



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

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**NOTICE OF A MEETING
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

REMOTE MEETING

December 15, 2021, 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm

AGENDA

- 2:30 – 2:35 pm** **Welcome** – *Jim Schimmer, Chair and Ben Kessler, Vice Chair*
- 2:35 – 2:45 pm** **[Member Recognition](#)** – *William Murdock, MORPC*
- 2:45 – 2:55 pm** **[Policy Update](#)** – *Joe Garrity, MORPC*
- 2:55 – 3:10 pm** **Regional Sustainability Agenda – Remaining Indicators and Targets**
– *Ethan Hug, MORPC*
- Objective 1.5 Reduce regional greenhouse gas emissions
 - Objective 2.5 Reduce the conversion rate of farmland
- 3:10 – 3:35** **2021 Highlights and Accomplishments** – *Kerstin Carr and the MORPC Planning & Sustainability Team*
- 3:35 – 3:50 pm** **Working Group/Board Updates**
- Central Ohio Greenways Board: *Letty Schamp*
 - Sustaining Scioto Board: *Kristen Atha*
 - Sustainable2050: *Ben Kessler*
 - Energy & Air Quality Working Group: *Matt Stephens-Rich*
- 3:50 – 4:00 pm** **Other Business**
- 2022 meeting schedule
 - Member updates
- 4:00 pm** **Adjourn**

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

**The next Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting
will be on Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at 2:30 pm**

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Karen J. Angelou
Chair

Erik J. Janas
Vice Chair

Chris Amorose Groomes
Secretary

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

Remote Meeting

Sustainability Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes

December 15, 2021, 2:30 pm

Members Present

Kristen Atha, AECOM
Kate Bartter, OSU Sustainability Institute
Andrew Biesterveld, COTA
Vice-Chair Mayor Ben Kessler, City of Bexley
Justin Milam, City of Upper Arlington
Megan O'Callaghan, City of Dublin
Kyle O'Keefe, SWACO
Letty Schamp, City of Hilliard
Chair Jim Schimmer, Franklin County
Economic Development & Planning

Joshua Simon, Metro Parks
Megha Sinha, NBBJ
Dan Sowry, Ohio EPA
Matt Stephens-Rich, The Electrification
Coalition
Eric Walli, Honda North America, Inc.
Mayor Christie Ward, Village of Lockbourne

MORPC Staff Present

Kerstin Carr	Lynn Kaufman	Anna Oestreich	Liz Whelan-Jackson
Brian Filiatraut	William Murdock	Edwina Teye	Brandi Whetstone
Joe Garrity	Jennifer Noll	Melinda Vonstein	Brooke White
Ethan Hug			

Called to Order at 2:32 pm.

Member Recognition – William Murdock, MORPC

William Murdock recognized outgoing members Kristen Atha, Kate Bartter, Justin Milam, Megan O'Callaghan, Letty Schamp, Jim Schimmer, and Alana Shockey.

Mayor Ben Kessler will serve as the as new Chair.

Policy Update – Joe Garrity, MORPC

Regional Sustainability Agenda – Remaining Indicators and Targets – Ethan Hug, MORPC

Objective 1.5 Reduce Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions

This metric has been revised to measure the overall regional number of CO₂ gas metric tons emitted for the region. The most recent nine years of data are available from the EPA. The goal for 2025 is a 31% reduction in total CO₂ from 2010, putting the region on the path for a 50% reduction in 2030.

Objective 2.5 Reduce the Conversion Rate of Farmland

The original intent of this objective was to promote balanced approach to land use and to encourage infill development rather than green field / open space development that could result in loss of farmland. We explored this measure initially from the need to preserve prime farmland. Doing this, we found that the region is mostly made up of prime farmland based on soil type. The metric has been revised to be a three-year status indicator of average acres planted. With these considerations, it is suggested that we monitor this measure, and suggest that the 3-year averages not decrease greater than -0.85%, and that concern be raised when trends are consistently trending above the -1.1% loss of ag lands.

Please see [Regional Sustainability Agenda 2021 Finalized Baseline & Targets](#) for more clarification.

Member Sinha moved to adopt the Targets for the Regional Sustainability Agenda Objectives 1.6 and 2.5, seconded by Member Milam, motion carried.

