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
Del-Co Water Company
6658 Olentangy River Rd., Delaware, OH 43015
June 18, 2025, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

AGENDA

2:30 p.m. **Welcome and Introductions –** *Ben Kessler, Chair and Glenn Marzluf, Del-Co Water*

2:40 p.m. **MORPC Updates –** *Jessica Kuenzli, MORPC*
- Public Meetings
- Summit on Sustainability
- Upcoming Energy Forums
- Charging Smart Award
- Policy and Federal Funding

2:55 p.m. **Regional Sustainability Agenda for Adoption** – *Mike Shelton, Chair of Regional Sustainability Agenda Sub-committee*

3:20 p.m. **Board and Working Group Reports**
- Energy & Air Quality Working Group – *Matt Stephens-Rich*
- Central Ohio Greenways Board – *Mike Andrako*
- Sustainable2050 – *Laurie Jadwin, Vice Chair*
- Regional Water Advisory Council (former Sustaining Scioto Board) – *Glenn Marzluf*

3:35 p.m. **5 minute break**

3:40 p.m. **Floating Solar Tour –** *Glenn Marzluf, Del-Co Water*

4:30 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 September 17, at 2:30 p.m.

| **William Murdock, AICP** | **Chris Amorose Groomes** | **Michelle Crandall** | **Ben Kessler** |
| *Executive Director* | *Chair* | *Vice Chair* | *Secretary* |

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

Location: Del-Co Water Company
6658 Olentangy River Rd., Delaware, OH 43015

In-Person Meeting

Sustainability Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes

_____

June 18, 2025, 2:30 pm

Members Present
- Mike Andrako, Franklin County Engineer's Office
- Stephen Harris, SOPEC
- Councilmember Erin Hill, City of Reynoldsburg
- Madison Hill, City of Columbus
- Carol Kauffman, The Ohio Environmental Council
- President of Council Emily Keeler, City of Grandview Heights
- Chair, Mayor Ben Kessler, City of Bexley
- Mike Shelton, OSU
- Mayor Matt Starr, City of Mount Vernon
- Matt Stephens-Rich, The Electrification Coalition
- Ken Wright, City of Westerville

Public Present
- Elizabeth Ellman, City of Bexley

MORPC Staff Present
- Brian Filiatraut
- Joe Garrity
- Lynn Kaufman
- Jessica Kuenzli
- Edwina Teye

Called to Order at 2:35 pm.

Welcome and Introductions
Chair Kessler opened the meeting, followed by a welcome from Member Marzluf, who introduced Del-Co Water's Wolf Water Center. Member Marzluf described Del-Co Water as a nonprofit, member-owned water cooperative with the largest single retail service area in Ohio, spanning over 800 square miles and operating three water treatment plants. Attendees were invited to tour the facility, including a floating solar array and a demonstration of leak detection technology.

MORPC Updates
Public Meetings
Jessica Kuenzli provided updates on MORPC's internal restructuring of its convening bodies in response to new legislation on virtual public meetings. The Sustainability Advisory Committee will be rebranded as the Regional Sustainability Roundtable, with minimal impact due to its in-person format.

Summit on Sustainability
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2025-summit-on-sustainability-tickets-1406224478269?aff=oddtdtcreator

Upcoming Energy Forums
Jessica announced the ongoing Energy Forum Series, encouraging participation in the July 10 and August 27 sessions.

Charging Smart Award
Jessica shared that MORPC was recently selected as a regional engagement partner for the Charging Smart program, supporting EV infrastructure development across 13 local governments and encouraged those interested in participating in the cohort to reach out to Brian Filiatraut.

Policy and Federal Funding
Joe Garrity reported that at the state level, MORPC is advocating for funding for the Midwest Connect passenger rail corridor, Brownfield redevelopment tied to economic development, and preserving eminent domain authority for recreational trails. Federally, Joe noted support for passenger rail in the President's budget and emphasized the preservation of municipal bonds and potential rollback of EV tax credits. He also discussed the implications of new federal fees on EVs and hybrids and encouraged local governments to engage with federal representatives.

Regional Sustainability Agenda for Adoption
Member Shelton presented the 2025–2028 Regional Sustainability Agenda (RSA), developed by the RSA Sub-committee. He acknowledged the contributions of Sub-committee Members and the late Mayor Tom Johnson. The RSA includes five goals (up from four), 24 objectives, and 134 strategies. New elements include a goal on climate resilience and expanded focus on agriculture and environmental health. Member Shelton emphasized alignment with existing regional plans and inclusivity for all community sizes.

Chair Kessler moved to recommend the 2025 – 2028 Regional Sustainability Agenda be forwarded to Commission for adoption; motion seconded by Member Keeler. Motion carried.

Board and Working Group Reports
Energy & Air Quality Working Group
Member Stephens-Rich reported on the Energy Forum Series and the launch of MORPC's new Insights data platform. He highlighted recent legislation (House Bill 15), the Charging Smart cohort, and the Switch Together Solar Co-Op. Updates were also provided on the CLEAN Air Quality Network and the deployment of additional air sensors.

Central Ohio Greenways Board
Member Andrako shared updates on the "Gateways of Regional Significance" initiative, the development of a Central Ohio Cycling Guide using AI, and the completion of the Environmental Sensitivity Index to guide trail planning. He also noted ongoing technical assistance to communities and an upcoming Central Ohio Greenways Forum in August.

Sustainable2050
The update was included in the meeting packet. Vice-Chair Jadwin was unable to attend.

Regional Water Advisory Council (former Sustaining Scioto Board)
Member Marzluf reported that the newly rebranded Council has met twice with full participation from all 15 counties. Presentations included updates on the City of Columbus's water infrastructure projects and the Big Darby Accord. A Steering Committee has been formed, and future meetings will include updates from Ohio EPA and Hazen.

Adjourned at 3:35 pm.

SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

June 18, 2025

MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

AGENDA

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2:40   **MORPC Updates –** *Jessica Kuenzli, Joe Garrity, MORPC*
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- Summit on Sustainability
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- Charging Smart Award
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2:55   **Regional Sustainability Agenda (RSA) for Adoption** – *Mike Shelton, Chair, RSA Sub-committee*

3:20   **Board & Working Group Reports**
- Energy & Air Quality Working Group – *Matt Stephens-Rich*
- Central Ohio Greenways Board – *Mike Andrako*
- Sustainable2050 – *Laurie Jadwin, Vice Chair*
- Regional Water Advisory Council – *Glenn Marzluf*

3:35   **5 Minute Break**

3:40   **Floating Solar Tour** – *Glenn Marzluf*

4:30   **Adjourn**

Commission

Decision-Making Boards
- Central Ohio Metropolitan Planning Organization Board
- Central Ohio Economic Development District Board
- Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization Board

Advisory Roundtables
- Regional Data Roundtable
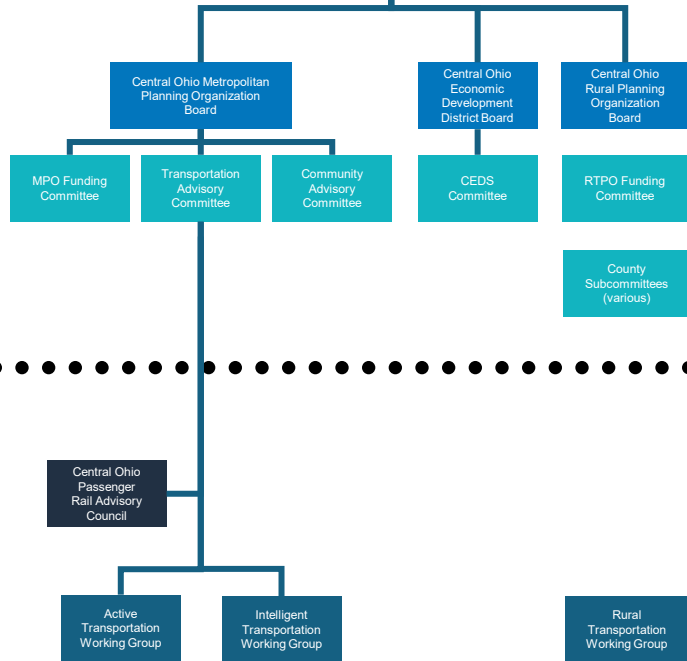- Regional Sustainability Roundtable
- Regional Policy Roundtable

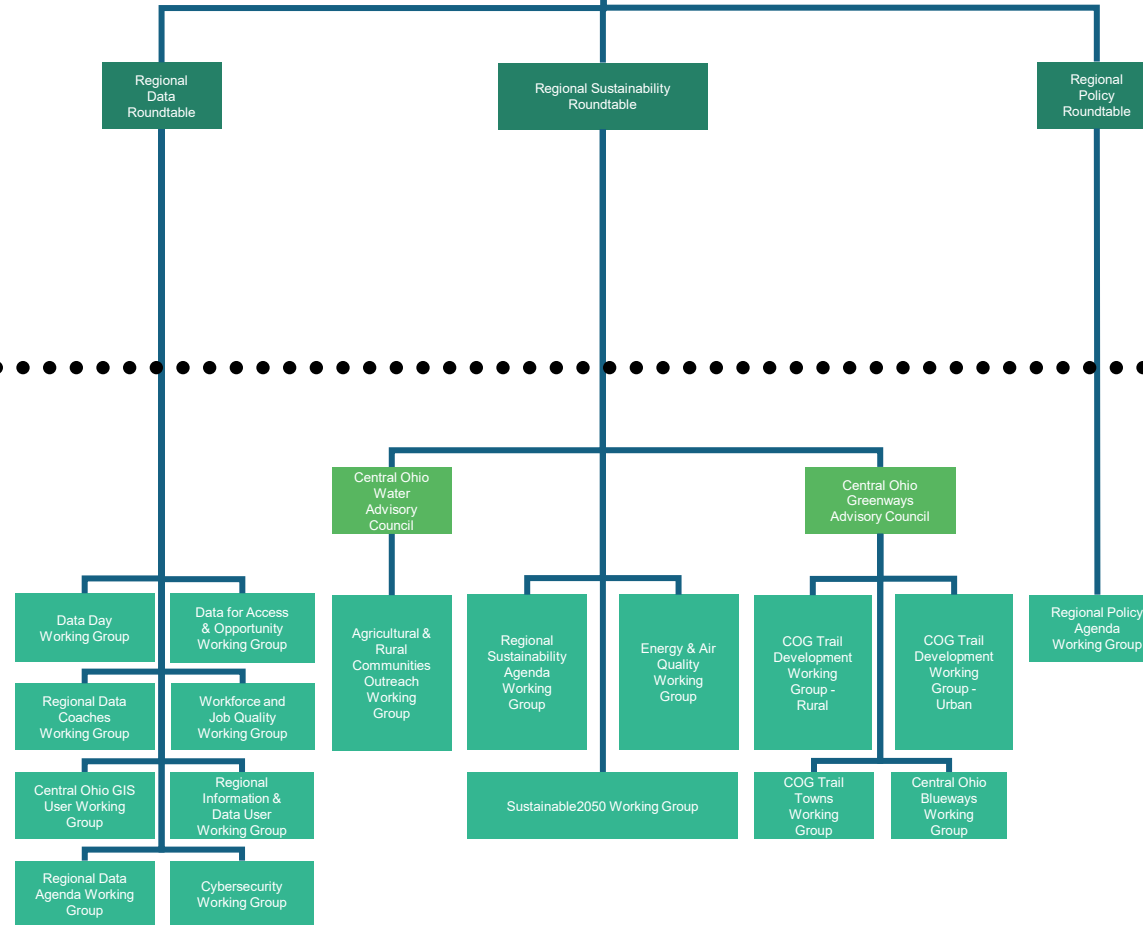**Commission Committees**
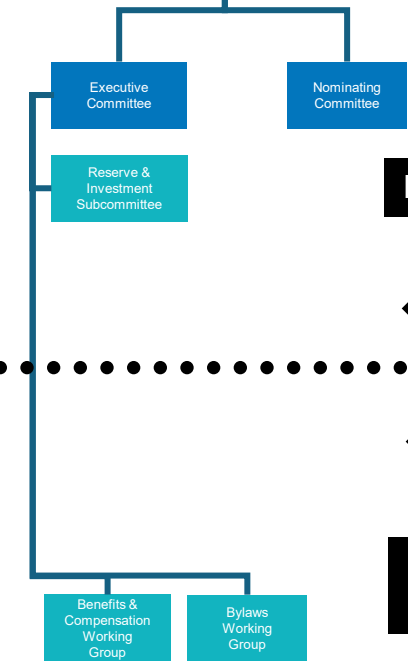- Executive Committee
- Nominating Committee

