



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

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

**NOTICE OF A MEETING
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
IN-PERSON MEETING
City of Grandview Heights Parks Building
1661 Goodale Blvd., Grandview Heights, OH 43212
March 19, 2025, 2:30 - 4:00 p.m.**

AGENDA

- 2:30 p.m. Welcome and Introductions – Ben Kessler, Chair**
- 2:40 p.m. Sustainability in Grandview Heights – Emily Keeler, Council President, City of Grandview Heights.**
- 2:55 p.m. Securing our Energy Future Educational Series – Brian Filiatraut, Sr. Manager of Energy & Sustainability, MORPC**
- 3:05 p.m. MORPC Updates – Brandi Whetstone, Director of Sustainability, MORPC**
- Regional Water Study
 - 208 Process Review Committee
 - Air Quality Update
- 3:15 p.m. Policy and Federal Funding – Joe Garrity, Sr. Director of Government Affairs and Community Relations**
- Open Discussion – Ben Kessler, Chair
- 3:35 p.m. Board and Working Group Reports**
- Energy & Air Quality Working Group – Matt Stephens-Rich
 - Regional Sustainability Agenda Sub-Committee – Mike Shelton
 - Central Ohio Greenways Board – Mike Andrako
 - Sustainable2050 – Laurie Jadwin
 - Regional Water Advisory Council (former Sustaining Scioto Board) – Glenn Marzluf
- 3:50 p.m. New Business and Member Updates – Ben Kessler, Chair**
- 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 June 18, at 2:30 p.m. at Del-Co Water

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Chris Amorose Groomes
Chair

Michelle Crandall
Vice Chair

Ben Kessler
Secretary

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

Location: City of Grandview Heights Parks Building
1661 Goodale Boulevard, Grandview Heights, Ohio 43212

In-Person Meeting

Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

March 19, 2025, 2:30 pm

Members Present

- Mike Andrako, Franklin County Engineer's Office
- Erin Beck, City of Columbus
- Stephen Harris, SOPEC
- Councilmember Erin Hill, City of Reynoldsburg
- Vice-Chair, Mayor Laurie Jadwin, City of Gahanna
- Carol Kauffman, The Ohio Environmental Council
- President of Council Emily Keeler, City of Grandview Heights
- Chair, Mayor Ben Kessler, City of Bexley
- Niki Lemin, Ohio EPA
- Joe Lombardi, SWACO
- Jennie McAdams, Franklin County Public Health
- Mike Shelton, OSU
- Megha Sinha, NBBJ
- Matt Stephens-Rich, The Electrification Coalition
- Mayor Christie Ward, Village of Lockbourne

Public Present

- Kendall Collins, Village of Lockbourne
- Elizabeth Ellman, City of Bexley
- Mayor Greta Kearns, City of Grandview Heights
- Alex Smith, City of Grandview Heights

MORPC Staff Present

- J.R. Diaz-Hernandez
- Brian Filiatraut
- Joe Garrity
- Lynn Kaufman
- Jessica Kuenzli
- William Murdock
- Karina Peggau
- Edwina Teye
- Melinda Vonstein
- Brandi Whetstone

Called to Order at 2:38 pm.

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Kessler opened the meeting by welcoming three new members: Niki Lemin, Ohio EPA, Stephen Harris, SOPEC, and Councilmember Erin Hill, City of Reynoldsburg. Each new Member shared a bit about their roles and backgrounds. Chair Kessler also acknowledged City of Columbus Alana Shockey's past service to the Committee and her recent departure and introduced Erin Beck as her replacement on the Committee.

Sustainability in Grandview Heights

Council President Emily Keeler presented the sustainability initiatives in the City of Grandview Heights, highlighting efforts such as the electrical aggregation program, streamlined zoning for residential solar, and the maintenance of Wallace Gardens as a Victory Garden. She also discussed transit-oriented development and infrastructure enhancements in Grandview Yard and Grandview Crossing.

Securing our Energy Future Educational Series

Brian Filiatraut introduced an upcoming educational series titled "Securing Our Energy Future," aimed at enhancing energy resilience across the region. He encouraged Committee Members to contribute ideas and engage in shaping the series, which will cover various aspects of energy planning and sustainability.

- May 15, 2025, at MORPC - Session One: Landscape of Energy Planning; Focus: Big Picture Challenges & Opportunities in Central Ohio
- June 5, 2025, at MORPC - Session Two: Permitting, Zoning, and Economic Development; Focus: How to Set the Table & Open Your Community for Energy
- July, 2025 - Session Three: Funding and Resource Opportunities; Focus: Building Your Energy Stack
- August, 2025 - Session Four: Emerging Energy Technologies and Future Proofing the Region; Focus: What's on the Energy Horizon?

MORPC Updates

Regional Water Study

Brandi Whetstone reported that the Regional Water Study is a comprehensive assessment conducted to evaluate water resources within the region. This study aims to identify current and future water availability and demand, providing a crucial framework for sustainable water management in Central Ohio. Its objectives are to assess current and future water needs, to identify water resource challenges, and to develop sustainable management practices. Key components of the study include data collection and analysis, stakeholder engagement, gap analysis, and policy recommendations. The Regional Water Study is a critical element of the region's environmental sustainability efforts, providing a foundation for informed decision-making and strategic planning to secure water resources for future generations. This proactive approach aims to address potential water-related challenges before they become critical, ensuring that Central Ohio remains a viable and vibrant region for its inhabitants.

208 Process Review Committee

Brandi reported that the 208 Process Review Committee is a specialized committee working under MORPC's guidance and plays a critical role in regional planning efforts, specifically focusing on water quality management as prescribed by Section 208 of the Clean Water Act. Objectives of the Committee are to develop areawide water quality management plans, to comply with the Clean Water Act, and to foster regional collaboration. The 208 Process Review Committee's role is crucial in ensuring that water quality management in the region aligns with both national standards and local needs. Their work not only addresses current environmental and public health challenges but also prepares the region to manage future challenges in water quality management effectively. The Committee completed its work on March 13, and recommended that MORPC pursue the state's 208 Areawide Planning Agency designation. This recommendation is contingent upon the following:

- MORPC secures sufficient funding for staff capacity to support an areawide planning agency;
- The Areawide Planning Agency is governed by policies and procedures developed by MORPC and the 208 Process Review Committee; and
- The Areawide Agency's governing body includes the 208 Process Review Committee's recommended representation.

This recommendation will be presented to MORPC's Executive Committee and Board in the near future.

Air Quality Update

Brandi provided a detailed update on air quality activities, highlighting several key aspects regarding the latest air quality data and the implications of new particulate matter standards. She presented an analysis of the most current air quality measurements across the region, focusing on ozone and particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). Brandi explained that recent changes to particulate matter standards by

the EPA have lowered the allowable levels of PM2.5 to protect public health. These stricter standards impact the region's air quality status. Measures are being taken to comply with the new regulations. Brandi also discussed ongoing and planned initiatives aimed at improving air quality in response to the data and the new standards. This may include enhanced monitoring, public awareness campaigns, pollution reduction programs targeting specific sources of emissions, and collaborations to implement cleaner technologies and practices.

