MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

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NOTICE OF A MEETING
SUSTAINABILITY DASHBOARD WORKING GROUP
MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
111 LIBERTY STREET, SUITE 100, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215
BUCKEYE CONFERENCE ROOM

November 5, 2019, 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm

AGENDA

1. **Welcome & Introductions** *(2:30-2:35pm)*
   Justin Milam, Co-Chair, Rick Stein, Co-Chair

2. **Regional Sustainability Dashboard Updates** *(2:35-3:00pm)*
   Adam Porr, CURA
   a) **Prototype Landing Page for Input**
   b) **Discussion of Progress Indicators**
   c) **State Preservation**

3. **Review of Problematic Metrics and Data Collection** *(3:00-3:50pm)*
   Natalie Hurst, MORPC, Brandi Whetstone, MORPC

   Progress Updates:
   - 2.3 Reduce the amount of municipal solid waste per capita disposed in the landfill
   - 2.1 Reduce Emissions to Meet Federal Air Quality Standards
   - 2.5 Reduce Per Capita Water Consumption

   Discussion:
   - 2.4: Minimize Greenfield Development and Promote Infill
   - 2.6 Improve Water Quality in the Upper Scioto Watershed
   - 3.2: Increase Local Food Purchasing Policies
   - 5.1 Establish the Annual Summit on Sustainability as Premiere Environmental Conference Through High Participation and Visibility
   - 1.6 Reduce Per Capita Energy Consumption Across All Sectors

4. **Other Business** *(3:50-3:55pm)*
   a) **2020 Meeting Cadence / Schedule**

5. **Next Steps (***3:55-4:00pm***)**
   Justin Milam, Co-Chair, Rick Stein, Co-Chair

6. **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 Dashboard Working Group Meeting will be
December 3, 2019, 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 pm
111 Liberty Street, Suite 100, Columbus, Ohio 43215

PARKING AND TRANSIT: When parking in MORPC's parking lot, please be sure to park in a MORPC visitor space or in a space marked with a yellow “M”. Handicapped parking is available at the side of MORPC’s building.
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Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
111 Liberty Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Sustainability Dashboard Working Group
Meeting Notes

October 8, 2019, 1:00 pm

Members Present

Jung Kim, One Columbus
Justin Milam, Co-Chair, City of Upper Arlington
Adam Porr, OSU CURA
Rick Stein, Urban Decision Group

Members Calling In

Shoreh Elhami, City of Columbus

MORPC Staff Present

Natalie Hurst Lynn Kaufman Aaron Schill Brandi Whetstone

Meeting Called to Order at 1:04 pm.

Welcome & Introductions

Working Group Members and staff introduced themselves.

Regional Sustainability Dashboard Updates

Adam Porr reported that most of the Dashboard changes since the September 12 meeting have been aesthetic, in preparation for presentation at MORPC's Summit on Sustainability on October 11.

Updates

- The Dashboard tiles now show all the objectives associated with each of the individual Sustainability Agenda goals.
- The data is still artificial, but now looks more realistic.
- The programmers allocated space for explanatory text to the right of each tile. Most of this space will be used for a legend.
- If cards are added by a user, they are now kept in sequence and are arranged in a more palatable way.
- Each card is now shown on the map. Each dot shows the scale of the proportional symbols that appear on the map, from the smallest to the largest symbol, and where data is clustered in between.
- MORPC branding has been merged with OSU branding.

Future Updates

- Users will be able to customize views and then share that view.
- Targets for each of the indicators will be included.
- Currently if a user resizes a window, the elements do not dynamically resize. This will be fixed.
- Users will be able to share a view via social media.
- The MORPC graphics person will construct design elements to replace simple text.
- There will be a landing page, as discussed at the September 12 meeting.

Discussion
OSU requires that accessibility be built-in for those with visual, auditory, or cognitive impairments. CURA staff will distill these requirements for the application from the OSU standards. Accommodating accessibility in this way may also make the app work better on multiple platforms.

The title of the Dashboard has not yet been decided. Staff has been referring to the product as the Sustainability Dashboard, since that name clearly explains what it is.

Review of Problematic Metrics
Some proposed metrics used in the initial Report Card in 2018 have been identified as problematic. As staff is working through process, they are realizing that that the appropriate data may not be available in some instances.

2.3 Reduce the Amount of Solid Waste Per Capita Disposed in Landfill
In the Regional Sustainability Agenda Report Card, solid waste tonnage was shown only for Franklin County, based on a SWACO report.

