahanna has been working to improve the sewer systems on the west side of the City, which is a historically disadvantaged community. This initiative aligns with Sustainable2050's goal of prioritizing infrastructure investments in underserved communities with the greatest need. The City's Capital Improvement Plan includes an analysis of the continued work of the West Gahanna Sanitary Sewer System efforts.

Member Keeler moved to approve the City of Gahanna's proposed tier status certification at Gold (Plus Equity Champion) Level. Motion seconded by Member Lombardi, motion carried with Vice-Chair Jadwin abstaining.

Board and Working Group Reports

Regional Sustainability Agenda Sub-Committee

The Subcommittee met three times, and has identified areas of the agenda to maintain, modify, delete, or add. The framework of the existing Sustainability Agenda will be maintained, with a few modifications to the language. The Subcommittee is proposing three new objectives related to agriculture and a new climate resilience goal. The SAC members will be engaged further for input when a draft is firmed up.

Current Draft Agenda (changes still underway) -

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.

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

Objectives

- 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.

Goal 3: Improve quality of life for all residents by advancing healthy, connected, and equitable communities.

Objectives

- 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.

Goal 4: Advance sustainable, attainable, and equitable economic growth and development.

Objectives

- 4.1 Increase support for businesses to develop and execute sustainability policies and practices.
- 4.2 Prioritize development in locations along existing infrastructure and encourage density.
- 4.3 Increase availability of affordable housing options near transit or job centers.
Members discussed the term “affordable housing” vs “workforce housing” vs “attainable housing.” Staff will continue to refine this language.
- 4.4 Increase employment and availability of green jobs.
- 4.5 Protect working agricultural lands.
Members discussed that Objective 4.5 could be interpreted as anti-solar and anti-wind. Member Shelton noted that the intent is to preserve agricultural use and yet not limit housing or energy development. Staff will continue to refine this language.

Goal 5: Create communities that are aware, prepared, and resilient to climate impacts.

Objectives

- 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.

Timeline for completion of the updated Regional Sustainability Agenda:

January 2025	Finalize Strategies
February 2025	Share framework for review via survey and review input
March 2025	Present to the Sustainability Advisory Committee for input and approval
April 2025	Present to Commission for adoption

Central Ohio Greenways Board (COG)

- The COG Board met on November 20 to hear project updates and Working Group progress.
- The COG Trail Towns Working Group received a Collaborative Achievement in Sustainability Award at the Summit on Sustainability in October. The Group is working to implement the COG Trail Town Framework and the COG Wayfinding Strategy and is exploring opportunities to use Outerspatial as the Statewide trail user map platform. Additionally, the Group is looking at branding opportunities for the Trail Town Program and continuing to seek funding for a Trail Town Ambassador Training Program, the Trail Towns in the Nation’s Heartland Project, and Operational Funding.
- COG is offering technical assistance to member communities to begin implementing the Wayfinding Strategy at a local level.
- MORPC is hosting a COG Forum: Experiencing Central Ohio’s Rural & Small Town Trails on December 18th. MORPC is debuting the new Greenways Planning Studio (GPS) with 8 Greenway Planning Studio Workshops across the region.

Sustainable2050

- The Q4 Sustainable2050 meeting was held on December 5, with a presentation from Franklin County Public Health and Columbus Recreation and Parks regarding the recent Franklin County & Columbus tree canopy assessment. MORPC staff provided program updates and presented on the Regional Sustainability Agenda.
- Members provided input on priorities for 2025, including topics such as textile recycling, organics diversion, community engagement, streamlining the Sustainable2050 certification process, and data informed decision-making to identify impactful projects and initiatives.

Sustaining Scioto Board

- The Board met on December 11 to continue the discussion on the Board’s transition to a regional entity under the Regional Water Advisory Council (RWAC) which will meet on a

quarterly basis starting in 2025. The discussion included proposed bylaws, regional representation, and scope of work among other details. The proposed Regional Water Advisory Council will continue to advance broad regional water priorities including sustainable water resource management, climate resiliency, and adaptation in the face of growth, development, and changing weather patterns. MORPC and the RWAC will play a role in educating regional stakeholders about the outcomes from the Regional Water Study.