Commission

Decision-Making Boards

- Central Ohio Metropolitan Planning Organization Board
  - MPO Funding Committee
  - Transportation Advisory Committee
  - Community Advisory Committee
- Central Ohio Economic Development District Board
  - CEDS Committee
- Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization Board
  - RTPO Funding Committee
  - County Subcommittees (various)
  - Rural Transportation Working Group

Central Ohio Passenger Rail Advisory Council
- Active Transportation Working Group
- Intelligent Transportation Working Group

Advisory Roundtables

- Regional Data Roundtable
  - Data Day Working Group
  - Data for Access & Opportunity Working Group
  - Regional Data Coaches Working Group
  - Workforce and Job Quality Working Group
  - Central Ohio GIS User Working Group
  - Regional Information & Data User Working Group
  - Regional Data Agenda Working Group
  - Cybersecurity Working Group

- Regional Sustainability Roundtable
  - Central Ohio Water Advisory Council
    - Agricultural & Rural Communities Outreach Working Group
    - Regional Sustainability Agenda Working Group
    - Energy & Air Quality Working Group
    - Sustainable2050 Working Group
  - Central Ohio Greenways Advisory Council
    - COG Trail Development Working Group - Rural
    - COG Trail Development Working Group - Urban
    - COG Trail Towns Working Group
    - Central Ohio Blueways Working Group

- Regional Policy Roundtable
  - Regional Policy Agenda Working Group

Commission Committees

- Executive Committee
  - Reserve & Investment Subcommittee
  - Benefits & Compensation Working Group
  - Bylaws Working Group
- Nominating Committee

PUBLIC

NOT PUBLIC

REGISTER NOW

LOCAL ROOTS.
LASTING IMPACTS.

SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABILITY 2025

Tuesday, September 30 | 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Hilton Columbus Downtown
(401 North High Street | Columbus, OH 43215)

JOIN US

SECURING OUR ENERGY FUTURE

Informational and Workshop Forum Series

WHAT – A series of **informational webinars and workshops** featuring energy, regulatory, and economic development experts in Central Ohio.

WHO – These sessions will help **local government and community leaders** plan for a more secure, resilient, and affordable energy future for their communities.

MAY 15 | Landscape of Energy Planning
Focus: Big-Picture Challenges and Opportunities in Central Ohio

JUNE 5 | Planning Energy Resilience for a High-Demand Future
Focus: How to Set the Table and Open Your Community to Energy and Economic Opportunities

JULY 10 | Funding and Resource Opportunities to Build Your Energy Stack
Focus: What Is Available Now to Help with Energy Planning and Energy Projects?

AUGUST 27 | Emerging Energy Technologies and Future-Proofing the Region
Focus: What's on the Energy Horizon?

REGISTER TODAY
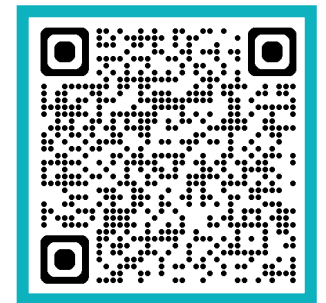
For more information, contact
Brian Filiatraut, bfiliatraut@morpc.org.

JOIN THE CHARGING SMART COHORT

*Charging Smart provides **free** technical assistance and national recognition to local governments to facilitate the adoption of EVs and EV charging in their community.*

Charging Smart focuses on 6 Action Categories:
1. Planning, **2.** Regulation, **3.** Utility Engagement, **4.** Government Operations, **5.** Education & Incentives, and **6.** Shared Mobility

Join 13 local governments across 6 counties. Cohort info:
- Will run from ~July 2025 – March 2026
- Hold meetings and webinars on all things EV infrastructure
- One-on-one calls to collect needed documentation
- Learn and implement best practices from across the country

MORPC WON!

To join the cohort, contact Brian Filiatraut, Senior Energy & Sustainability Program Manager, at bfiliatraut@morpc.org by June 20.

POLICY AND FEDERAL FUNDING UPDATE

Joe Garrity

Sr. Director of Government Affairs & Community Relations

2025-2028 REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY AGENDA

LOCAL ACTIONS, LASTING IMPACTS

Mike Shelton, Chair, RSA Sub-Committee

Brandi Whetstone, Sustainability Director

Karina Peggau, Sr. Planner

RSA SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS

MORPC

- Mike Shelton, OSU Sustainability Institute - Chair
- Erin Beck, City of Columbus
- Elizabeth Ellman, City of Bexley
- Emily Goliver, City of Dublin
- Kristy Hawthorne, Licking Soil and Water Conservation District
- Tom Johnson, Village of Somerset
- Scott Perry, SWACO
- Quentin Platt, City of Mount Vernon
- Connor Robb, Franklin County Emergency Management

TIMELINE

MORPC

April
- Info session
- Draft available for input

May
- May 15 survey deadline
- RSA Sub-committee meets and makes recommendation

June-August
- June 18: Sustainability Advisory Committee vote
- August 14: MORPC Commission vote for adoption

38 MORPC members making a collective impact on quality of life in central Ohio!

Benefits - Member recognition | Peer exchange | Technical assistance

CONSIDERATIONS

MORPC

Considerations for shaping the RSA

Alignment with existing plans - MTP, Regional Trail Vision, Central Ohio Climate Action Plan, Regional Policy Agenda.