Policy and Federal Funding

Joe Garrity and William Murdock provided an in-depth discussion on the evolving landscape of federal funding and policy changes, addressing how these shifts impact regional planning and sustainability initiatives. They highlighted the introduction of new funding streams and the sunset of others, emphasizing the need for strategic alignment with federal priorities to maximize funding opportunities. The discussion also covered the impact of budget cuts or increases in specific sectors, such as environmental protection, transportation, and energy, explaining how these changes would affect regional projects and planning.

Joe also discussed legislation related to climate change, clean energy incentives, and regulations impacting air and water quality. New federal priorities, under current administration, are reshaping initiatives and adjustments in local strategies might be necessary to ensure compliance and eligibility for federal grants.

To effectively navigate these changes, they stressed the importance of proactive engagement with federal agencies, staying informed about policy developments, and adapting quickly to new federal guidelines and requirements. Joe also suggested strengthening advocacy efforts and collaboration among local governments, businesses, and non-profits to present a united front in funding applications and policy discussions. Community engagement and public education on how these federal changes could impact local sustainability efforts; and what steps can be taken to mitigate any negative effects.

An open discussion followed, facilitated by Chair Kessler, focusing on how Committee Members and their organizations are navigating these changes and what support MORPC could provide.

Board and Working Group Reports

Energy & Air Quality Working Group

Member Stephens-Rich (Working Group Chair) reported that the Working Group met on February 26, 2025, and heard a presentation from Zach McGuire, the Executive Director of the Columbus Region Green Fund. The Working Group's next meeting will be on May 28. Member Stephens-Rich also asked that Members support staff in attending the four-part workshop series during the Summer.

Regional Sustainability Agenda Sub-Committee

Member Shelton (Sub-committee Chair) reported that the Regional Sustainability Agenda update is well underway, and that it will give MORPC Members a roadmap for implementing policies and programs to increase the sustainability of their communities. Comments from the December Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting are being incorporated into the Agenda, specifically the dynamic between agriculture preservation management and solar development. The Sub-committee expects to share a draft for review in mid-late April, with a virtual information session planned for the week of April 21.

Central Ohio Greenways Board

Member Andrako (Board Chair) reported that on January 15, 2025, the Board adopted an updated Trail Vision that includes over 1,000 miles of existing, proposed, and committed trail projects in 15

counties. In 2025 COG will begin adding “Gateways of Regional Significance” to the Vision Map. The COG Trail Towns Working Group is developing a brand for the program in partnership with Experience Columbus. The COG Mapping Natural Assets Steering Committee finalized the project working with Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District. MORPC was awarded \$325,000 from ODOT to create a Central Ohio Cycling Guide.

Sustainable2050

Member Mayor Laurie Jadwin reported that the Sustainable2050 group met on March 5, 2025, to hear a presentation from MurphyEpson staff about best practices for engaging a community on sustainability initiatives, “Empowering Communities: Communicating Sustainability with Impact”. MurphyEpson has offered to provide a workshop on communicating with passionate people. If Members are interested, please contact Brandi Whetstone.

Regional Water Advisory Council (formerly Sustaining Scioto Board)

Time did not permit a verbal update, following is a distillation of the written report:

The Regional Water Advisory Council will meet on April 30, 2025. MORPC is transitioning the Sustaining Scioto Board, which focuses on the upper Scioto watershed, to a 15-county Regional Water Advisory Council (or RWAC). Appointed members will serve a two-year term with the option to renew. Interested parties should reach out to Edwina Teye or Glen Marzluf.

The Agricultural & Rural Communities Outreach Team will next meet on April 3, 2025.

New Business and Member Updates – Ben Kessler, Chair

Adjourned at 4:00 pm.

**MORPC Sustainability Advisory Committee
Board & Working Group Report
March 19, 2025**



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

Next meeting: March 19, 2025

MORPC was awarded \$325,000 from ODOT to create a Central Ohio Cycling Guide. This will include an updated bike level-of-stress map and a tourism focused cycling guidebook.

The COG Board met on January 15, 2025, to review and adopt an updated Vision that includes over 1,000 miles of existing, proposed, and committed trail projects in 15 counties. In March, the COG Board will welcome new COG Board Members and set goals for the next two years.

In 2025, COG will begin adding “Gateways of Regional Significance” to the map to identify existing and proposed locations for premier trailheads that offer the amenities trail users need to travel the trails safely and comfortably.

The COG Trail Towns Working Group is developing a brand for the program in partnership with Experience Columbus. The initial draft of the brand will be shared during the March 10, 2025, Working Group Meeting.

COG posted a Detours & Closures document on the COG website and the Trail Development Working Group is now available to offer detour design technical assistance.

The COG Mapping Natural Assets Steering Committee finalized the project working with Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District. It will be available on the COG website soon. COG Staff will begin sharing the results widely over the next two months.

MORPC is offering support to communities interested in implementing the recently released COG Wayfinding Strategy through the MORPC Technical Assistance Program. The City of Hilliard is the first community to be awarded this support.

The Greenways Planning Studio (GPS) is crafting COG Forums for 2025 and is developing a strategic plan to leverage existing MORPC and partner resources.

Additionally, COG is encouraging communities to host Celebrate Trails Day events within their communities on April 26, 2025. Rails to Trails Conservancy is offering free drinks and marketing materials.



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

Next meeting: May 28, 2025, from 1 - 2:30 PM

The Energy and Air Quality Working Group (EAQWG) held its first meeting of the year on February 26. In addition to updates on air quality, energy, legislation, and the Regional Sustainability Agenda Subcommittee, the Working Group heard from Zach McGuire, the Executive Director of the

Columbus Region Green Fund. Zach discussed the current challenges and opportunities financing clean energy projects in the region. The EAQWG's next meeting is on Wednesday, May 28 from 1 – 2:30 PM. If interested in attending or being a featured speaker, please reach out to Brian Filiatraut, Senior Program Manager of Energy and Sustainability, at bfiliatraut@morpc.org.

MORPC is applying for the [Charging Smart Regional Engagement Partner grant](#) to offer free technical assistance, helping local governments earn Charging Smart designations and streamline EV infrastructure deployment. We invited interested local governments to join a cohort, guided by MORPC, to achieve bronze, silver, or gold EV readiness. Applications are due Friday, March 21, with the cohort likely starting in May if MORPC is selected. If your local government is interested in joining, please reach out to Brian Filiatraut, Senior Program Manager of Energy and Sustainability, at bfiliatraut@morpc.org

MORPC is developing a four-part forum series – “Securing Our Energy Future: Navigating Today’s Energy Landscape to Better Plan, Shape, and Lead a Resilient Tomorrow”— to help local leaders navigate Central Ohio’s energy landscape. Featuring experts in energy, regulation, and economic development, the series will cover:

- **Session One (May 5 or May 15): *Landscape of Energy Planning*** – Exploring the big-picture challenges and opportunities in Central Ohio, including insights from the Ohio Business Roundtable’s Energy Competitiveness Study and current energy trends.
- **Session Two (June 5): *Permitting, Zoning, and Economic Development*** – A hands-on, workshop focused on attracting energy investment.
- **Session Three (July): *Funding and Resources*** – Grants, tax incentives, and available funding opportunities and resources to help communities build a strong energy strategy.
- **Session Four (August): *Emerging Energy Technologies*** – Exploring what’s on the energy horizon, including hydrogen, gas-to-energy biodigesters, and fuel cells.