There are three options to continue reporting this metric:
1. Retrieve the data from the Ohio Solid Waste Facility Data Report, a pdf that does not have the necessary geographic granularity. This report only includes solid waste that stays in Ohio. If the waste is exported outside state lines, the tonnage is not represented. The waste sent across state lines is approximately 2000 tons per year. The Members discussed whether that amount is significant enough for consideration.
2. Use the EPA's annual district report that is a combination of residential and commercial plus asbestos. One advantage of using the annual district report is that it does include the tonnage exported across state lines. In that regard, the annual district report is more accurate.
3. Use a database query supplied by EPA staff. This query would be possible on the county level but would not include the total amount of solid waste sent across state lines.

Members noted that it appears that the EPA would be able to produce a more customized report for the Dashboard. If they can get the county tonnage that would include the combined waste being sent out of Ohio, that is what is needed for the Dashboard. Ideally, MORPC staff could work something out with EPA to transfer that data directly to the Dashboard team. Members suggested going to the top staff at the EPA and asking for assistance.

Aaron Schill reiterated that the Working Group's first choice would be to pursue the database query. He suggested that staff develop a set of criteria to confirm that the query can meet the needs of the database. If the query cannot meet the needs, then the Working Group will consider the alternative options.

Members also agreed that since the EPA's report has been produced since 1989, they would ask for all the available data, but only show 2014 to present on the Sustainability Dashboard. The CURA Observatory Dashboard will be able to use the historical data.

2.1 Reduce Emissions to Meet Federal Air Quality Standards
Attainment of this goal would mean that the region has been designated as meeting the federal air quality standards. In this case, the metrics report ozone and particle pollution, based on several years of data collected by the EPA. At best the attainment status is updated every few

years. However, MORPC already receives ozone and particle pollution data for the Air Quality Forecasting Program in nearly real-time format. The data represents Fairfield, Licking Delaware, and Franklin Counties. Even more granularity would be available with emerging air sensor technologies. These technologies could be another good source of information to include in the Dashboard to capture more real-time and site-specific data. The drawback to the emerging technology data is that it may not conform to the standards set by the EPA, though the information would still be accurate.

Members discussed whether the new tools aggregate an average for long time periods, whether the EPA could simply supply the Dashboard with a link to daily updated data, and if the information could be presented in different ways to users. Members discussed how to represent third-party information with the available resources available. It may be that the Dashboard can start with the Ohio EPA's monitoring network, which already has some accessible information and staff can work with EPA get the updated information. Members noted that the problematic side of this metric is that there are too many choices of data sources.

Aaron reiterated that members will explore this topic more at a later meeting.

2.2 Increase Number of People Receiving Air Quality Information and Education

MORPC informs the public about air quality in several ways: air quality alerts broadcast over the media, via email, and on highway signs. MORPC also has media marketing public services announcements every summer about air quality. Metric 2.2 is measured by the number of air quality alert emails, media estimates, and estimates of the traffic passing by the dynamic messaging signs, which is difficult to quantify.

If there are no air quality alert days, then the number of people being notified would be zero. If MORPC were particularly successful in reducing single occupancy vehicle trips (which would impact air quality) there would be a reduction in the number of people exposed to the dynamic messaging signs. There are several ways that achieving the overall goal of 2.2 would cause MORPC to appear to be not meet its goal.

Members noted that this metric is simply the measurement of information provided to the public, regardless of the state of the air quality. Members also discussed deleting this objective as it is not measuring outcomes, and does not lend itself to a metric.

Staff suggested that the number of email subscribers be counted, along with marketing campaign interactions, and plus the number of highway signs. Staff also suggested that one of the products of this Working Group could be a set of recommendations for the next Sustainability Agenda; thinking how to benchmark and to set targets.

Aaron suggested that the Working Group present the information as total potential outreach, possibly noting that MORPC will include all the measures previously noted, and just display message the data a little differently.

Members agreed to keep this metric on the Dashboard for now and to include other sources.

5.1 Establish the Annual Summit on Sustainability as Premiere Environmental Conference Through High Participation and Visibility

The 2020 target is to increase attendance 10% annually. The goal is to increase regional collaboration and educational opportunities to advance innovative sustainability solutions. This again measures outputs versus outcomes; about measuring the number of people attending the sustainability Summit, but about not measuring how many people are having collaborative, engaging experiences.