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

Consider other frameworks that set a standard for sustainability.

LEADERS LISTEN SUSTAINABILITY SURVEY

Across demographics and geographic areas, there is a collective call for more investment in greenspaces and water conservation activities which would enhance regional air and water quality.

Actionable Insights

• Climate Change is somewhat to extremely worrisome for 2/3 of area residents

• Most (70%) feel that Central Ohio leaders are "not at all" to "moderately" addressing the region's environmental needs

• A noticeable portion feel that their drinking water and outdoor air are of poor or fair quality (25% and 30%, respectively)

Priority Environmental Investments Identified

1. Conserve greenspaces and waterways

2. Improve water quality

3. Expand waste reduction and diversion

4. Improve air quality

5. Expand wind and solar electricity generation

6. Increase the number of electric vehicle charging stations

PROCESS

RSA Subcommittee met seven times since August 2024 -

✓ Reviewed and updated goals

✓ Added NEW goal centered on climate resilience

✓ Reviewed and updated objectives

✓ Added 3 new objectives centered on agriculture

✓ Reviewed and updated strategies

✓ Drafted Mission & Vision statements

✓ Produced a draft for committee and stakeholder input

MISSION AND VISION

Mission: The Regional Sustainability Agenda (RSA) unites Central Ohio and its communities through shared goals, fostering collaboration, education, and innovation to ensure that sustainability benefits are accessible to all and drive lasting prosperity. To advance these goals, MORPC convenes regional events and fosters ongoing conversations that inspire coordinated efforts and measurable progress in sustainability.

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

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

MORPC

Aspirations that unify the objectives

Goal 1: Improve air quality and reduce climate change impacts.

Objectives

1.1 Reduce overall energy consumption and dependence on fossil fuels.

1.2 Reduce per capita vehicle miles traveled.

1.3 Increase alternative fuel vehicles and infrastructure.

1.4 Increase local and regional clean energy consumption and generating capacity.

1.5 Reduce regional greenhouse gas pollution.

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

Specific
Measurable
Attainable
Relevant
Time Bound

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

MORPC

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

NEW!

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

MORPC

	Objectives
Goal 3: Advance healthy, connected, and safe communities.	**3.1** Improve public transit and active transportation safety and quality 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 sustainable local foods and agricultural products.

NEW!

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

MORPC

Goal 4: Advance sustainable and equitable economic growth and development.	Objectives
	4.1 Prioritize sustainable development along existing infrastructure and encourage density.
	4.2 Increase support for businesses and institutions to develop and execute sustainability policies and practices.
	4.3 Increase employment in and availability of environmental careers.
	4.4 Conserve working agricultural lands that are vital economic assets.

NEW!

NEW!

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 buildings.

STRATEGIES

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. There are 125 strategies proposed across the five goals.

Each strategy was 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.

RESESOURCES

- Designed to make objectives and strategies attainable.
- Draws upon resources and funding at the local, state, and federal levels.
- Features local initiatives that already exist, or successful case studies.

* If your organization provides a service or has a template, case study, or other resource that may be relevant to the Regional Sustainability Agenda, please let us know.

Thank you!

Mike Shelton
Chair, RSA Sub-committee
Shelton.267@osu.edu

Brandi Whetstone, LEED Green Associate
Director of Sustainability
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
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bwhetstone@morpc.org

MID-OHIO REGIONAL
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PROPOSED MOTION

The Sustainability Advisory Committee recommends the 2025-2028 Regional Sustainability Agenda for adoption by the MORPC Commission.

AGENDA

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3:35   **5 Minute Break**

3:40   **Floating Solar Tour** – *Glenn Marzluf*

4:30   **Adjourn**

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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MID-OHIO REGIONAL
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Regional Sustainability Agenda 2025-2028

Mission: The Regional Sustainability Agenda (RSA) unites Central Ohio and its communities through shared goals, fostering collaboration, education, and innovation to ensure that sustainability benefits are accessible to all and drive lasting prosperity. To advance these goals, MORPC convenes regional events and fosters ongoing conversations that inspire coordinated efforts and measurable progress in sustainability.

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

Goal 1: Improve air quality and reduce climate change impacts.	Objectives & Strategies

	1.1 Reduce overall energy consumption and dependence on fossil fuels.
	  a. Complete energy audit(s) to identify energy saving opportunities and implement energy efficient improvements in buildings and facilities.
	  b. Benchmark energy use in buildings to manage and track energy performance and to inform energy plans and investments.
	  c. Create and/or promote financial resources to support energy efficiency and clean energy projects.
	  d. Educate and promote energy efficiency improvements and practices.
	  e. Include energy performance and sustainable practices as core requirements in the design, construction, and renovation of buildings.
	  f. Maintain and operate buildings according to sustainable building performance standards.
	  g. Reduce unnecessary outdoor light pollution while maintaining community safety standards.

	1.2 Reduce per capita vehicle miles traveled.
	  a. Create development practices, policies, and incentives that minimize vehicle travel by promoting mixed-use and higher density development and shared or reduced parking among neighboring entities.
	  b. Adopt, implement, and update as needed a Complete Streets Policy or Active Transportation Plan.
	  c. Encourage development in locations accessible by existing transit, multi-use paths, and sidewalks.

  d. Implement programs that reduce vehicle miles traveled and single occupant vehicle travel by focusing on sustainable modes and mode-shift.

  e. Provide workplace incentives to encourage the use of sustainable modes of transportation including transit, biking, walking, and ridesharing.

  f. Create a telecommuting policy that supports a diverse workplace and employee needs.