For more information or ideas, please get in touch with Brian Filiatraut, Senior Program Manager of Energy and Sustainability, at bfiliatraut@morpc.org.

US EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program

The core project team—led by Sustainable Columbus, MORPC, and others—continues to flesh out the next deliverables of the Central Ohio Climate Action Plan (COCAP) for the 10-county Columbus MSA. Sustainable Columbus is leading the GHG measure selection in coordination with the team, which are strategies that will reduce pollution and serve as a roadmap for the Columbus MSA. If you’d like more information, please visit the [COCAP website](#) or email Brian Filiatraut, Energy and Sustainability Program Manager, at bfiliatraut@morpc.org.

Air Quality:

MORPC released the End of Season Air Quality Report on March 5, which summarizes air quality in the Columbus region from October 2023-November 2024, focusing on ground-level ozone and particulate matter pollution, or PM2.5. March 1st also marked the beginning of ozone monitoring season as well.

Overall, most days in central Ohio were in the Good Air Quality Index (AQI) category according to the report. Our highest PM levels occurred in October 2024 – impacted by stagnant weather and drought conditions. The US EPA adopted a stricter PM standard, reducing the permissible

annual average of fine particulate matter from 12.0 micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) to 9.0 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. This new standard became effective on May 6, 2024. Central Ohio is currently in attainment with federal standards and is expected to remain so even with this stricter standard. The stricter standard also contributed to the reduction of Good AQI days for PM pollution.

Additionally, The US EPA funded air monitoring project, co-led by Franklin County Public Health, made great progress in recent months. The team deployed a total of thirty-six sensors across Franklin County and the consultant will use the data to better track air pollution and its sources. The team continues to give presentations and will have a greater focus on outreach and engagement in the coming months. The project is also receiving additional support from the City of Columbus to expand upon key elements of the project.



Sustainable2050

Next meeting: May 22, 2025

MORPC recognized the City of Gahanna at the February Commission meeting for recertifying as a Gold Plus Equity Champion under MORPC's Sustainable2050 program. Their Community Choice Aggregation Program, recycling efforts, Link-to-Literacy Trail, and new municipal complex reimaged from an existing building were among the highlights.

MORPC hosted the Q1 2025 Sustainable2050 meeting on March 5, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. featuring a presentation from Tim Bates and Mindy Justis from MurphyEpson. Their presentation included tips and best practices for engaging residents around sustainability initiatives. They also offered to provide a workshop focused on Communicating with Passionate People and De-escalation. Please contact Brandi Whetstone, bwhetstone@morpc.org, if you're interested.

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.

Regional Sustainability Agenda (RSA) Sub-committee (Chair: Mike Shelton)

Next Meeting: March 25 at 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.

The Sub-committee held their fifth meeting on February 19, 2025, and provided input on proposed strategies for Goals 2 and 3. The MORPC team also proposed a mission statement to capture the overarching themes across the agenda. Sub-committee Members will continue their work reviewing strategies in preparation for their next meeting on March 25, 2025. The timeline has been extended to account for the time necessary for comprehensive review and for the creation of a new Goal with objectives and strategies included. The team expects to share a draft for review in mid-late April, with a virtual information session planned for the week of April 21. For more information, please contact Brandi Whetstone (bwhetstone@morpc.org).



Regional Water Advisory Council (Sustaining Scioto Board) (Chair: Glenn Marzluf, P.E)

Next Meeting: April 30, 2025

The RWAC will meet on April 30, 2025. MORPC is transitioning the Sustaining Scioto Board, which focuses on the upper Scioto watershed, to a 15-county Regional Water Advisory Council (or RWAC). RWAC will provide leadership in planning, management, stewardship, and resiliency of regional water resources.

MORPC is seeking members and stakeholders across the 15-county region to serve on the council. The members include local governments, community leaders, utilities, conservation organizations, businesses, and the agricultural community. Appointed members would serve a two-year term with the option to renew. Interested parties should reach out to Edwina Teye or Glen Marzluf.

Agricultural & Rural Communities Outreach Team

The working team will reconvene in the first quarter of 2025.

Central Ohio Regional Water Study

The study was completed at the end of February with final reviews currently underway by the agencies. The deliverables will be uploaded to the websites. The deliverables include an interactive dashboard, tutorials on how to use the dashboard, 15-county summary findings, individual county report-out videos, PowerPoints, PDFs, gap analysis, and proposed projects to fill potential gaps. MORPC is working in partnership with Ohio EPA to host a workshop for local governments in May. More information to come.

If you would like to be added to the listserv to receive the final deliverables, please email 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. Scroll to the bottom of the page to the Regional Water Study section.

208 Process Review Committee

At their final meeting on March 13, the MORPC 208 Process Review Committee made a recommendation to the MORPC Board that the agency pursue the state's 208 Areawide Planning Agency designation. This recommendation is contingent upon the following:

- MORPC secures permanent and sustainable funding for staff capacity to support an areawide planning agency;
- The Areawide Planning Agency is governed by policies and procedures developed by MORPC and the 208 Process Review Committee; and
- The Areawide Agency's governing body includes the 208 Process Review Committee's recommended representation.

The recommendation will be shared with the Executive Committee and Board at their April meetings for final approval.

SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

March 19, 2025



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

AGENDA



MORPC

- 2:30** **Welcome & Introductions** – *Ben Kessler, Chair*
- 2:40** **Sustainability in Grandview Heights** – *Emily Keeler, Council President, City of Grandview*
- 2:55** **Securing our Energy Future Educational Series** – *Brian Filiatraut, MORPC*
- 3:05** **MORPC Updates** – *Brandi Whetstone, MORPC*
- Regional Water Study
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- 3:35** **Board & Working Group Reports**
- Energy & Air Quality Working Group – *Matt Stephens-Rich*
 - Regional Sustainability Agenda Sub-Committee – *Mike Shelton*
 - Central Ohio Greenways Board – *Mike Andrako*
 - Sustainable2050 – *Laurie Jadwin, Vice Chair*
 - Sustaining Scioto Board – *Glenn Marzluf*
- 3:50** **New Business** – *Ben Kessler, Chair*
- 4:00** **Adjourn** – *Ben Kessler, Chair*



STEWARDSHIP

**SUSTAINABILITY AND
QUALITY OF PLACE IN
GRANDVIEW HEIGHTS**

13 March 2025

SUSTAINABILITY & COMMUNITY

- Green energy: electrical aggregation program
- Green energy: streamlined residential rooftop solar zoning review
- Local food systems: Wallace Gardens maintained as a “victory garden”
- Transit-oriented development density: Grandview Yard and Grandview Crossing
- Brownfield reclamation: more than 150 acres across Grandview Yard and Grandview Crossing
- Resilience: new utilities in Grandview Yard and Grandview Crossing are underground
- Preparedness: storm shelters and 100% generator backup at the City’s new Municipal Building
- Education: “No Dumping, Flows Directly to Rivers” medallions on all storm water inlets
- Environment: “Tree City USA”, with GIS-enabled management of city street tree canopy