2021 Highlights and Accomplishments – *Kerstin Carr and the MORPC Planning & Sustainability Team*

Kerstin Carr and staff gave a brief review of the Planning & Sustainability Team's 2021 work. Highlights include RAPID 5, Central Ohio Greenways work, LinkUS, SolSmart, Energy Aggregation, Neighborhood-level Air Quality Monitoring, the Logan, Morrow, & Champaign 208 Water Quality Management Plans, the 2021 Summit on Sustainability, and the Regional Sustainability Agenda.

Working Group/Board Updates

Central Ohio Greenways Board – *Letty Schamp*

The Board met on November 9 to review 2022 COG Board accomplishments, to discuss federal legislative updates, MORPC's technical assistance program, and 2022 goals, and to review Working Group activities. The Board will meet again on January 19, 2022.

Trail Development Working Group

Two trail counters were installed for evaluation thru Summer 2022. A formal equipment recommendation to partners is expected after the evaluation period. The Working Group reviewed Regional Trail Vision changes and will present them to the Board in January.

Marketing & Communications Working Group

The Working Group has partnered with Experience Columbus to develop a passport program to encourage use of trails. The Working Group will also advise MORPC's Trail Town Planning effort; the Trail Town Project is scheduled to begin on December 13.

Operations & Access Working Group

The Working Group reviewed wayfinding strategies for a new trail segment and plans to identify funding for a Wayfinding Planning Study.

Partnership Working Group

The Working Group recently finalized an Impact of Trails Report, which estimates a return on investment for the Regional Trail Vision. In 2022, the Working Group plans to focus on environmental partnerships.

Sustaining Scioto Board – *Kristen Atha*

The Board met October 27 with an update from the Agricultural & Rural Communities Outreach Team on administering a survey and interview with the Upper Scioto River Watershed Soil and Water Conservation District supervisors. The Board also discussed the need to renew member terms and identify a new Chair for 2022. The Board will meet again on February 23, 2022.

Agricultural and Rural Communities Outreach Team

The Team met on November 18, with a presentation from the OSU Capstone Design Class on the Social Science Farmer Survey. The Team will meet again on January 20, 2022.

Sustainable2050 – *Ben Kessler*

The Q4 Membership Meeting took place on December 10. The featured meeting topic was Energy, with staff presenting on SolSmart and Energy Aggregation. Tristan Rader of Solar United Neighbors also gave a presentation about solar co-ops.

A new element has been incorporated into the Sustainable2050 certification process, where members can also earn recognition as a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Champion by achieving at least ten of the strategies that have been labeled as DE&I (there are 37 total).

The next Membership Meeting will be March 18, 2022.

Energy & Air Quality Working Group – Matt Stephens-Rich

The Energy & Air Quality Working Group met on November 23 with a presentation on the LinkUs initiative from MORPC's John Gardocki. The Working Group was also introduced to MORPC's new Energy & Sustainability Program Coordinator, Brian Filiatraut. The Working Group will meet again on January 25, 2022.

Other Business

2022 Meeting Schedule

- Wednesday, February 16
- Wednesday, April 20
- Wednesday, June 8
- Wednesday, September 28
- Wednesday, December 14

All meetings will begin at 2:30 pm.

Adjourned at 4:05 pm.

SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

December 15, 2021



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MEMBER RECOGNITION



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Thank you!

- **Kristen Atha**
- **Kate Bartter**
- **Justin Milam**
- **Megan O'Callaghan**
- **Letty Schamp**
- **Jim Schimmer**
- **Alana Shockey**



REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY AGENDA INDICATORS AND TARGETS