1.3 Increase alternative fuel vehicles and infrastructure.

  a. Complete a fleet analysis and develop plans for future fleet conversion.

  b. Replace fleets/vehicles with EVs or alternative fuel vehicles.

  c. Adopt policies, practices, and incentives for enabling broader vehicle adoption and equitable EV charger expansion.

  d. Adopt an EV readiness ordinance to ensure that newly created parking facilities have EV charging stations installed or can be easily installed in the future.

  e. Install widespread public charging and alternative fuel stations to support electric vehicle and alternative fuel vehicle use in all neighborhoods.

  f. Support a collaborative regional approach for medium/heavy duty and freight electrification and alternative fuel adoption.

  g. Educate the public about EVs, alternative fuels, and available infrastructure through educational materials, newsletters, ride and drive events, and more.

  h. Achieve Charging Smart or similar designation to support EV infrastructure investment and expansion.

1.4 Increase local and regional clean energy consumption and generating capacity.

  a. Update local codes, zoning, and permitting processes to encourage local renewable energy generation.

  b. Establish a clean energy procurement initiative by implementing programs like community-wide clean energy aggregation or directly sourcing clean energy.

  c. Install or increase the generating capacity of solar systems or other clean energy technologies.

  d. Achieve SolSmart designation to encourage solar development.

  e. Promote residential solar generation opportunities, such as co-ops, to increase capacity.

	1.5 Reduce regional greenhouse gas pollution.
	  a. Conduct a greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory to establish a baseline or continue to track emissions.
	  b. Create and/or implement a plan that includes GHG emission goals and strategies for meeting the goals.
	  c. Implement measures from the Central Ohio Climate Action Plan that impact the largest sources of emissions based on county-level data.
	  d. Conduct public education and engagement to reduce individual climate impacts.

	1.6 Increase the number of days that meet federal standards for ozone and fine particulate matter pollution.
	  a. Implement and support air quality sensors at the neighborhood level to inform local solutions.
	  b. Adopt an organizational vehicle policy that discourages vehicle idling and supports fuel conservation and vehicle efficiency.
	  c. Replace gas-powered equipment with electric or battery-powered equipment.
	  d. Establish or support incentives for residents, businesses, and organizations to replace gas-powered lawn equipment with battery and electric powered equipment.
	  e. Establish an Air Quality Alert Day action plan to minimize emissions when high-pollution days are forecasted.
	  f. Distribute MORPC Air Quality Alerts across communications platforms and promote/enroll people to directly receive Alerts.
	  g. Adopt an Air Quality Awareness Week Proclamation to elevate awareness of and support for clean air initiatives.
	  h. Incentivize and/or promote sustainable mobility options for large community-wide events or festivals, especially during ozone season (March 1 – Oct. 31).

	Objectives & Strategies
	2.1 Improve water quality in Central Ohio watersheds. a. Implement and promote green infrastructure best practices to reduce flooding and stormwater pollution.

Goal 2: Protect and restore natural resources.	b. Expand stormwater treatment requirements to major additions, hardscape expansions, and new structures under one acre. c. Repair and preserve stream corridors, flood plains, wetlands, and native buffers along waterways. d. Implement and promote best management practices for weed and pest control. e. Plant native trees, shrubs, and perennials. f. Host/participate in community activities that improve local waterways. g. Implement pollution prevention strategies and provide staff training to minimize runoff from parking lots, fleet management, and storage of waste, fuels, chemicals, and road salt. h. Identify and reduce sanitary sewer inflow and infiltration through maintenance, repairs, sustainable stormwater management, including on private property. i. Collaborate with communities and stakeholders across the region to support comprehensive water quality monitoring and increase data resources to better target solutions. j. Promote awareness campaigns on reducing household pollutants such as motor oil, chemicals, pet waste, and proper septic system maintenance.
	2.2 Increase land area designated for conservation of biodiversity and natural resources. a. Utilize and/or promote federal, state, and local programs that fund preservation. b. Establish a tree canopy policy or plan for protecting, maintaining, and expanding the local tree canopy on public and private property, with a variety of native species. c. Integrate natural resource conservation into community plans, and address gaps in natural areas, greenspace, and tree canopy. d. Support/incentivize land management practices to support biodiversity. e. Support and promote land conservancies across the region.
	2.3 Support agricultural best management practices that enhance production and environmental quality. a. Support programs and partnerships to reduce agricultural runoff and erosion.

	b. Support/incentivize cover crops, no-till and other soil and forestry best management practices. c. Support development of integrated pest management plans. d. Include environmentally friendly practices in local plans for community gardens and urban agriculture.
	2.4 Reduce the amount of solid waste disposed of in the landfill. a. Support reuse, waste prevention, and landfill diversion activities through public outreach and education. b. Implement community-wide curbside recycling, including commercial and multi-family units, or increase recycling tonnage of existing programs. c. Implement and promote food waste prevention, rescue, and compost programs for residents, businesses, and institutions. d. Adopt a zero-waste policy and/or implement best practices for event waste reduction, diversion, and reuse working toward a zero-waste goal. e. Support re-use, donation, and proper handling of household hazardous waste, electronics, and other hard-to-recycle items. f. Where feasible, require new development projects to allocate adequate space for recycling vehicles and containers. g. Develop a plan to set waste reduction and diversion goals and implement them across all facilities. h. Establish a procurement policy or guidance to encourage reusable products and those made from reusable, recycled, biodegradable, and compostable materials. i. Reuse and recycle materials from construction and demolition processes.
	2.5 Reduce water consumption. a. Install water efficient fixtures, toilets, and appliances. b. Monitor and repair water leaks in buildings and more broadly in water infrastructure. c. Improve or invest in water lines and meters where needed to enhance quality, reliability, and efficiency. d. Deploy real-time water consumption monitoring and alert service to customers. e. Establish education and outreach programs, incentives, and resources to assist low-income households in reducing water consumption and costs.

	f. Install graywater systems in buildings or other best practices to recycle non-potable water and promote available programs to encourage community participation. g. Promote, incentivize, and implement best practices for water reuse.