Staff suggested other metrics: the number of collaborative projects, the number of sustainability events in Ohio, or the number of local sustainability plans. The overall intent of the objective is to somehow measure collaboration and the measure of community engagement and awareness.

Members suggested that MORPC track attendance and mode of transportation used – bus, electric car, etc. Members also suggested using the GreenSpot Program requiring some level of sustainability commitment from participants. The Dashboard could show the level of commitment rather than the number of events

Aaron reiterated that the Working Group decided that this metric might be changed or removed, and the members would discuss further at the next meeting.

2.5 Reduce per capita water consumption

When creating the Sustainability Agenda Report Card in 2018, MORPC staff was unable to find needed data from all the utilities.

Staff noted that the City of Columbus recently reported that they have reduced per capita water consumption by 3%. Obviously, they are tracking it and using it as a metric. The data is there, but the City was not able to supply it to MORPC.

Members discussed that water can be politically sensitive. Some candidates run for office on the platform of reducing the water bill in rural areas. When the water bill is reduced, some of the reason to conserve has been removed. Behavior can be changed through costs. There may be a correlation between what the public is paying and what the public is consuming.

Aaron suggested that MORPC staff contact individual providers at the various water facilities, and/or contact the Ohio EPA Division of Drinking and Groundwater. Adam noted that if MORPC staff finds that processing the data providers is a barrier, CURA may be able to help. CURA has agreements with many public agencies, and frequently makes arrangements of aggregating and protecting their data.

Members agree to keep this metric.

2.6 Improve water quality in the upper Scioto watershed

This metric will be discussed at the November 5 meeting.

Next Steps

Co-Chairs reminded members to attend the Summit on Sustainability on October 11.

Adjourned at 2:37 pm.

SUSTAINABILITY DASHBOARD WORKING GROUP

Adam Porr, CURA
Natalie Hurst, MORPC
Brandi Whetstone, MORPC

November 11, 2019

MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

Agenda

- Regional Sustainability Dashboard Updates

- Problematic Metrics
  - Progress Updates
  - Further Discussion

- Other business

- Next Steps

2.3: REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE PER CAPITA DISPOSED IN THE LANDFILL

- Result of last meeting: **Request EPA county query**
- EPA has submitted public records request
  - Won't be able to get data back to 1989; Switched data management system in late 90's
  - Because data requested isn't normally reported, EPA Environmental Specialist has submitted public records request
- Outstanding Questions
  - Why is waste exported outside of Ohio not included?
  - Can we get the data more frequently than annually?
  - Can we streamline data collection?

Question	Answer
Why does the EPA query not contain any information about solid waste exported outside of Ohio?	**The out-of-state waste data is not entered into our database the same way the other waste is entered.** So, our query is not set up to pull that data. Our database is quite old, and we don't have anyone knowledgeable about the database to set up a query to pull it. **Most of the counties you requested data for send very small amounts of waste to other states. Most of that waste is industrial waste that is being sent out-of-state to be treated.**
What is the frequency of solid waste updates?	**The data is updated annually based on the annual operational reports the facility owners and operators send us by April 1.** Historically, the data hasn't been available until fall since we have always had to physically enter it into Microsoft Access and then create the report. We are hoping that next year we will have an on-line reporting system for owners and operators to use. Since we won't have to enter the data, the data should be available faster.
Is there any way to streamline data collection (i.e. automation in server or API)?	**Unfortunately, we don't have an on-line platform that allows people to pull the data themselves.** The new system won't allow for that either. With the new platform, we won't host the data on our system. The data will be hosted by the company that maintains the on-line reporting platform.

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2.1: REDUCE EMISSIONS; MEET AIR QUALITY STANDARDS

- Result of last meeting: Use EPA Data and inquire about PurpleAir
- PurpleAir data IS accessible via API
  - Recommendation – Include this data in the dashboard
- More generally
  - What is comfort level with displaying crowd-sourced data along with authoritative data?
    - Differentiation between sources
    - Tracking progress

2.5: REDUCE PER CAPITA WATER CONSUMPTION

- Result of last meeting: Use EPA Data or talk to suppliers
  - EPA meeting scheduled this Friday with Chief and Assistant Chief in Division of Drinking and Ground Waters
    - Intent is to use production data as a proxy for consumption

2.4: MINIMIZE GREENFIELD DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTE INFILL