STEWARDSHIP OF LANDS & BUILDINGS



PHASE 1

NEW PARKS & RECREATION FACILITY AT MCKINLEY FIELD PARK

DESIGN | 2023



COMPLETE | 2025



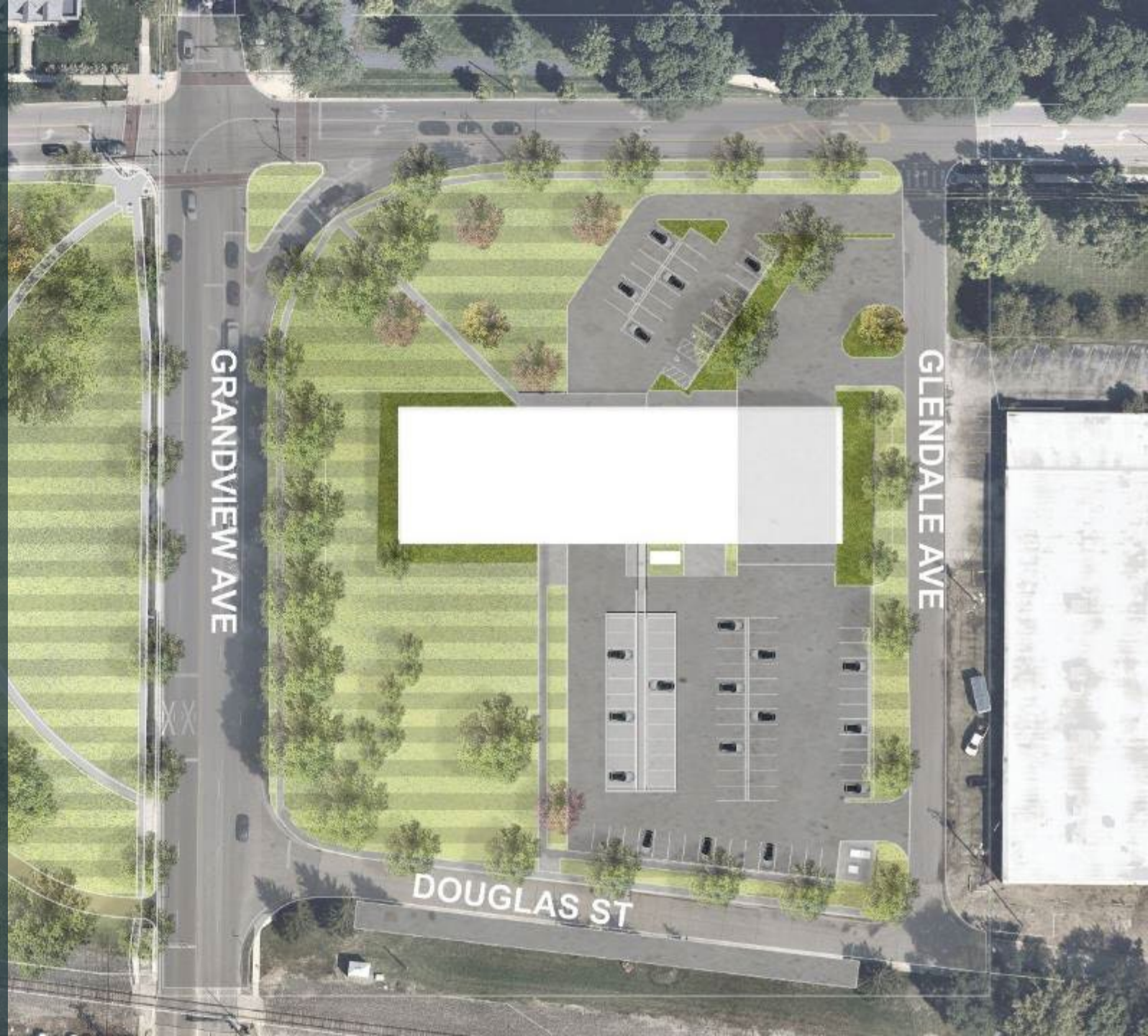
SUSTAINABILITY | INTEGRATED COMPONENTS

- All storm water retained on site in dry basins
- Careful site placement to preserve as much existing tree canopy as possible
- No new parking / pavement ... use of existing “event” parking to double for day-to-day needs
- Daylighting throughout
- LED lighting fixtures and occupancy sensors



PHASE 2

FIRE/EMS, POLICE & ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES FACILITY