- The Agricultural & Rural Communities Outreach Team will reconvene in 2025.
- The consultants have requested an extension for completion of the Central Ohio Regional Water Study through February 2025, due to significant modeling efforts to account for numerous growth and weather scenarios over the next few decades. The consultants will hold a Licking County specific workshop with elected officials and stakeholders on December 16, with the full report available in February.

Energy & Air Quality Working Group

The Energy and Air Quality Working Group (EAQWG) held its final meeting of the year on November 20, with updates from MORPC staff, as well as a featured update on the Central Ohio Climate Action Plan (COCAP) from Sustainable Columbus and MORPC staff. For more information on the COCAP, please read the more detailed update below. The EAQWG is still looking for candidates to serve as the Chair and Vice-Chair. If interested in leading the EAQWG, please contact Brian Filiatraut

Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure

- MORPC is in the final stages of awarding and contracting out the full scope of work of its \$2M USDOT-FHWA Electric Vehicle Charger Reliability and Accessibility Accelerator (EVC RAA) award to repair and or replace non-operational EV chargers throughout the 15-county region. The EVC RAA work should begin in December 2024 and continue into 2025 to fulfill the award completion deadline of August 2025.
- MORPC is working rapidly to finalize the grant agreement with FHWA on its \$15M MORE EVS project award to install over 400 EV charging ports in 13 counties as part of the USDOT-FHWA's Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Round 1B Program. As soon as the grant agreement is completed, staff plan to issue an RFI to set up the RFP process.

US EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program

- Sustainable Columbus, MORPC, and others continue to develop a more comprehensive climate action plan and pollution reduction strategies through the Central Ohio Climate Action Plan (COCAP) for the ten-county Columbus Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). MORPC recently completed the regional greenhouse gas inventory (R-GHGI), which will serve as a roadmap and benchmark mitigation strategies that will be developed over the coming months. Outreach and education have been ongoing throughout the development of the COCAP and future opportunities for community members and stakeholders to provide input will be available in 2025.

Air Quality

- The US EPA funded air monitoring project, co-led by Franklin County Public Health, made great progress in 2024. The team welcomed Ramboll Americas Engineering Solutions, Inc. as modelers for the project. Their Shair Platform will utilize MORPC's PurpleAir sensors to better track air pollution and source apportionment in Franklin County. MORPC staff has deployed 21 additional sensors in the community and intends to place an additional 14 by December 31.
- The Air Quality team met with and presented to multiple community groups and partners and will continue the goal of meeting with at least one group per month, as part of the project's educational outreach efforts.

New Business

2025 Priorities

Chair Kessler presented and reviewed the following priority projects for 2025:

Sustainability Advisory Committee

Notes, December 18, 2024

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- Quarter 1 -- review and approval of the Regional Sustainability Agenda – Quarter 1
- Quarter 2 – revisit the Sustainable2050 certification process – Quarter 2
- Quarters 2 & 3 -- supporting the Summit on Sustainability – Quarters 2 - 3

Chair Kessler presented the Members a schedule for the Committee's 2025 meetings: March 19, June 18, September 17, and December 17, 2025. All meetings begin at 2:30 pm, location to be determined.

Chair Kessler asked the Committee for meeting location suggestions for the 2025 Committee Meetings. Member Keeler suggested the City of Grandview Heights as a location for the March 2025 meeting. Member Lombardi suggested a tour of the SWACO facility during the June or September 2025 meetings.

Adjourned at 4:05 pm.

**MORPC Sustainability Advisory Committee
Board & Working Group Report
December 18, 2024**



**Central Ohio Greenways Board (Chair: Mike Andrako, P.E.)
Next meeting: January 15, 2025**

The COG Board met on November 20th to hear project updates and Working Group progress.

The COG Trail Towns Working Group received a *Collaborative Achievement in Sustainability Award at the Summit on Sustainability in October*. The group is working to implement the COG Trail Town Framework and the COG Wayfinding Strategy. The group is exploring opportunities to use Outerspatial as the Statewide trail user map platform. Additionally, the group is looking at branding opportunities for the Trail Town Program. The group is continuing to seek funding for a Trail Town Ambassador Training Program, the Trail Towns in the Nation's Heartland Project, and Operational Funding.