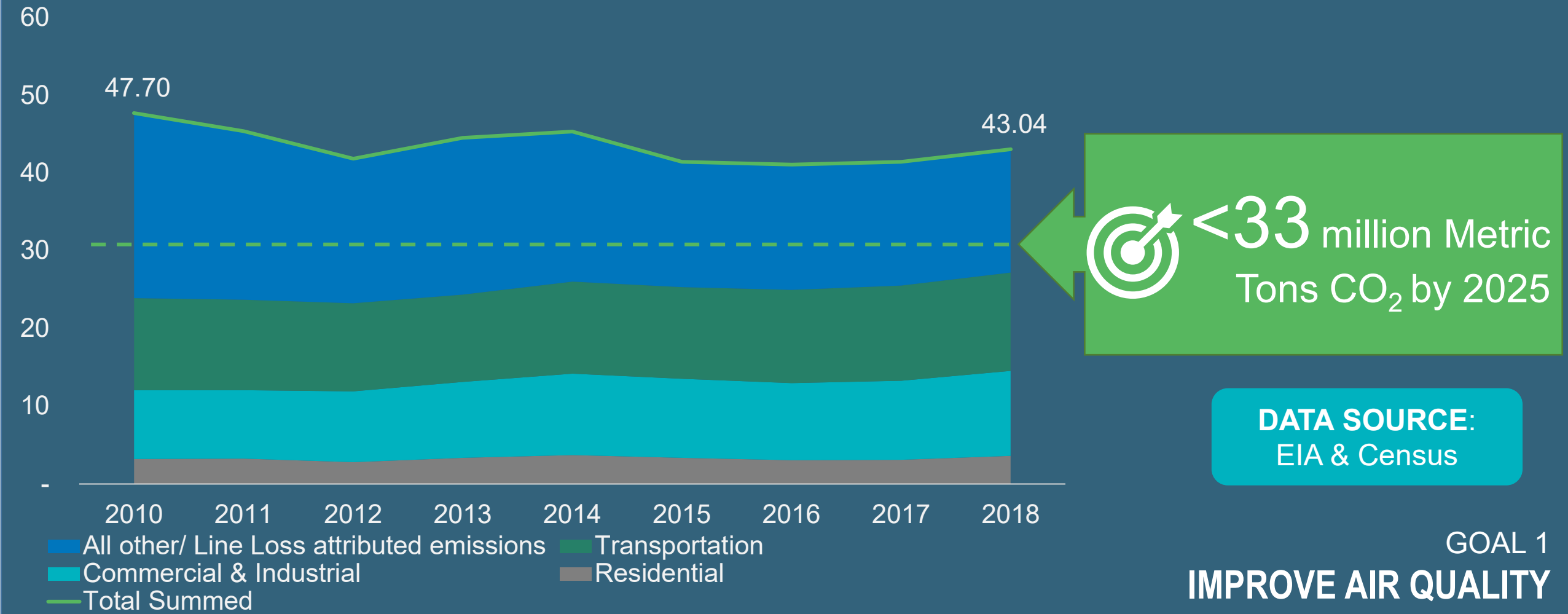
Ethan Hug, MORPC



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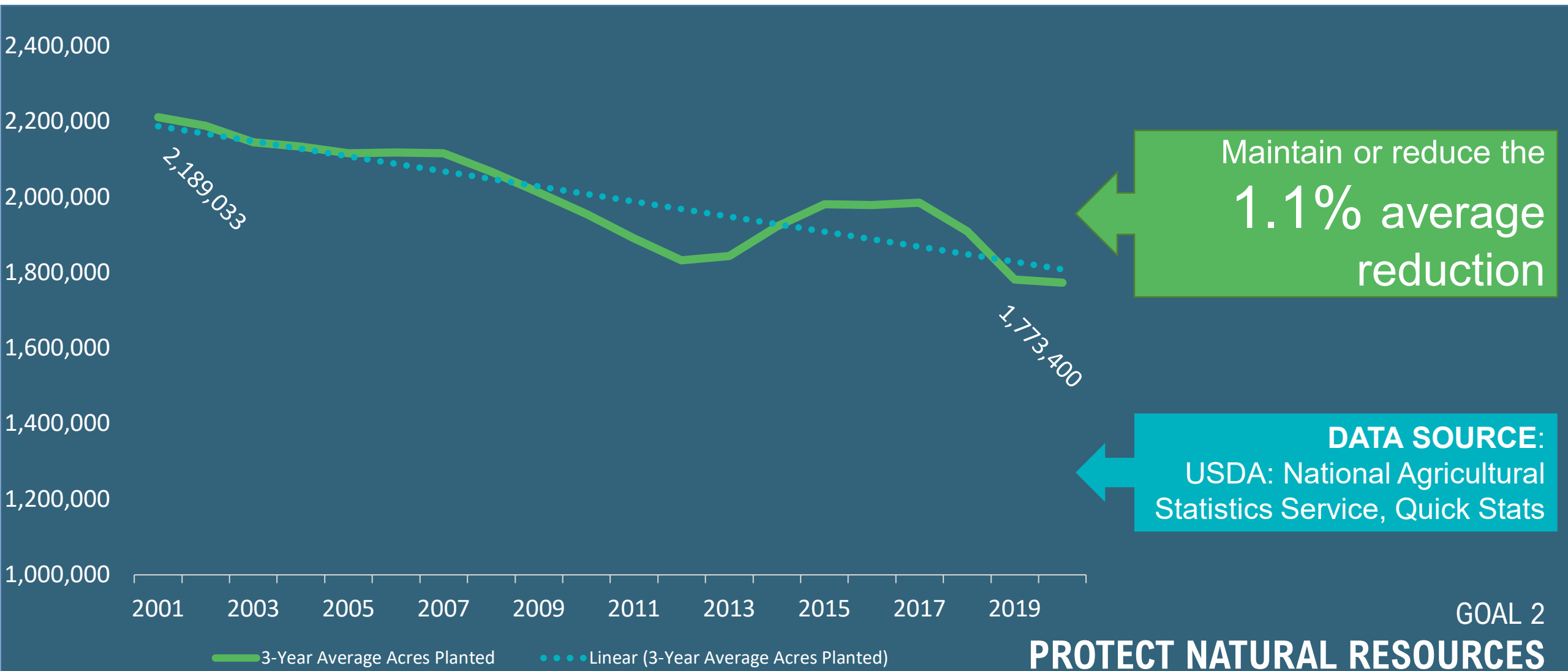
1.5 Reduce regional greenhouse gas emissions