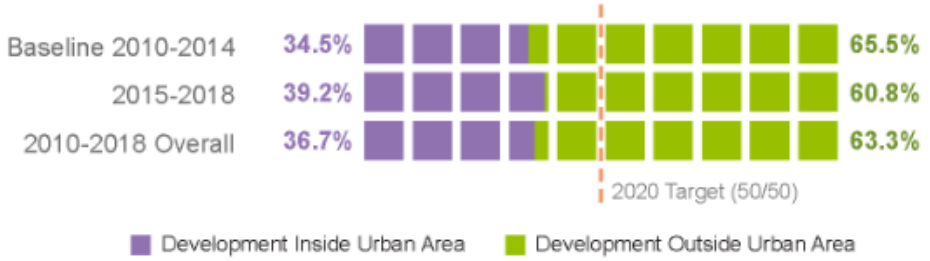
MORPC

2.4

Objective: Minimize greenfield development and promote infill and redevelopment.

2020 Target: 50% of development occurred inside the urban area between 2010 and 2020.

Central Ohio Development Patterns



From 2010 – 2018, nearly 40% of development occurred inside the urban area. Improvement between the baseline measure and recent years is a promising indicator of change in the right direction. Consistent with **insight2050** efforts, more Central Ohio communities are adopting focused growth approaches to planning and development.

New in 2018, **insight2050 Corridor Concepts** is encouraging even greater strides, as it uses a variety of metrics to assess the impacts of more walkable, compact environments along five key corridors in the region.

Learn more about Corridor Concepts:
http://www.morpc.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Corridor-Concepts-Fact-Sheet.pdf

2.4: MINIMIZE GREENFIELD DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTE INFILL

- Previous method: Land use type changes
  - Challenges:
    - Ease of Use – Time intensive analysis
    - Accuracy – Some land use changes reflect data quality improvements, not actual development patterns
    - Accuracy – Difficult to identify infill development if land use type did not change
    - Lag Time – Unable to make frequent updates given land use map development period

2.4: MINIMIZE GREENFIELD DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTE INFILL

- Recommendation
  - Freeze jurisdictional boundaries in baseline year and track residential building permits inside and outside

Pros	Cons
• MORPC has both jurisdictional boundaries and building permits • Analysis would be simple • Can be updated frequently	• MORPC only collects residential building permits • Building permits don't have acreage – could misrepresent development patterns

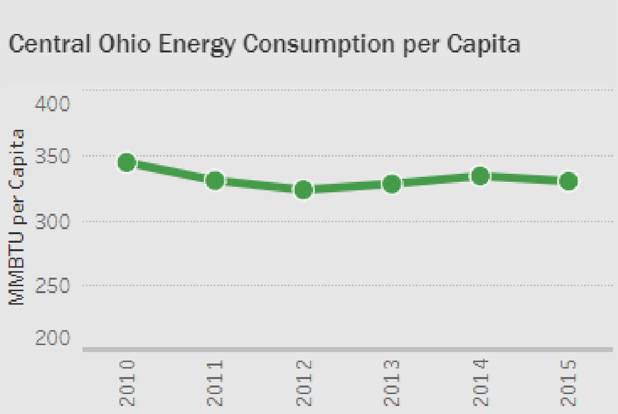
1.6: REDUCE PER CAPITA ENERGY CONSUMPTION ACROSS ALL SECTORS

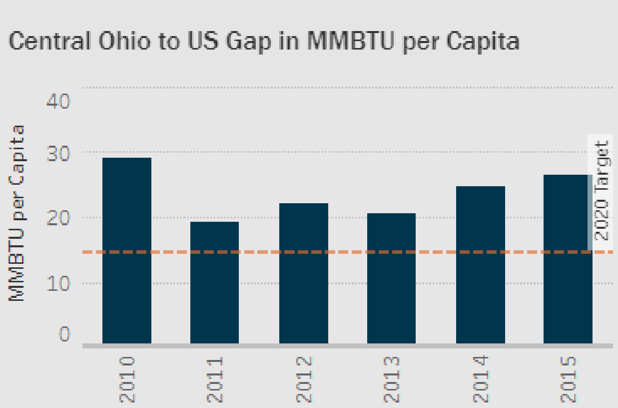
MORPC

1.6

Objective: Reduce per capita energy consumption across all sectors.

2020 Target: 50% reduction in the gap of per capita total energy consumption between Central Ohio and U.S.





We are a growing region of three million residents by 2050. To prepare for this growth, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners published the Franklin County Energy Study this year, which illuminated some of the positive aspects of energy use in the county including: lower than average energy consumption per person, increasing energy productivity, and lower emissions from a cleaner fuel mix. The county also has a lower than average residential energy burden in most ZIP Codes.