DESIGN | 2023

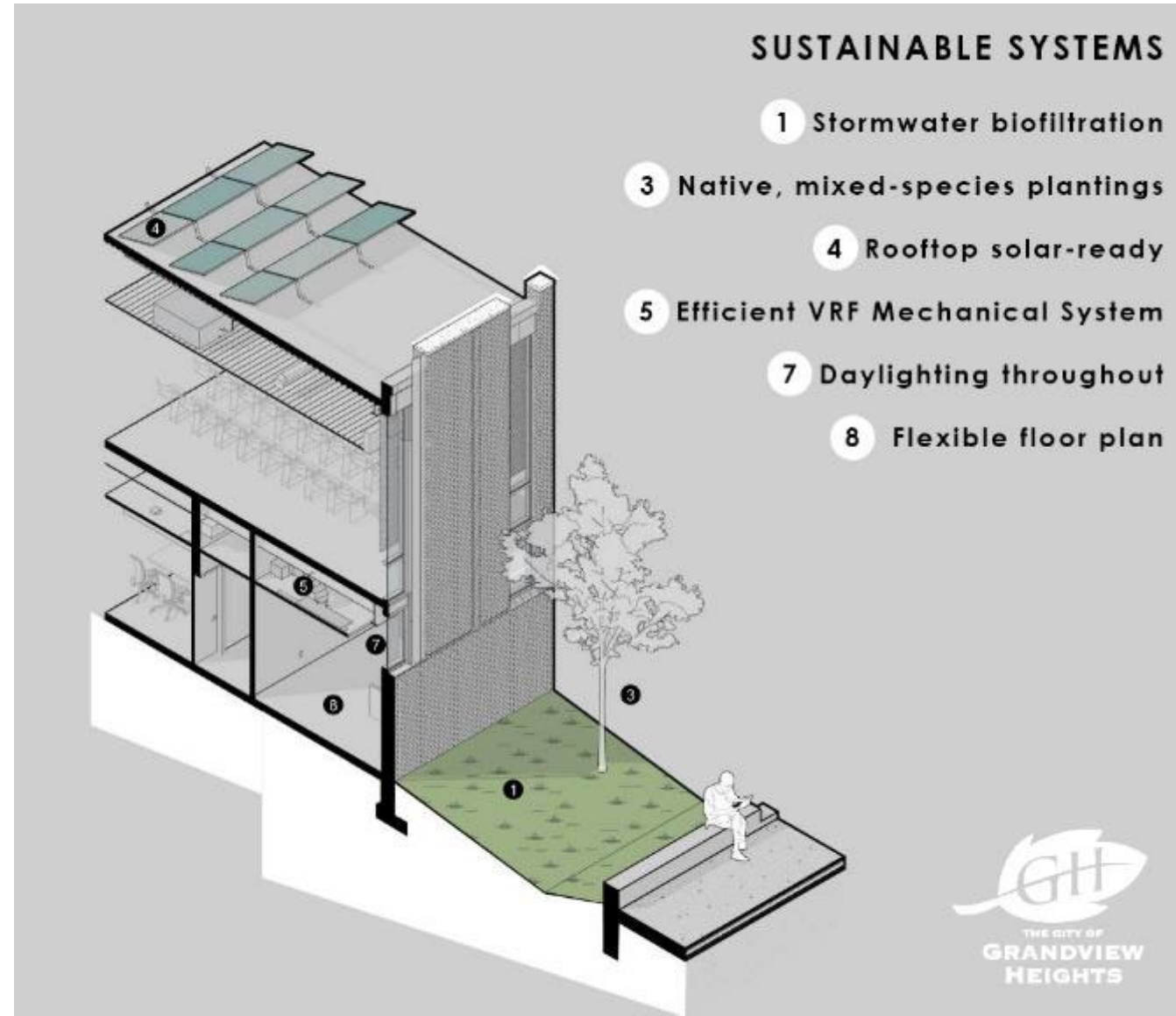


EST. COMPLETION | 2025



SUSTAINABILITY | INTEGRATED COMPONENTS

- Biofiltration and retention of storm water
- Native, mixed-species plantings
- VRF mechanical system (30% energy costs savings)
- Daylighting throughout
- Carports constructed as solar canopies
- Pre-engineered for rooftop solar arrays



PHASE 3

PARKS MASTER PLAN & 1.5 ACRE WYMAN WOODS PARK EXPANSION



MUNICIPAL BUILDING & WYMAN WOODS

Return of ~2 acres of hard-surface developed land ...



BLUFF, RAVINE, WOODS, FIELDS

... to parkland, as an expansion to Wyman Woods Park.



SITE CONSERVATION

- 1924/1936 Firehouse to remain
- Remove most asphalt, leave some parking, replace softscape
- Narrow curb cut, add sidewalk
- Traffic light to remain; study potential pedestrian crossing
- Locate appropriate pathways connecting to Firehouse and “lower” Wyman Woods; study pathways and ravine conditions
- Consider need for restrooms, along with costs to provide them





THANK YOU!



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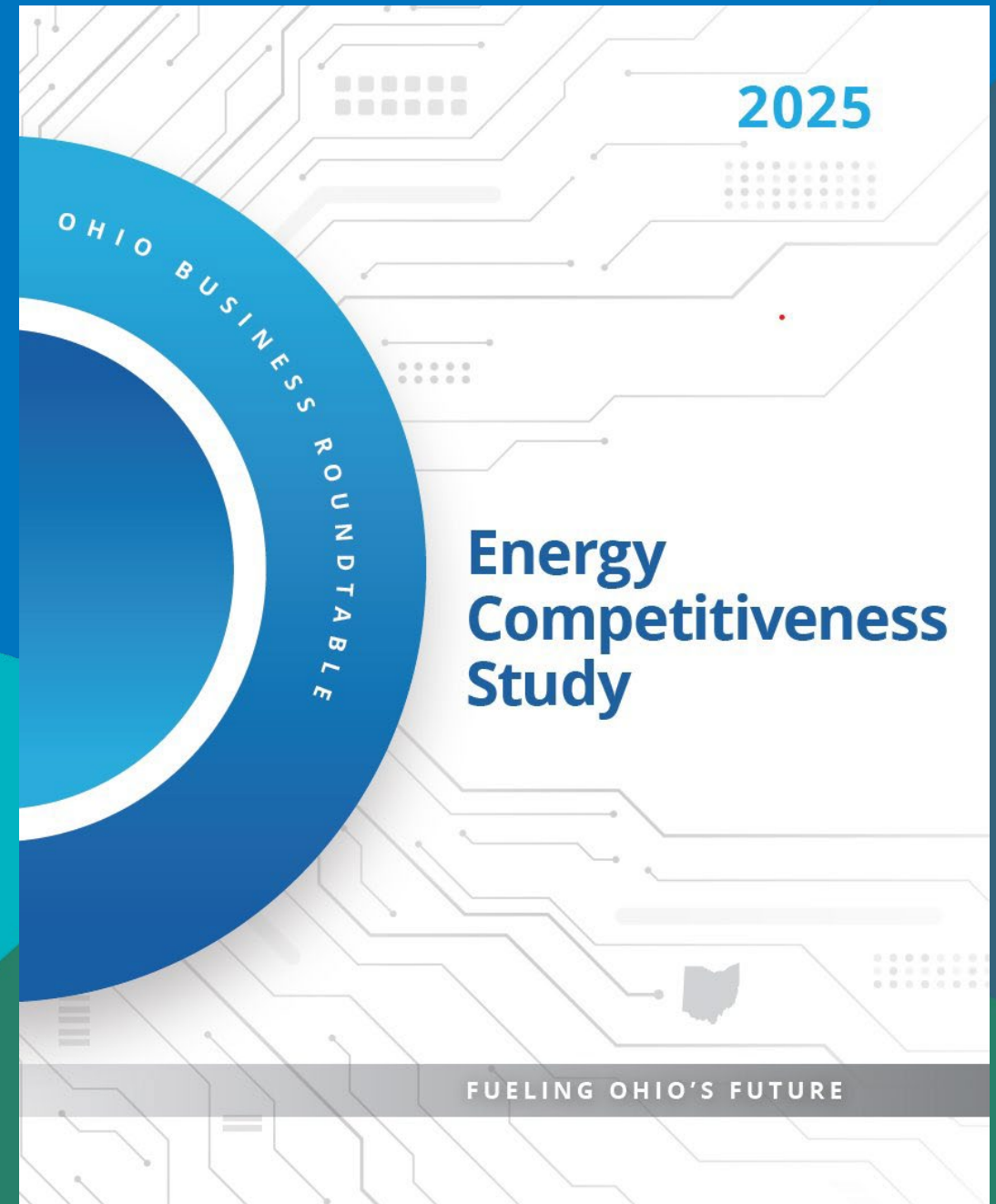
OHIO BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE (OBRT)

"The creation of this report was led by OBRT with the input and direction of 38 of its member companies."

"Since 2022, JobsOhio has won 1,016 economic development projects, with \$74.27 billion in associated capital investment, demonstrating **Ohio is rapidly becoming a national hub for innovation, economic growth, and high-tech infrastructure**. However, the scale of this growth brings unprecedented **energy challenges**—aging infrastructure, the retirement of conventional power plants, and rising demand—all threatening to strain the very grid that fuels progress. To seize this moment of opportunity, **Ohio must take decisive action to modernize its energy infrastructure and ensure a resilient, affordable, and reliable power supply for both businesses and residents.**"