ANNUAL CO₂ EMISSIONS FROM ENERGY AND FUEL CONSUMPTION (metric tons)
15-COUNTY REGION



2.5 Reduce the conversion rate of nationally significant farmland

Agriculture land use – 3-Year average



Questions?

Ethan Hug

Data Analyst

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

ehug@morpc.org





**Approve proposed targets for objectives 1.5 and 2.5 of the
2021-2024 Regional Sustainability Agenda.**



2021 Accomplishments

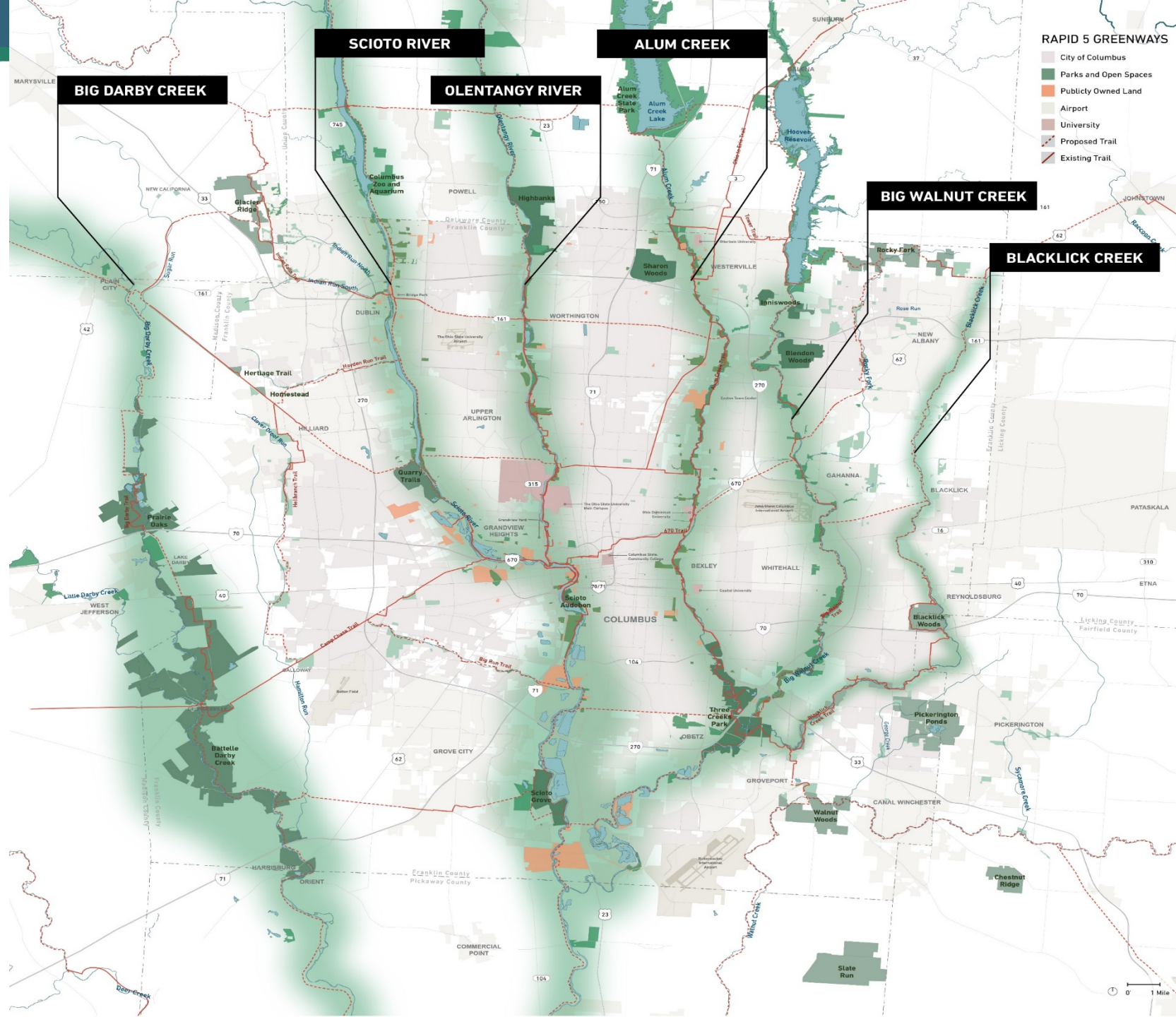
Planning & Sustainability Department
MORPC