Goal 3: Advance healthy, connected, and safe communities.	Objectives & Strategies

	3.1 Improve public transit and active transportation safety and quality for all residents.
	  a. Implement infrastructure projects that prioritize safety along the high-injury network and/or at high-crash locations.
	  b. Commit to Vision Zero strategies with a "safe system" approach to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries.
	  c. Conduct education and outreach across diverse audiences about distracted, impaired, and reckless driving.
	  d. Implement traffic calming and speed management design strategies along urban and residential corridors.
	  e. Expand and create a low-stress network for non-motorists, such as protected bike lanes and multi-use trails, to improve user comfort.
	  f. Include and expand the role of street trees in safe road design for traffic calming, comfortable walking and biking spaces, reducing temperatures, and managing stormwater.

	3.2 Increase and enhance transportation options for all users.
	  a. Establish processes or policies that prioritize transit access and filling gaps in sidewalk coverage, crosswalks, and lighting along active transportation infrastructure.
	  b. Establish connections among pedestrian, bicycle, and transit infrastructure.
	  c. Prioritize investments in areas where there are disparities in sidewalk coverage and areas underserved in multi-modal transportation options.
	  d. Implement/support initiatives that enhance mobility options for seniors, children, and people with disabilities.

3.3 Increase access to parks, greenspace, and regional trails.
   a. Adopt a multi-use trail plan and ensure implementation of and access to the Regional Trail Vision.
   b. Prioritize infrastructure investments to construct trail network segments, and close gaps in the trail network to increase trail miles, connectivity, and accessibility.
   c. Increase safety and accessibility of routes to parks and trails.
   d. Prioritize trail and trail access investments in accordance with the Regional Trail Prioritization.
   e. Include parkland acquisition and designation in community plans and budgets.
   f. Implement inclusive public engagement and outreach when locating and designing parks and trails.

3.4 Reduce household energy cost burden.
   a. Promote and increase participation in MORPC's residential energy efficiency and related programs for income-qualified households across the region.
   b. Target resources, tools, and outreach programs to address energy consumption in areas with unaffordable household energy burden.
   c. Support and/or implement programs and incentives to advance clean energy initiatives that reduce costs for consumers, create job opportunities, and improve community health.

3.5 Reduce the rate of elevated blood lead levels among children.
   a. Encourage lead testing and conduct educational programs to reduce lead exposure in vulnerable populations.
   b. Implement lead service line replacement.
   c. Implement or promote existing lead abatement and safety programs for all buildings.
   d. Establish processes or policies that require soil testing in locations where land use may have contributed to contamination.

3.6 Increase access to and knowledge about sustainable local foods and agricultural products.
   a. Procure sustainable food and agricultural products, prioritizing seasonal and organic options.

b. Support local food through institutional purchasing, farmer's markets, community gardens, seed banks, etc.
c. Include community agriculture in community plans and zoning.
d. Promote farm-to-school programs, vocational programs, FFA, and 4-H.
e. Support local soil and water conservation districts, extension offices, USDA, and county fairs.
f. Increase awareness of local, sustainable foods through educational campaigns, outreach opportunities, community-based cooking programs, farm tours, and interdisciplinary events.

Goal 4: Advance sustainable and equitable economic growth and development.	Objectives & Strategies
	4.1 Prioritize sustainable development along existing infrastructure and encourage density. a. Include considerations for infill, redevelopment, and mixed-use development in community plans, land-use policies, and zoning codes. b. Use a fix-it-first strategy to maintain and repair existing transportation infrastructure. c. Retrofit and preserve existing buildings, housing, and structures wherever possible. d. Remediate brownfields for productive use. e. Increase the availability of housing options near transit or job centers.
	4.2 Increase support for businesses and institutions to develop and execute sustainability policies and practices. a. Support and promote businesses and institutions with sustainable practices, products, and services. b. Create programming that directs businesses and institutions towards available sustainability funding, tools, and resources. c. Promote, participate in, or create new programs that support institutional adoption of sustainable practices.
	4.3 Increase employment in and availability of environmental careers. a. Engage higher education institutions in developing applied degrees, certifications, apprenticeships, and career pathways tied to regional sustainability priorities.

b. Collaborate with workforce development programs and local employers to create and promote job opportunities in underserved communities.
c. Target tools and resources to support sustainability innovation in new and existing businesses.
d. Create policies or guidelines to support environmentally friendly purchasing and contracting.

4.4 Conserve working agricultural lands that are vital economic assets.
   a. Target financial tools to incentivize preservation of farmland and environmentally sensitive areas.
   b. Utilize conservation easements, agricultural protection zones, and other tools to protect valuable agricultural assets.
   c. Utilize a balanced and strategic approach for development, with priority areas identified for conservation, development, and agriculture in community plans.
   d. Enable the deployment of agrivoltaics.

Goal 5: Create communities that are aware, prepared, and resilient to climate impacts.	Objectives & Strategies
	5.1 Increase preparedness for extreme weather events.

a. Conduct community preparedness campaigns to educate all residents, including underserved populations and those without shelter, on extreme weather alerts, preparedness, and evacuation procedures.
b. Conduct hazard and vulnerability assessments and update them at regularly defined intervals.
c. Coordinate with neighboring communities to close gaps in severe weather communication, resources, and response.
d. Identify community cooling centers and water-based recreation opportunities to combat extreme heat.
e. Identify community warming centers and shelters to combat extreme cold.
f. Equip essential community resources, such as emergency responders and cooling centers, with back-up generators.
g. Support and create disaster readiness plans.