COG is offering technical assistance to member communities to begin implementing the Wayfinding Strategy at a local level.

MORPC is hosting a COG Forum: *Experiencing Central Ohio's Rural & Small Town Trails on December 18th*. All trail planners, advocates, elected officials, and government staff are welcome to attend this free virtual event. MORPC is debuting the new Greenways Planning Studio (GPS) with 8 Greenway Planning Studio Workshops across the region.



**Energy & Air Quality Working Group (Chair: Matt Stephens-Rich)
Next meeting: February 26, 2025, from 12 - 1:30 PM**

The Energy and Air Quality Working Group (EAQWG) held its fourth and final meeting of the year on November 20. The Working Group heard substantial updates from MORPC staff, as well as a featured update on the Central Ohio Climate Action Plan (COCAP) from Sustainable Columbus and MORPC staff. For more information on the COCAP, please read the more detailed update below. Finally, the EAQWG is still looking for candidates to serve as the Chair and Vice-Chair. If interested in leading the EAQWG, please email Brian Filiatraut, Senior Energy and Sustainability Program Manager, at bfiliatraut@morpc.org.

Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure

MORPC is in the final stages of awarding and contracting out the full scope of work of its \$2M USDOT-FHWA Electric Vehicle Charger Reliability and Accessibility Accelerator (EVC RAA) award to repair and or replace non-operational EV chargers throughout the 15-county region. We plan on starting EVC RAA work this month and well into 2025 to fulfill the award completion deadline of August 2025. More updates as work gets underway.

MORPC is working rapidly to finalize the grant agreement with FHWA on its \$15M MORE EVS project award to install over 400 EV charging ports in 13 counties as part of the USDOT-FHWA's Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Round 1B Program. As soon as the grant

agreement is completed, we will issue an RFI to set up our RFP process. More details as the work progresses. And for any information, please reach out to Brian Filiatraut, Senior Energy and Sustainability Program Manager, at bfiliatraut@morpc.org.

US EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program

The core project team—led by Sustainable Columbus, MORPC, and others—continues its work in developing a more comprehensive climate action plan and pollution reduction strategies through the Central Ohio Climate Action Plan (COCAP) for the 10-county Columbus Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). MORPC just completed the regional greenhouse gas inventory (R-GHGI), which will serve as a roadmap and benchmark mitigation strategies that will be developed over the coming months. Outreach and education have been ongoing throughout the development of the COCAP through online surveys, in-person meetings, technical working groups with experts, and future opportunities for community members and stakeholders to provide valuable input will be available into 2025. If you'd like more information, please visit the [COCAP website](#) or email Brian Filiatraut at bfiliatraut@morpc.org.

Air Quality:

The US EPA funded air monitoring project, co-led by Franklin County Public Health, made great progress in 2024. The team welcomed Ramboll Americas Engineering Solutions, Inc. as our modelers for the project. Their Shair Platform will utilize our PurpleAir sensors to better track air pollution and source apportionment in Franklin County. With guidance from Ramboll and input from the Project Advisory Committee, the team has deployed 21 additional sensors in the community and aiming to place an additional 14 by end-of-year. The team met with and presented to multiple community groups and partners and will continue the goal of meeting with at least 1 group a month, as part of the project's educational outreach efforts. Contact Mauro (JR) Diaz-Hernandez for more information about the air quality program at mdiazhernandez@morpc.org.



Sustainable2050

Next meeting: November 14, 2024

The Q4 Sustainable2050 meeting was held on December 5 from 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. at MORPC. The meeting featured a presentation from Franklin County Public Health and Columbus Recreation and Parks about a recent Franklin County & Columbus tree canopy assessment. This project also provides results about tree canopy coverage for individual jurisdictions in Franklin County. The MORPC team provided program updates and presented on the Regional Sustainability Agenda. Members provided input on priorities for 2025, including topics such as textile recycling, organics diversion, community engagement, streamlining the Sustainable2050 certification process, and data informed decision-making to identify impactful projects and initiatives.