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RAPID PROJECT





CENTRAL OHIO GREENWAYS



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2021

- Trail Prioritization
- Impacts of Trail Study
- Trail Monitoring Pilot Project
- Outdoor Trails Passport

2022

- Trail Town Framework
- Implementation/Funding Strategies
- Partnership Development



Hike, Bike and Paddle Trail

- Mobile exclusive
- Instantly delivered via text and email
- No apps to download
- Experience the nature of Central Ohio

[Explore Now](#)

**\$2 million of
total economic
impact per mile**



Cyclists and pedestrians are counted and differentiated on a shared use path

Melinda Vonstein, Central Ohio Greenways Coordinator
mvonstein@morpc.org

NEW BIKE/PED RESOURCES FOR MPO

COMPLETE STREETS POLICY

Transportation projects receiving MORPC-attributable federal funding are required to comply with this policy.

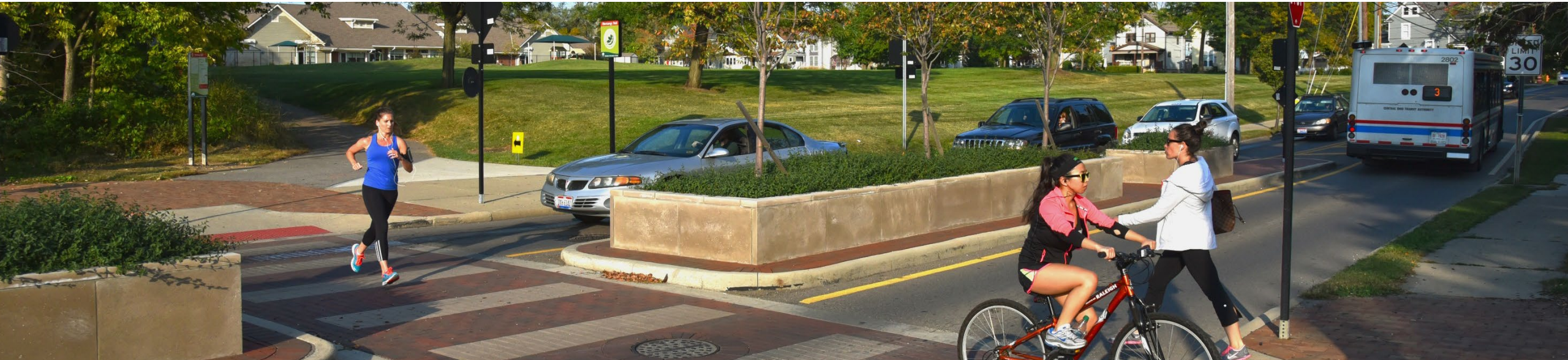
<https://www.morpc.org/tool-resource/complete-streets/>

2020-2050 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Provides resources to help communities design roadway projects that include accommodations for all users.