MORPC



ENERGY COMPETITIVENESS STUDY

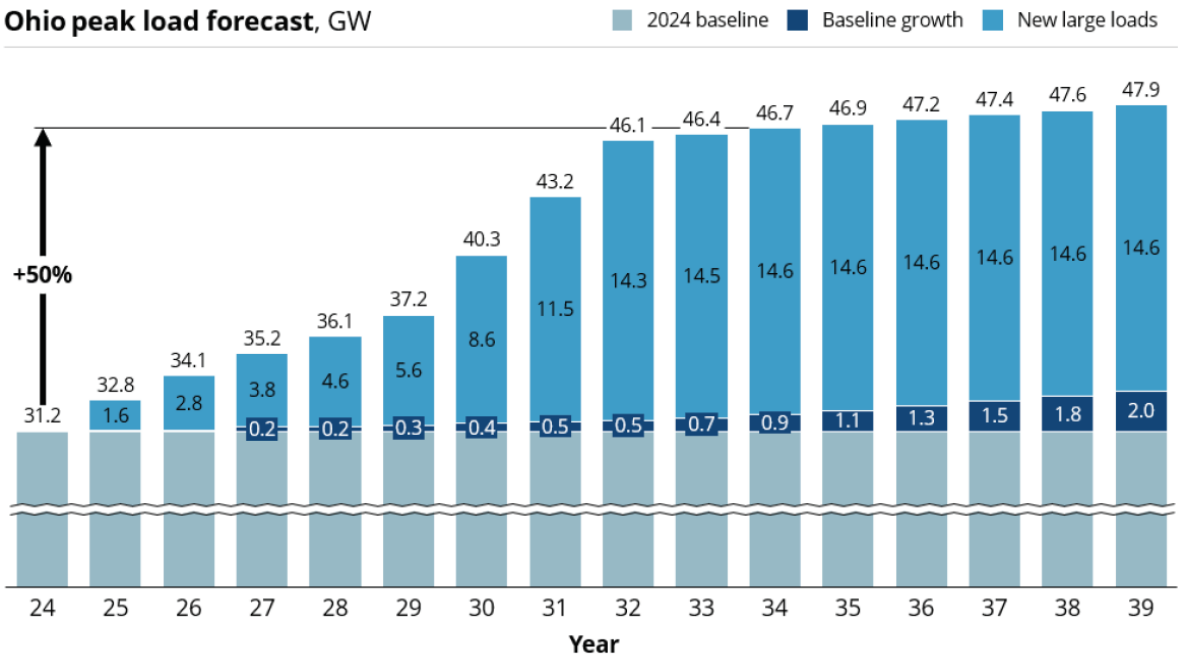
Ohio Business Roundtable (OBRT)



MORPC

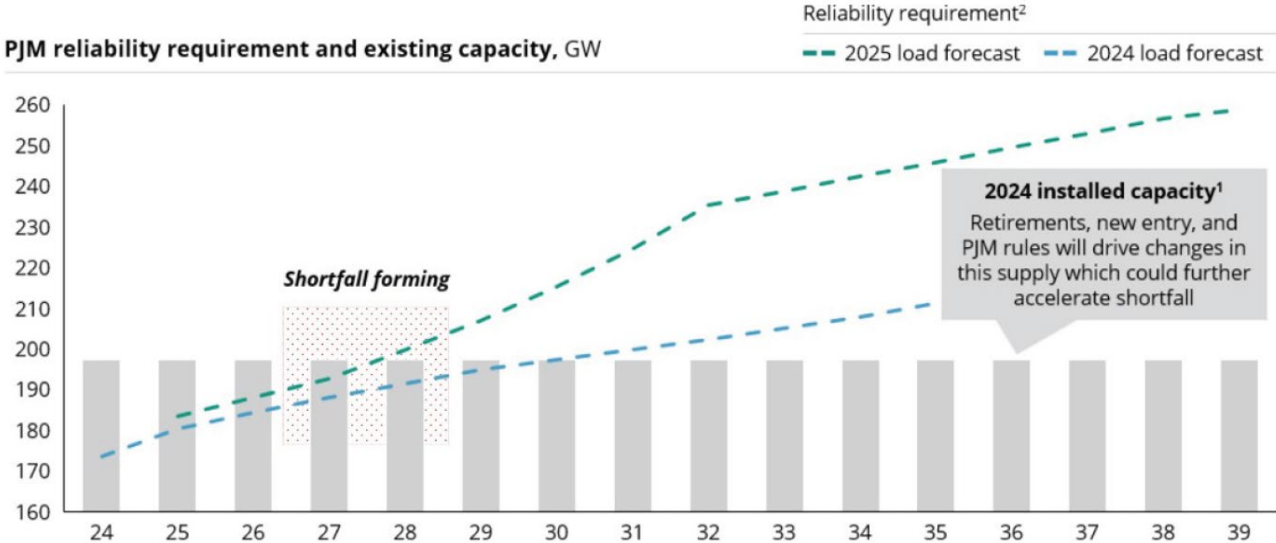
The Demand for Electricity

Ohio peak load forecast, GW



Source: PJM 2024 load forecast hourly data; PJM 2024 load forecast supplement; PJM 2025 large load updates

PJM reliability requirement and existing capacity, GW



1. Total PJM net summer capacity as of 9/30/2024, regardless of whether the capacity participated in the PJM capacity market
2. Reliability requirement indicates forecasted peak demand multiplied by the installed reserve margin (IRM) required to meet reliability standards. IRM of 14.8% used for 23-24 and 17.6% used for 25-39.

Source: Monitoring Analytics PJM State of the Market Reports; PJM 2024 load forecast report; PJM reserve requirement reports; PJM 2025 preliminary load forecast

ENERGY COMPETITIVENESS STUDY

Ohio Business Roundtable (OBRT)



MORPC

6 OBRT Recommendations

1. Implement Permitting and Siting Reform

2. Establish an Office of Energy Resilience

3. Establish Priority Investment Areas

4. Enhance and Clarify Frameworks for Behind-the-Meter Generation

5. Reduce Regulatory Lag

6. Promote the Deployment of Grid-Enhancing Technologies

SECURING OUR ENERGY FUTURE

Informational & Workshop Forum Series



MORPC

- MORPC is developing a series of informational webinars and workshops featuring energy, regulatory, and economic development experts in Central Ohio.
- Designed for local government and community leaders, these sessions will help equip communities to plan for a more secure, resilient, and affordable energy future.

Tentative Timeline + Topics

MAY 15

Session One: Landscape of Energy Planning

Focus: Big Picture and Challenges & Opportunities in Central Ohio

JUNE 6

Session Two: Permitting, Zoning, and Economic Development

Focus: How to Set the Table & Open Your Community for Energy

JULY

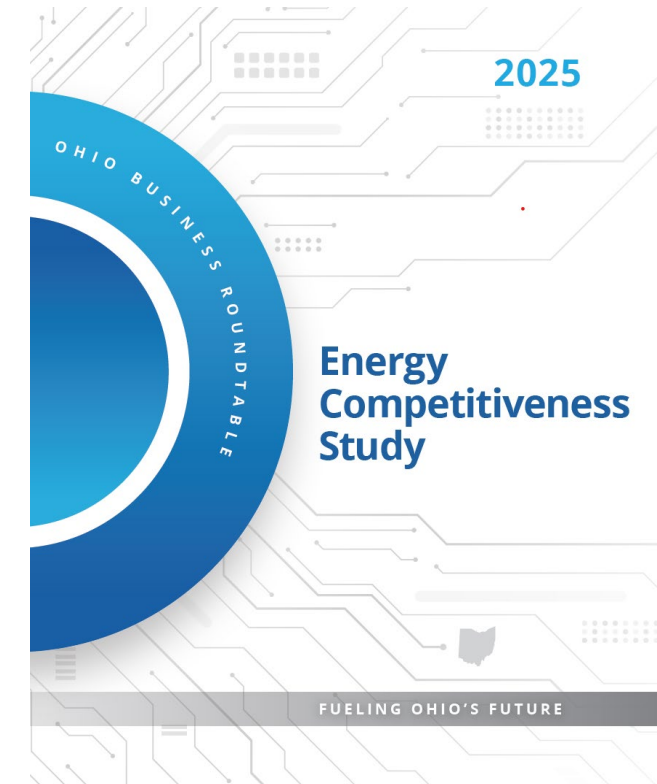
Session Three: Funding and Resource Opportunities

Focus: Building Your Energy Stack

AUGUST

Session Four: Emerging Energy Technologies and Future Proofing the Region

Focus: What's on the Energy Horizon?