Sustainable2050 membership is open to all MORPC members, and current Sustainable2050 members interested in earning their tier status certification should contact Brandi Whetstone at bwhetstone@morpc.org. A certification workbook will be provided, and a kick-off meeting will be set up to review the process. Once a completed workbook has been submitted and reviewed by the MORPC team, the next step is to present the proposed certification to the SAC for approval at their quarterly meetings.



Sustaining Scioto Board (Chair: Glenn Marzluf, P.E)

Next Meeting: TBD 2025

The Board met on December 11 to continue the discussion on the Board's transition to a regional entity under the Regional Water Advisory Council which will meet on a quarterly basis starting in 2025. The discussion included proposed by laws, regional representation, and scope of work among other details. The proposed Regional Water Advisory Council will continue to advance broad regional water priorities including sustainable water resource management, climate resiliency, and adaptation in the face of growth, development, and changing weather patterns. MORPC and the RWAC will likely play a role in educating regional stakeholders about the outcomes from the Regional Water Study.

To conclude the year, MORPC staff provided a recap of the Board's activities as well as its working team's activities from its inception in 2020 to present. Key outcomes include a Precipitation Forum held in 2021. The forum was aimed at providing information on existing precipitation data resources, perspectives on the need for updated data for Ohio, and potential avenues for creating the needed data. The Board also applied for an OWDA funding proposal to develop a smart water quality monitoring network. While unsuccessful, the effort laid the foundation for ongoing discussions around water monitoring efforts in the region. One other recent outcome of the working team is the Communication Plan focused on promoting awareness and encouraging the adoption of water quality practices among farmers and landowners.

Agricultural & Rural Communities Outreach Team

The working team will reconvene in 2025.

Central Ohio Regional Water Study

The consultants have requested an extension through February to complete the Water Study. The delay is due to significant modeling efforts to account for numerous growth and weather scenarios over the next few decades. The consultants will hold a Licking County specific workshop with elected officials and stakeholders on December 16, with the full report out occurring sometime in February. If you would like to be added to the listserv for the final report out, please email to Edwina Teye at eteye@morpc.org. Webinar recordings and slide deck information from prior meetings can be accessed [here](#). Scroll to the bottom of the page to the Regional Water Study section.

SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

December 18, 2024



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

AGENDA



MORPC

2:30 **Welcome & Introductions – *Ben Kessler, Chair***

2:40 **MORPC Updates**

- Government Affairs and Policy Update – *Joe Garrity*
- Planner Pool Services – *Karina Peggau*
- Summit on Sustainability – *Amanda McEldowney*

3:00 **Gahanna Sustainable2050 Certification – *Brandi Whetstone***

3:20 **Board & Working Group Reports**

- Regional Sustainability Agenda Sub-Committee – *Mike Shelton/Brandi Whetstone*
- Central Ohio Greenways Board – *Mike Andrako*
- Sustainable2050 – *Laurie Jadwin, Vice Chair*
- Sustaining Scioto Board – *Glenn Marzluf*
- Energy & Air Quality Working Group – *Matt Stephens-Rich*

3:45 **New Business – *Ben Kessler, Chair***

- 2025 priorities & member updates

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



MORPC

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS AND POLICY UPDATE

Joe Garrity

Sr. Director of Government Affairs
& Community Relations

PLANNER POOL PROGRAM



- Planning Staffing or Project Assistance
- Sustainability Staffing or Project Assistance

SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE PLANNING

PLANNING DEPARTMENT ASSISTANCE (REVIEWS & PERMITTING)

OTHER PLANNING TASKS (PREPLANNING ACTIVITIES, BEST PRACTICES, ETC.)



<https://www.morpc.org/planner-pool-program/>

Scan the QR code or follow the link above for more information.

*Contact Jonathan Miller (jmiller@morpc.org) if you have any questions.