<https://www.morpc.org/atp>

Contact Lauren Cardoni, Lcardoni@morpc.org





HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT

- Regional Housing Strategy
 - Speaker Series
 - Outreach & Engagement
 - Agency Peer Exchange
- LinkUS
 - *State of Mobility* report
- Insight2050
 - Scenario Planning
 - ESRI Urban





ENERGY



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2021-

- **SolSmart**

= technical assistance & designation program → recognize local gov'ts for encouraging solar growth by addressing barriers

- **Energy Aggregation**

= regional approach centered on 100% RE & in-state

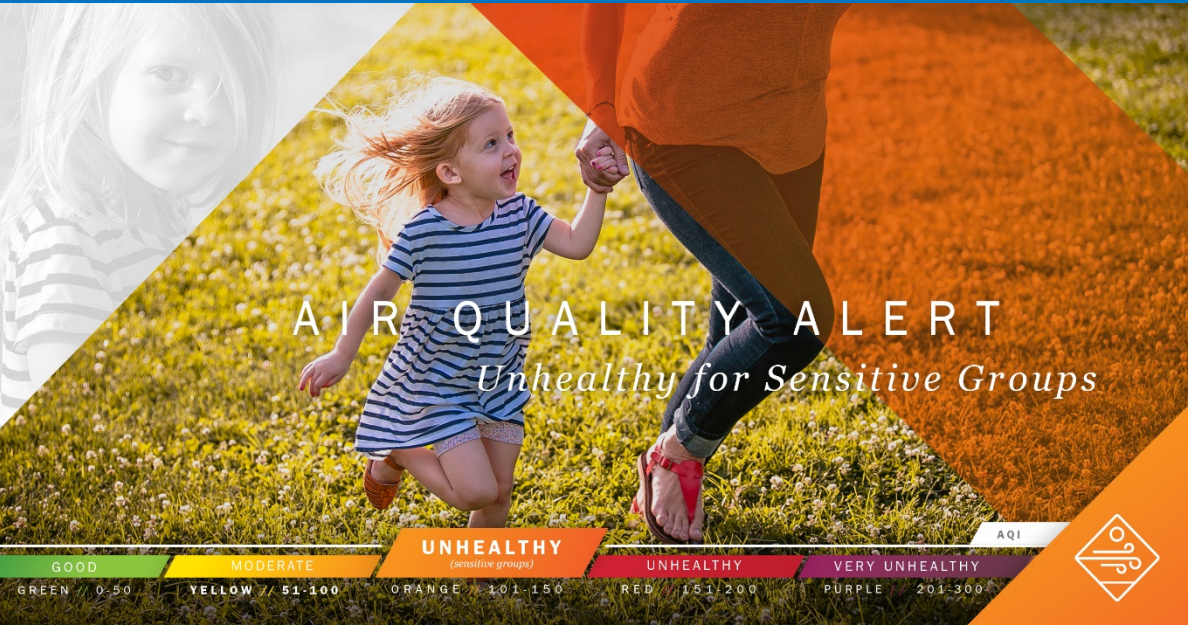
- **Rickenbacker Area Plan Update**





AIR QUALITY

- Neighborhood level air quality monitoring
- Forecasting and annual report



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WATER RESOURCES



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Sustaining Scioto-

- Forum on precipitation impacts and water infrastructure planning tools
- Funding and partnership with American Farmland Trust
- Ag & Rural Outreach Working Team
- Virtual Riverfest

208 Water Quality Management Plans-

- Complete for Morrow, Logan, and Champaign Counties





2021 SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABILITY





REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY AGENDA



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GOAL ONE



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

GOAL TWO



Protect and preserve natural resources to support a healthy and resilient region.

GOAL THREE



Improve quality of life for all residents by creating sustainable and equitable communities.

GOAL FOUR



Promote robust, inclusive, and sustainable growth and development.

morpc.org/sustainabilityagenda



SUSTAINABLE2050



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Central Ohio Communities
Working Toward a Better Future

**35 members making a collective impact on
quality of life in central Ohio!**

Program benefits-

- Peer exchange
- Recognition
- Technical assistance

Contact Brandi Whetstone
bwhetstone@morpc.org



Kerstin Carr

Director, Planning & Sustainability

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Jennifer Noll

Principal Planner

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Melinda Vonstein

Central Ohio Greenways Coordinator

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Brandi Whetstone

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Brooke White

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Central Ohio Greenways Board (Chair: Letty Schamp)

Next meeting January 19, 2022

The Central Ohio Greenways (COG) Board meet on November 9th to review 2022 COG Board Accomplishments, learn about federal legislative updates including the recent Infrastructure Bill, learn about MORPC's technical assistance, and review working group activities. Lastly the Board discussed goals for 2022 and would like to continue focusing on partnership building, utilizing federal funds, and evaluating the strategic plan.