BRIAN FILIATRAUT

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MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

MORPC UPDATES

BRANDI WHETSTONE
DIRECTOR OF SUSTAINABILITY



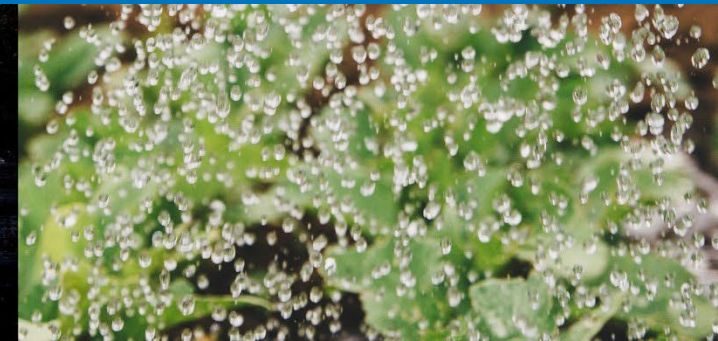
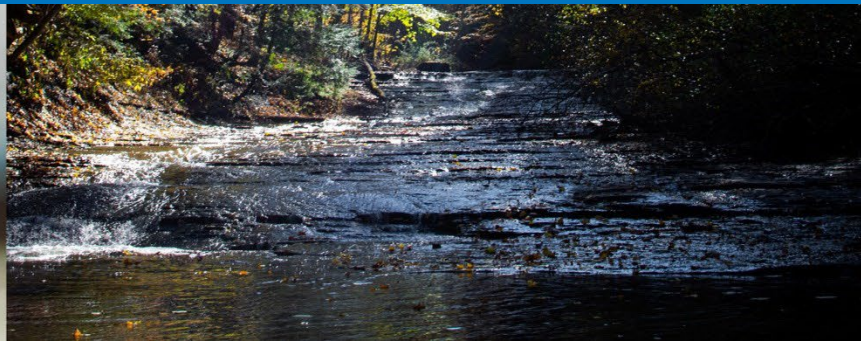
MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION



**CENTRAL OHIO WATER STUDY
DASHBOARD AND ONLINE DELIVERABLES AVAILABLE SOON
LOCAL GOVERNMENT WORKSHOP IN MAY
MORE INFORMATION TO COME**



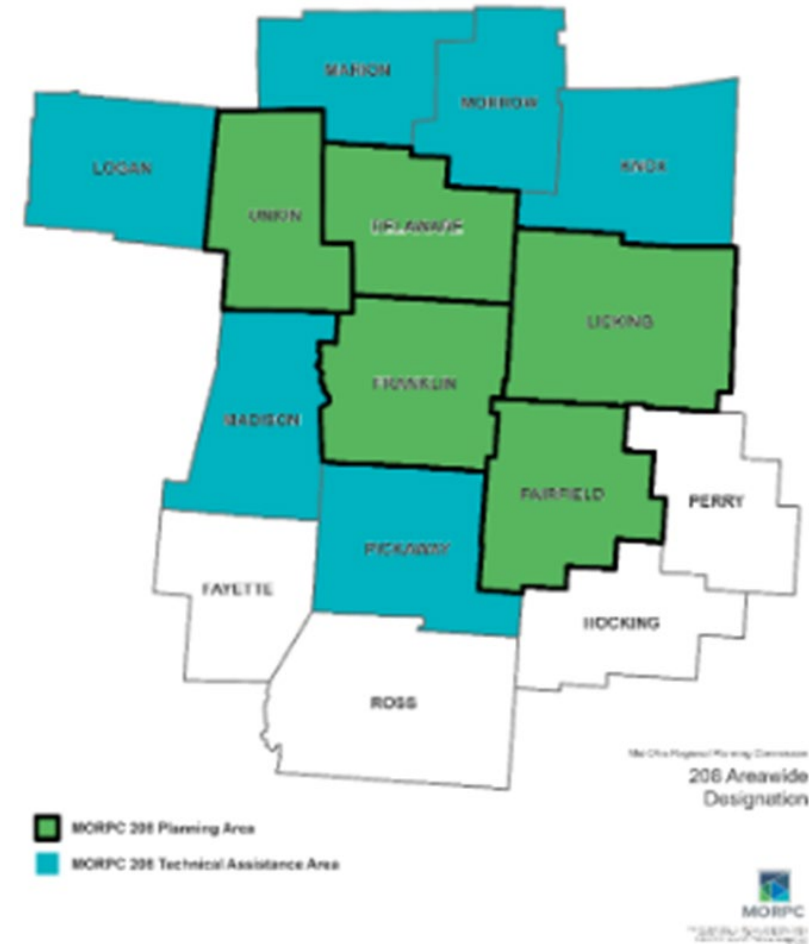
208 PROCESS REVIEW COMMITTEE



MORPC

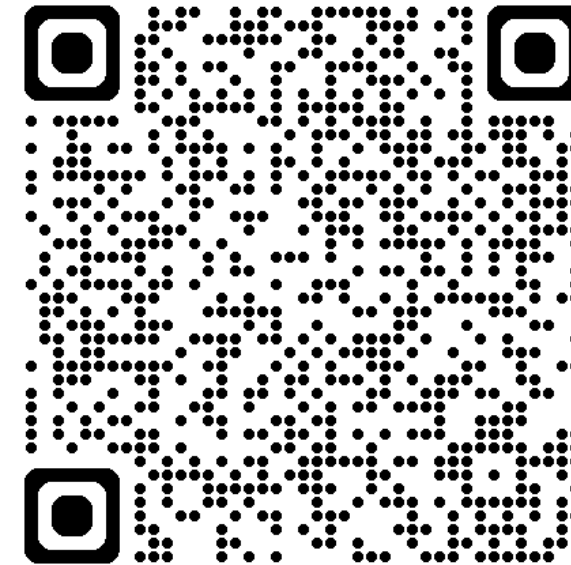
The MORPC 208 Process Review Committee recommends to the MORPC Board that the agency pursue the state's 208 Areawide Planning Agency designation. This recommendation is contingent upon the following:

- MORPC secures sufficient funding for staff capacity to support an areawide planning agency;
- The Areawide Planning Agency is governed by policies and procedures developed by MORPC and the 208 Process Review Committee; and
- The Areawide Agency's governing body includes the 208 Process Review Committee's recommended representation.