GROWING BETTER TOGETHER

SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABILITY 2024

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MORPC | NOPEC | OAQDA | OEPA | Ohio University | Sustainable Columbus | SOPEC | SWACO | The Ohio State University | US EPA | Wendel Companies

ATTENDEES



689+

SPONSORSHIP FUNDS

\$93,890

SESSION TOPICS

- ▲ WateReuse
- ▲ Sustainable Communities Best Practices
- ▲ Economic Impact of Circular Value Chains
- ▲ Clean Energy
- ▲ LinkUS
- ▲ Trails
- ▲ Passenger Rail
- ▲ Housing
- ▲ Data & Wayfinding
- ▲ State Programs & Funding
- ▲ Climate
- ▲ Social Equity
- ▲ Leaders Listen
- ▲ Air Quality
- ▲ Waste Management



SAVE THE DATE
SUMMIT ON
SUSTAINABILITY
September 30, 2025



MORPC

The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes in various shades of green, creating a modern and dynamic feel. The shapes are primarily located on the left and right sides of the page, framing the central text.

CITY OF GAHANNA SUSTAINABLE2050 RECERTIFICATION

CERTIFICATION LEVELS



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)

GOAL 1: IMPROVE AIR QUALITY AND REDUCE CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- ▶ In 2024, the City of Gahanna joined Power Clean Future Ohio (PCFO) to help the community build a clean future and provide the city with tools and resources to create carbon reduction plans and implement them in a way that is achievable, measurable, equitable and economical.
- ▶ PCFO helped the City of Gahanna conduct their Greenhouse Gas Reduction study in 2024.



GOAL 1: IMPROVE AIR QUALITY AND REDUCE CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- ▶ In 2024, the City of Gahanna joined SOPEC, helping the City create its Community Choice Aggregation Program offering 100% renewable energy for city residents.
- ▶ Aggregation impacts approximately 69% of single family, two family, and condominium housing units (~9,900 units) and approximately 1,000 small businesses.
- ▶ The City also held a townhall regarding the Community Choice Aggregation Program where residents had a chance to speak with City staff on this issue.



SOPEC

GOAL 1: IMPROVE AIR QUALITY AND REDUCE CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- ▶ Electric Vehicles and Infrastructure
 - ▶ The City contracted with Donovan Energy to perform site evaluations at all current Electric Vehicle Charging Stations to inform any applicable improvements the city should make to their current infrastructure.
 - ▶ The City recently purchased their first Electric Vehicle, a 2023 Nissan Leaf, which will be used by fleet technicians to drive to and from sites to make repairs on other vehicles, transport drivers, and perform other maintenance as needed.



GOAL 2: PROTECT AND PRESERVE NATURAL RESOURCES TO SUPPORT A HEALTHY AND RESILIENT REGION

- ▶ The City of Gahanna participated in Goats on the Go, an event held for targeted grazing of poison ivy, honeysuckle, multiflora rose, grapevine and other problem vegetation.
- ▶ The purpose of this event was to explore alternative mitigation methods to the use of herbicides for invasive species control.



GOAL 2: PROTECT AND PRESERVE NATURAL RESOURCES TO SUPPORT A HEALTHY AND RESILIENT REGION

- ▶ The City of Gahanna and SWACO teamed up with The Recycling Partnership to improve the curbside recycling program and bring recycling education to Gahanna.
- ▶ The program intended to increase the amount of quality recyclables – items that are accepted for recycling that are empty and dry, so they can circulate back into the recycling system to become new products or packaging.
- ▶ Additionally, the City of Gahanna was awarded a grant from SWACO to improve and promote recycling.



Pictured above is a recycling container located on the Gahanna Municipal golf course, which was purchased with grant funds awarded from SWACO.

GOAL 3: IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL RESIDENTS BY CREATING SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE COMMUNITIES

- ▶ In 2023, the City adopted its first-ever Capital Improvement Plan and the Parks Master Plan. Both plans discuss future projects for park and trail construction, sidewalk improvements, and other sustainability initiatives.
- ▶ The Parks Master Plan includes plans to complete the Big Walnut Trail within the next two years, as well as the creation of the *Link to Literacy* trail connecting with the new library.



Parks and Recreation COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

Spring 2023

Gahanna
PARKS & RECREATION



GOAL 3: IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL RESIDENTS BY CREATING SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE COMMUNITIES

- ▶ The City's Streets and Sidewalk Program are part of the City's Capital Improvement Plan.
- ▶ A Citywide sidewalk program aims to close gaps in sidewalks and to prolong the life of current infrastructure through maintenance and upkeep.
- ▶ [Here](#) is a video on current street and sidewalk information.



