2021-2025 REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY AGENDA

Brandi Whetstone, Sustainability Officer

AGENDA

• Regional Sustainability Agenda (RSA) Background
• Subcommittee
• Process and Components of 2021-2024 RSA
• Next Steps
• Questions
RSA SUB-COMMITTEE

Chair: Justin Milam, City of Upper Arlington
Vice-Chair: Alex Slaymaker, Smart Columbus

Membership:
- Emerald Hernandez, City of Columbus Department of Neighborhoods
- Kyle O’Keefe, SWACO
- Nick Plouck, City of Dublin
- James Mako, Fairfield Regional Planning Commission
- Jennie McAdams, Franklin County Public Health
- Basar Ozbilen, Ohio State University
- Dan Sowry, Ohio EPA
- Eric Walli, Honda North America

PROCESS

- Vision and principles
- Sustainable2050 member survey & interviews
- Workshop focused on equity considerations
- Propose and vet goals, objectives, strategies
- Regional stakeholder survey
- Regional stakeholder presentation
- Sub-committee and SAC approval
PUBLIC INPUT

Survey
• 59 responses
• Between 80-90% agreed that the goals and the objectives would benefit all communities
• 52% provide services or programming for low-income or minority populations.
• Several comments about equity and inclusion

Virtual Lunch and Learn
• Over 80 in attendance
• Diverse partners

RSA SURVEY QUOTES

"I am a social worker and many of my clients have asthma, COPD, and other respiratory illnesses. This has made them more vulnerable during COVID, prevents them from engaging in outdoor activities during poor air quality alerts in the summer, and creates further financial inequities due to our costly healthcare system. The more we improve the air the better physical, mental, and economic health my clients on the South Side of Columbus will have."

"Our county has a strong presence in agriculture, and we would like to see the land conversion rate decreased by creative housing strategies and other development efforts. We also know that our residents want natural amenities like clean rivers for kayaking, etc."

"It is really important to consider lower income and communities of color when planning new infrastructure. Especially in terms of transportation, these people are most exposed to poor quality as a result of living near highways, etc., and have the least access to reliable public transportation. I would like to see new transportation infrastructure before anything else, because people will benefit from this endeavor the most."

"Given our diverse geography (rural, urban, suburban) - this goal ensures the future of the region is mindful of the diverse needs of our diverse communities. Additionally, housing is not just an urban or Columbus problem - it needs to be addressed throughout all our jurisdictions, including those communities that have been exclusive thus far."
EQUITY RESOURCE DOCUMENT COMPONENTS

GOAL 1

Goal 1: Improve air quality and reduce climate change impacts to protect public health and the environment.

1.1 Reduce per capita vehicle miles traveled.
1.2 Increase alternative fuel vehicles and infrastructure.
1.3 Reduce per capita energy consumption across all sectors.
1.4 Increase local renewable energy generating capacity.
1.5 Reduce regional greenhouse gas emissions.
1.6 Increase the number of days with good air quality.
### GOAL 2

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

| 2.1 | Reduce the amount of municipal solid waste per capita disposed in the landfill. |
| 2.2 | Reduce per capita water consumption. |
| 2.3 | Improve water quality in central Ohio watersheds. |
| 2.4 | Increase the amount of land devoted to natural areas and ecosystem services. |
| 2.5 | Reduce the conversion rate of farmland. |

### GOAL 3

Goal 3: Improve quality of life for all residents by creating sustainable and equitable communities.

| 3.1 | Improve transportation and mobility safety for all residents. |
| 3.2 | Prioritize infrastructure development which supports multi-modal transportation options for all users. |
| 3.3 | Increase access to parks and regional trails. |
| 3.4 | Reduce household energy cost burden. |
| 3.5 | Reduce the rate of elevated blood lead levels among children. |
GOAL 4

Goal 4: Promote robust, inclusive, and sustainable growth and development.

4.1 Increase the number of businesses with established sustainability policies and practices.
4.2 Maximize infill and redevelopment along existing infrastructure.
4.3 Increase availability of affordable housing options near transit or job centers.
4.4 Increase employment in green jobs.

NEXT STEPS

- Commission review and adoption in May
- Design/format for website
- Create new Sustainable2050 certification workbook
- Update Regional Sustainability Dashboard to track progress
Questions?

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