MORPC



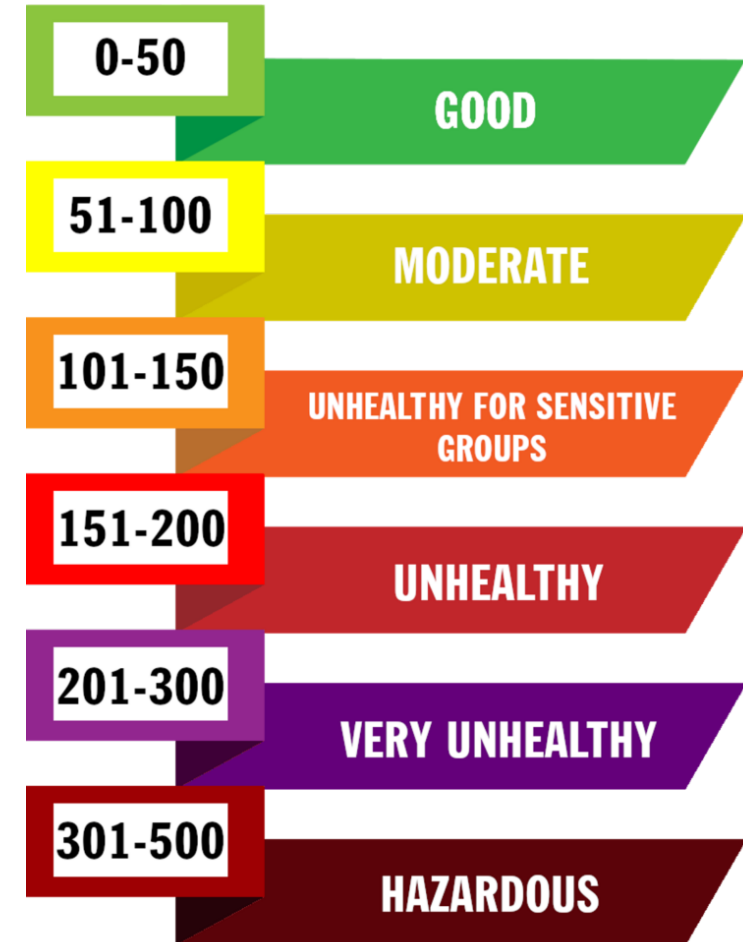
Scan the code to view
the report or visit
morpc.org/airquality.

2024 END OF SEASON REPORT



MORPC

- **3 Air Quality Alerts issued**
 - Down from 11 Alerts in 2023 – fewer wildfire effects this year
 - Ozone was the primary pollutant of concern on all occasions
- **Majority of days in the “Good” category**
- **Highest PM_{2.5} levels observed in October 2024**
 - Extended period of stagnant weather and drought conditions led to highest PM readings of the season
- **New stricter PM standard enacted on May 6, 2024**
 - Permissible annual PM average reduced from 12 micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m³) to 9 µg/m³
 - Central Ohio was and is still expected to be in attainment even with the new standard



Air Quality in Central Ohio: From Trends to Actions

FEATURING SPEAKERS FROM:

- Franklin County Public Health
- Gohio Commute
- MORPC
- Sonoma Technology, Inc.

TUESDAY, APRIL 29

12 – 1 PM



Brandi Whetstone, LEED Green Associate

Director of Sustainability

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

bwhetstone@morpc.org



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION





MORPC

POLICY AND FEDERAL FUNDING UPDATE

Joe Garrity

Sr. Director of Government Affairs
& Community Relations

AGENDA



MORPC

- 2:30** **Welcome & Introductions** – *Ben Kessler, Chair*
- 2:40** **Sustainability in Grandview Heights** – *Emily Keeler, Council President, City of Grandview*
- 2:55** **Securing our Energy Future Educational Series** – *Brian Filiatraut, MORPC*
- 3:05** **MORPC Updates** – *Brandi Whetstone, MORPC*
- Regional Water Study
 - 208 Process Review Committee
 - Air Quality Update
- 3:15** **Policy and Federal Funding** – *Joe Garrity, MORPC*
- **Open Discussion** – *Ben Kessler, Chair*
- 3:35** **Board & Working Group Reports**
- Energy & Air Quality Working Group – *Matt Stephens-Rich*
 - Regional Sustainability Agenda Sub-Committee – *Mike Shelton*
 - Central Ohio Greenways Board – *Mike Andrako*
 - Sustainable2050 – *Laurie Jadwin, Vice Chair*
 - Sustaining Scioto Board – *Glenn Marzluf*
- 3:50** **New Business** – *Ben Kessler, Chair*
- 4:00** **Adjourn** – *Ben Kessler, Chair*

REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY AGENDA UPDATE



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

CURRENT PROGRESS



MORPC

CHECKLIST

- ✓ Reviewed goals.
- ✓ Added goal centered on climate resilience.
- ✓ Reviewed objectives.
- ✓ Reviewed strategies for Goal 1, Goal 2, and Goal 3.
- ✓ Drafted Mission/Vision statement
- ☐ Review/update strategies for Goals 4-5.
- ☐ Finalize a Mission/Vision statement.
- ☐ Share draft for committee and stakeholder input.
- ☐ Clean, finalize, and present to SAC and Commission for adoption.

WHAT ARE STRATEGIES?

Strategies are the “menu” of items that MORPC members can choose from when pursuing Sustainable2050 certification. Each objective contains several strategies that help move our region closer to achieving the overarching goal.

Each strategy is reviewed closely to ensure it:

1. Addresses the goals and objectives.
2. Fills any gaps in the RSA.
3. Has ties to sustainability.
4. Is something local governments can implement.
5. Avoids repetition with other objectives or strategies.

RSA DRAFT MISSION, VISION, AND GOALS



Mission

The Regional Sustainability Agenda unites Central Ohio and its communities around shared goals, fostering collaboration and innovation to ensure that sustainability benefits are accessible to all and drive lasting prosperity.

Vision

We envision a healthier, more resilient, and prosperous region – where public health is safeguarded, natural resources are preserved, communities are connected, and economic opportunities are sustainable. Our goal is a thriving future where both people and nature flourish, enhancing quality of life for all.

Goals:

1. Improve air quality and reduce climate change impacts.
2. Protect and restore natural resources.
3. Advance healthy, connected, and safe communities.
4. Advance sustainable and equitable economic growth and development.
5. Create communities that are aware, prepared, and resilient to climate impacts.

REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY AGENDA TIMELINE



MORPC

March 2025

Monthly Sub-committee meeting
3/25 and SAC
update 3/19

April 2025

Introduce draft for
broader input, host
online information
session (4/23 or
4/25)

May 2025

Sub-committee
meeting

June/August 2025

Present to SAC 6/18
for approval and
present to
Commission for
adoption 8/14

AGENDA



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SAVE THE DATE
SUMMIT ON
SUSTAINABILITY
September 30, 2025



MORPC

2025 MEETINGS



MORPC

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

- June 18 at Del-Co Water
- September 17
- December 17



Ben Kessler
Mayor, City of Bexley
Chair

Sustainability Advisory Committee
bkessler@bexley.org

Laurie Jadwin
Mayor, City of Gahanna
Vice-Chair

Sustainability Advisory Committee
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Brandi Whetstone, LEED Green Associate
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