5.2 Increase community resilience to flooding, severe weather, and extreme temperatures.

a. Promote resilient energy systems with local and diverse energy sources, grid modernization, energy storage, backup solutions, and rapid response strategies to reduce disruptions.
b. Adopt climate resilient landscape design standards into local zoning codes and land-use planning.
c. Adopt climate resilient farming practices.
d. Coordinate with emergency management and waste management sectors to plan for disaster debris management.
e. Promote resources that educate communities and businesses on common climate impacts.

5.3 Create more resilient infrastructure and buildings.

a. Prioritize engineering best practices for resilient roads and bridges.
b. Encourage passive heating and cooling infrastructure in new buildings.
c. Increase awareness of climate adaptation measures and empower stakeholders to take action.
d. Conduct an inventory of structures within floodplains and create an action plan to improve structural resilience during flood events.

MORPC Sustainability Advisory Committee
Board & Working Group Report
June 18, 2025

Central Ohio Greenways Board (Chair: Mike Andrako, P.E.)
Next meeting: July 16, 2025

The COG Board met on May 21, 2025, to review working group progress, Greenways Planning Studio (GPS) projects, and approve the Trail Town brand.

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 working groups are finalizing the definition of a Gateway.

With funding from ODOT, COG will be developing a Central Ohio Cycling Guide. Staff will be requesting the support of summer interns to select routes originating from MORPC, City of Westerville, City of Grove City, and City of Bexley to collect video image data that will support an AI safety analysis. Staff assisting with the project attended bike safety training at the end of May.

The Environmental Sensitivity Index is available on the Central Ohio Greenways website, which was developed with funding from The Columbus Foundation and in partnership with Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District. This index tells us where Franklin County's most sensitive land is located. The index takes into consideration environmental data such as tree canopy, endangered species, and wetland information from the EPA, ODNR, and other trusted sources to tell us where we should invest in protecting, preserving, or mitigating our natural assets. The hope is that this data will be used to make better development decisions that support growth, while protecting our resources and connecting people to nature.

MORPC was selected to present a proposal to the Columbus Foundation Green Funds Committee for funding consideration. BLOOM (Building Landscapes of Opportunity & Mitigation) is a project that will advance the Green Infrastructure Toolkit by identifying priority parcels informed by the Environmental Sensitivity Index for mitigation and pairing them with suitable green infrastructure strategies.

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 is seeking sponsorship for the 2025 COG Forums. GPS is developing project priorities for four workshops in 2025 and is developing a strategic plan to leverage existing MORPC and partner resources.

The Central Ohio Blueways Steering Committee has paused work through the summer. COG and MORPC are identifying strategies to continue the work later this year by leveraging resources from the COG, GPS and the Community Based Planning Assistance Program.

Energy & Air Quality Working Group (Chair: Matt Stephens-Rich)
Next meeting: August 27, 2025, from 1 - 3:00 PM at the OSU Energy Advancement and Innovation Center

The Energy and Air Quality Working Group (EAQWG) held its second meeting of the year on May 28. The working group heard substantial updates on air quality, energy programming, and local and federal policy and legislation, particularly the effects of newly passed HB 15 that will provide new opportunities for local governments to build industrial energy parks in collaboration with energy-intensive manufacturing and businesses. The EAQWG's next meeting will coincide with the fourth and final session of the *Securing Our Energy Future* forum series on Wednesday, August 27 from 1 – 3:00 PM at the OSU Energy Advancement and Innovation Center. See the next section below for more information. And, if interested in attending, please reach out to Brian Filiatraut, Senior Program Manager of Energy and Sustainability, at bfiliatraut@morpc.org.

Energy Planning – *Securing Our Energy Future* Forum Series
The four-part *Securing Our Energy Future* forum and workshop series is halfway through. The first session on May 15—*Landscape of Energy Planning*—featured an expert panel of William Murdock (MORPC), Kenny McDonald (One Columbus), Kamran Ali (AEP), and Alex Denney (Ohio Business Roundtable) that discussed the big-picture challenges and opportunities from an influx of data centers and advanced manufacturing facing Central Ohio's energy future. The second session on June 5—*Planning Energy Resilience for a High-Demand Future*—focused on helping local government and community leaders understand and plan for big projects and utilize HB 15 to build industrial energy parks, as well as learning tools and strategies to integrate energy planning into comprehensive plans, looking at zoning, economic development, and public engagement.

Come join the third session—*Funding and Resource Opportunities to Build Your Energy Stack*—on **Thursday, July 10 from 1 – 3 PM** at MORPC. This session will guide local leaders through the diverse funding tools and incentives available to accelerate energy planning, programs, and projects. **Please register at our website: https://www.morpc.org/programs-services/energy-planning/.**

The fourth and final session—*Emerging Energy Technologies and Future-Proofing the Region*—will occur on August 27 from 1 – 3 PM at the OSU Energy Advancement and Innovation Center, sponsored by the OSU Sustainability Institute. This event will explore cutting-edge advancements and applications on the horizon that will build energy resilience and open up economic opportunities. For more information, please get in touch with Brian Filiatraut, Senior Program Manager of Energy and Sustainability, bfiliatraut@morpc.org.

Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure
MORPC is one of five Charging Smart Regional Engagement Partner award winners. MORPC and support staff from the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) and Great Plains Institute (GPI) will guide local governments through the Charging Smart process—at no cost—to review and streamline procedures and policies in facilitating the adoption and accessibility of EV infrastructure for residents and businesses. The Charging Smart cohort will support 13 local governments across six counties—City of Bexley, Chillicothe, Columbus, Delaware, Gahanna, Grandview Heights, Hilliard, Mount Vernon, Newark, Upper Arlington, and Worthington, Fairfield County, and the Village of Granville. If you are interested in joining this cohort, please contact

Brian Filiatraut, Senior Program Manager of Energy and Sustainability, bfiliatraut@morpc.org by June 20.