The 2020 Target asks for a 50% reduction in the difference between the US average for energy consumption per person, and Central Ohio's average. To reach this, the region will need to improve its energy efficiency by 5%. Even though Central Ohio's average tends to improve year over year, so does the national average. Both of these are great things, even though it makes this particular target difficult to achieve. A more concerted effort will need to occur in order to reach this goal, keeping millions of dollars in residents' pockets and lowering the cost of doing business across the region.

Visit http://www.morpc.org/program-service/energy-studies-and-technical-assistance/ to find out some of the approaches the region is taking to close the gap, reduce energy costs, and much more.

An MMBTU is one million British thermal units, a common measurement of energy output and consumption.

1.6: REDUCE PER CAPITA ENERGY CONSUMPTION ACROSS ALL SECTORS

- Clear data source
  - Established estimation method from Franklin County Energy Study
    - Downscale state energy estimations using American Community Survey Data
  - Possibility of getting energy sales information from Ohio Department of Taxation
- Metric: Gap of per capita energy consumption for US and Ohio
  - Since US per capita energy use changes each year, it is a moving target
  - Should we continue to use this metric or use Ohio per capita consumption to track progress?

2.6: IMPROVE WATER QUALITY IN UPPER SCIOTO WATERSHED

MORPC

2.6

Objective: Improve water quality in the Upper Scioto Watershed.

2020 Target: 85% of Upper Scioto Watershed sampling sites are in attainment.

No data in previous report card

2.6: IMPROVE WATER QUALITY IN UPPER SCIOTO WATERSHED

- Looking at all four beneficial uses
  - Aquatic life; Recreation; Human Health; Drinking Water
- Data source does not meet acceptance criteria standards
  - Timeliness: Estimates created at long intervals
  - EPA Water Quality: Assessment Unit Summaries (2018) Map
- MORPC data from Central Ohio Water Resources Plan
  - Pollution Threats

3.2: INCREASE LOCAL FOOD PURCHASING POLICIES

- Not featured in 2018 report card
- No datasets to reference
- Recommendation: Drop objective for dashboard (unless someone knows of data source)

5.1: SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABILITY AS PREMIERE ENVIRO EVENT

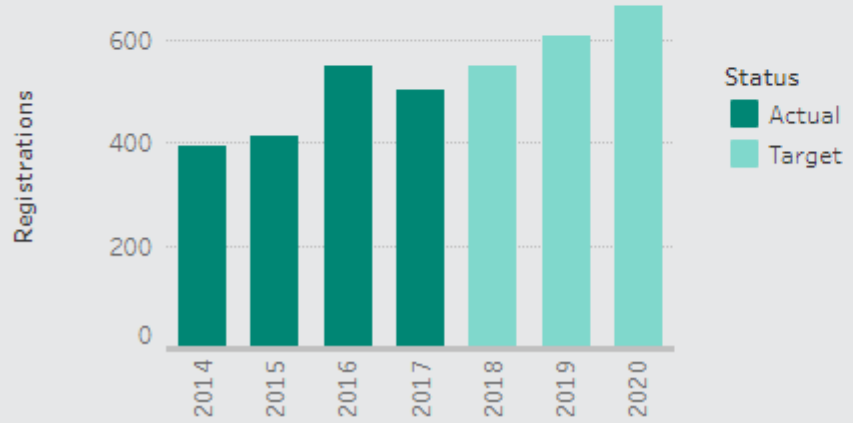
Goal: Increase regional collaboration and educational opportunities to advance innovative sustainability solutions.

5.1

Objective: Establish the annual Summit on Sustainability as a premier environmental conference through high participation and visibility.

2020 Target: Increase attendance by 10% annually.

Summit on Sustainability Registrations



The Summit on Sustainability is MORPC's signature environmental conference. This objective uses registrations of this annual event as a way to advance the goal of innovation in sustainable education and regional interest in sustainability.

Since the baseline year, attendance has increased an average of 24% with a bump in attendance in 2016. While attendance was down slightly the following year, the upwards trend is positive.

Go to the Summit page:
http://www.morpc.org/event/summit-on-sustainability/

5.1: SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABILITY AS PREMIERE ENVIRO EVENT

- No outcome from last meeting
- Suggestions
  - Continue using Summit Attendance as proxy until next RSA
    - Idea for future: Make tracking sustainability events part of Sustainable2050 membership