GOAL 3: IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL RESIDENTS BY CREATING SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE COMMUNITIES.

- ▶ In 2023, the City of Gahanna Department of Parks and Recreation was awarded a grant for assistance to develop an Active Transportation Plan. The City expects to adopt the Plan by Q1 of 2025.
- ▶ The purpose of the Active Transportation Plan Assistance Grant was to support local governments with the development of a standalone active transportation plan that ultimately impacts Ohio's Active Transportation goals:
 1. Safety
 2. Equity
 3. Network Utilization
 4. Livability
 5. Preservation

GOAL 4: PROMOTE ROBUST, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- ▶ The City's new Municipal Complex is being reimagined from an existing building that was previously an office building.
- ▶ In 2024, the City received funding from the US Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant to upgrade and/or deploy clean energy technologies within the new Municipal Complex construction.
- ▶ The funds from this grant will be used for LED lighting.



GOAL 4: PROMOTE ROBUST, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- ▶ The City of Gahanna has been working to improve the sewer systems on the West Side of the City, which is a historically disadvantaged community. This initiative aligns with Sustainable2050's goal of prioritizing infrastructure investments in underserved communities with the greatest need.
- ▶ The City's Capital Improvement Plan includes an analysis of the continued work of the West Gahanna Sanitary Sewer System efforts.

CITY OF GAHANNA CERTIFICATION



A Gold-Rated Community
Working Toward a Better Future

NEXT STEPS

Today

- Request committee approval of certification

Feb. 13, 2025

- Pending approval, member recognized at MORPC Commission meeting

REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY AGENDA UPDATE



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

PROGRESS



MORPC

- ✓ Held 3 Subcommittee meetings (August, October, November)
- ✓ Reviewed all Goals and Objectives
- ✓ Identified areas to maintain, modify, delete, or add
 - ✓ Maintained most of the framework with a few modifications to the language
 - ✓ Created 3 new objectives related to agriculture to reflect its impact on environmental quality, health, and economy
 - ✓ Added a new climate resilience goal
- ✓ Made agreed-upon modifications to Goals and Objectives during previous meeting and moving on to strategies



GOAL 1



MORPC

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.



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

GOAL 3



MORPC

Goal 3: Improve quality of life for all residents by advancing healthy, connected, and equitable communities.	Objectives
	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.

GOAL 4



MORPC

Goal 4: Advance sustainable, attainable, and equitable economic growth and development.	Objectives
	4.1 Increase support for businesses to develop and execute sustainability policies and practices.
	4.2 Prioritize development in locations along existing infrastructure and encourage density.
	4.3 Increase availability of affordable housing options near transit or job centers.
	4.4 Increase employment and availability of green jobs.
	4.5 Protect working agricultural lands.

GOAL 5 (new!)



MORPC

Goal 5: Create communities that are aware, prepared, and resilient to climate impacts.	Objectives
	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 NEXT STEPS



MORPC

Jan. 2025

Finalize strategies

Feb. 2025

Share framework
for review via
survey and review
input

March 2025

Present to SAC
for input/approval

April 2025

Present to
Commission for
adoption

AGENDA



MORPC

2:30 **Welcome & Introductions – *Ben Kessler, Chair***

2:40 **MORPC Updates**

- Government Affairs and Policy Update – *Joe Garrity*
- Planner Pool Services – *Karina Peggau*
- Summit on Sustainability – *Amanda McEldowney*

3:00 **Gahanna Sustainable2050 Certification – *Brandi Whetstone***

3:20 **Board & Working Group Reports**

- Regional Sustainability Agenda Sub-Committee – *Mike Shelton/Brandi Whetstone*
- Central Ohio Greenways Board – *Mike Andrako*
- Sustainable2050 – *Laurie Jadwin, Vice Chair*
- Sustaining Scioto Board – *Glenn Marzluf*
- Energy & Air Quality Working Group – *Matt Stephens-Rich*

3:45 **New Business – *Ben Kessler, Chair***

- 2025 priorities & member updates

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

2025 MEETINGS



MORPC

Sustainability Advisory Committee Schedule (all meetings start 2:30 p.m.)

- March 19
- June 18
- September 17
- December 17



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Chair

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