Home Weatherization and Energy Efficiency
The MORPC Central Ohio's Safe and Energy Efficient (COSEE) Homes Program was one of six award winners of the inaugural Google Ohio Grid Innovation Fund. This initiative was launched in partnership with the Columbus Region Green Fund and Elevate to support clean energy projects that reduce harmful carbon emissions, provide industry workforce training, and offer continued energy education. COSEE Homes is focused on expanding MORPC's Residential Services weatherization program to include a wider pool of low-to-moderate-income households in Franklin County. COSEE Homes will provide energy efficiency upgrades, including tankless water heaters, new furnaces, and attic and wall insulation to help reduce energy burden, increase grid resilience, and improve air quality.

Residential Solar
The City of Columbus has partnered with Solar United Neighbors (SUN) and is offering a new solar co-op initiative—Switch Together Program. Switch Together, a group-purchasing program, makes it more affordable for residents to install solar panels with significant discounts. While it lasts, the 30% federal solar tax credit can further reduce system costs, making solar energy more accessible than ever before. It is free to register, and there is no obligation to purchase a system. Take advantage of this opportunity by registering at:
https://www.SwitchTogether.com/Solar/Columbus by Wednesday, June 25.

Air Quality:
The US EPA funded Community Led Enhanced Air Quality Network (CLEAN), co-led by Franklin County Public Health, has made great progress in recent months. The team deployed a total of thirty-six sensors across Franklin County and the consultant, Ramboll, will use the data to track air pollution and its sources through their Shair Dashboard, available for viewing online. The team continues to give presentations and will have a greater focus on outreach and engagement in the coming months. The project also received additional support from the City of Columbus to expand upon key elements of the project and the team now has an extra 20 sensors to deploy in Franklin County.

The Columbus region experienced its first air quality alerts of the season on June 8 and 9. Particulate matter levels on these days reached the Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups category on the Air Quality Index, primarily due to the Canadian wildfires. JR Diaz-Hernandez, Air Quality and Sustainability Coordinator with MORPC, was interviewed by 10TV to discuss these alerts. Residents located in Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, or Licking Counties are encouraged to sign up for air quality alerts by visiting morpc.org/airquality.

Sustainable2050
Next meeting: August 28, 2025

MORPC hosted the Q2 Sustainable2050 member forum on May 22, 2025, featuring a presentation from Ohio EPA's Office of Environmental Innovation about their free onsite pollution prevention (P2) assessment. The P2 assessments include an onsite survey of an organization's operations to identify and evaluate opportunities for organizations to reduce waste, inefficiencies, and pollution generation. More information can be found on their website.

The meeting also included a presentation about OSU's Environmental and Social Sustainability Lab, providing tailored research services to industry, government, and non-profits to answer fundamental and applied questions about people and sustainability.

The next Sustainable2050 meeting will be on August 28, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. and will include a presentation about the Ohio Air Quality Development Authority's Solar for All program, focused on residential solar.

Sustainable2050 membership is open to all MORPC Members. With the pending adoption of the updated Regional Sustainability Agenda, the new Member and certification process will be paused until MORPC adopts the updated framework and the associated certification levels. For more information, contact Brandi Whetstone at bwhetstone@morpc.org

Regional Water Advisory Council (Sustaining Scioto Board) (Chair: Glenn Marzluf, P.E)
Next Meeting: August 19, 2025

The first and second Regional Water Advisory Council meetings were held on April 30 and June 4, 2025. The Council is currently made up of over 30 members across the 15-county MORPC service area.

The first meeting focused on the level-setting of the Council, including the Council's scope of work and future. The Council aims to enhance regional collaboration and set clear objectives for upcoming projects with a focus on the outcomes of the Regional Water Study. Members also heard a presentation from John Newsome P.E, Administrator - Division. of Water, City of Columbus on the City's reuse study and ongoing projects. He discussed major initiatives, including water reuse, storage capacity increases, and drought mitigation strategies.

At the second meeting, the Chair revealed members of the Steering Working Group to the Council. The working group, made up of 5 members from the Council, will be meeting periodically to help provide strategic leadership for the Council's activities. The City of Columbus presented updates about the ongoing amendments to the Big Darby Accord (Franklin County). The presenters highlighted the importance of preserving this unique ecosystem, success stories, recent development pressures, and the need for updated policies and guidelines.

MORPC is testing a beta version of the Green Infrastructure Toolkit which aims to create awareness around green infrastructure as a stormwater management tool. The toolkit includes information for households, municipalities, and developers in the region, providing resources and strategies for implementing green infrastructure. The beta version of the toolkit has been deployed, and feedback is being sought from stakeholders to improve and expand the toolkit

Agricultural & Rural Communities Outreach Team
The Agricultural & Rural Communities Outreach Team met on April 3, 2025, to discuss the Team's scope of work and priorities for the year. The scope of work will largely be determined by the recently completed Central Ohio Regional Water Study and additional guidance from the 2015 Sustaining Scioto Study. Members of the Outreach Team also discussed active recruitment and are seeking recommendations of interested parties. The Team will meet again on July 17, 2025.

Central Ohio Regional Water Study
MORPC in partnership with Ohio EPA and ODNR hosted a workshop for local governments and their consultants in May. The event welcomed about 150 participants. Decision-makers and their consultants were able to discuss the model inputs and outputs including land use, population projections, and water demands, among others with the study's technical team. The study, which focused on evaluating water resources and associated infrastructure, yielded several deliverables including an interactive planning tool designed to help community leaders in Central Ohio make informed water infrastructure and community investment decisions in a manner that both protects natural resources and supports economic development. The Regional Water Advisory Council is working to advance the recommendations of the study, including recycling of water, regionalization and irrigation, among others.

208 Process Review Committee
In April, the MORPC Board approved the motion authorizing the agency to continue to pursue designation as a 208 Areawide Planning Agency. This approval was made contingent upon MORPC securing sufficient funding, and that the work be governed and structured by the policies and procedures developed by MORPC and the ad-hoc committee. With the approval, MORPC will work in collaboration with Ohio EPA to identify funding and conduct a public engagement process with affected stakeholders.