Trail Development Working Group: The group is supporting a trail monitoring pilot project. Two state of the art counters were installed on trails and will be evaluated over the next 6-9 months. A formal equipment recommendation to partners is expected after the evaluation period. Lastly the group reviewed Regional Trail Vision changes and will present them to the Board in January.

Marketing & Communications Working Group: The Group has partnered with Experience Columbus to develop a passport program aimed to encourage use of trails. Incentives will be offered monthly to random participants.

Additionally, the Group will advise MORPC's Trail Town Planning effort, which will provide recommendations to rural towns and communities on how to utilize trail connectivity for economic development, tourism, and quality of life. The trail town project is scheduled to begin on December 13th and will last approximately 8 months.

Operations & Access Working Group: The group reviewed wayfinding strategies for a new trail segment and would like to identify funding for a wayfinding planning study.

Partnership Working Group: The Group recently finalized an Impact of Trails Report, which estimates a return on investment for the Regional Trail Vision. The report reveals significant impacts related to quality of life, health, the economy, and the environment. In 2022, the group plans to focus more on environmental partnerships.



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

Next meeting: January 25, 2022

The Energy and Air Quality Working Group met for the final time in 2021 on November 23 with a featured presentation on the LinkUs initiative from John Gardocki with MORPC. The Group was also introduced to MORPC's new Energy & Sustainability Program Coordinator.

Air Quality Monitoring Subcommittee: The project team has finished collocating the 20 low-cost air monitors with Ohio EPA's regulatory particulate matter monitor. One monitor will remain collocated to obtain calibration data throughout the year to understand the influence of meteorology. Fourteen out of twenty monitors have been placed in their final destinations throughout Franklin County. The project team is exploring an educational engagement partnership with COSI staff.



Sustainable2050

Next meeting: Friday, March 18, 2022

The Q4 membership meeting took place on December 10. The featured meeting topic was energy, where staff presented about SolSmart and energy aggregation. Tristan Rader with Solar United Neighbors also gave a presentation about solar co-ops.

The MORPC team also provided an overview of the updated certification process to achieve bronze, silver, gold, and platinum Sustainable2050 levels. The certification process has been updated to align with the new Regional Sustainability Agenda (RSA). Members will use this framework to track their achievements from the list of strategies that have been adopted in the RSA. The current framework includes a much larger menu of activities for earning points toward certification. The certification levels are determined by the percentage of total possible points achieved: 75% earns Platinum, 50% earns Gold, 30% earns Silver, and 15% earns Bronze. If a community has already achieved certification under the old framework, then that will not change unless they decide to certify again.

There's also a new element incorporated into this process, where members can also earn recognition as a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Champion, or DE&I Champion, by achieving at least 10 of the strategies that have been labeled as DE&I (there are 37 total). We are excited to offer this to our Sustainable2050 members and elevate equity within their sustainability work.

If your community or agency is interested in participating in Sustainable2050 or earning its Tier Status, please contact Brandi for more information at bwhetstone@morpc.org.



Sustaining Scioto Board (Chair: Kristen Atha)

Next Meeting: February 23, 2022

The Board met in October with an update from the Agricultural and Rural Communities Outreach Team on administering a survey and interview with the Upper Scioto River Watershed Soil and Water Conservation District supervisors. The Board also discussed the need to renew member terms and identify a new Chair for 2022.

Agricultural and Rural Communities Outreach Team: The Team wrapped up the year during the November 18 meeting. There was a presentation by the OSU Capstone Design Class on the Social Science Farmer Survey deployed to farmers in the Upper Scioto Watershed to help analyze farmer perceptions on topics including water quality and climate change. The results will guide the Team to develop outreach programming for the agricultural and rural communities in the watershed in 2022.

2022 MEETING SCHEDULE



MORPC

All meetings are at 2:30pm

- Wednesday, February 16
- Wednesday, April 20
- Wednesday, June 8
- Wednesday, September 28
- Wednesday, December 14

Happy
Holidays and
warm wishes
for 2022!



Jim Schimmer

Chair

Sustainability Advisory Committee
jrschimmer@franklincountyohio.gov

Ben Kessler

Vice-Chair

Sustainability Advisory Committee
bkessler@bexley.org

Brandi Whetstone

Sustainability Officer

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