SMART COLUMBUS ENERGY
ACCELERATING THE CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION IN CENTRAL OHIO WITH PRIVATE SECTOR AGGREGATION

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INSPIRED BY THE SMART CITY CHALLENGE
With the $10M Smart City Challenge electrification grant winding down, we asked ourselves, how can we harness the Columbus Way again to not only continue, but amplify, the impact of our sustainability mission? We convened a task force of representatives from the Acceleration Partner network and other local experts, and together, found that there is a high demand in the Columbus Region for renewable energy, but no strong offering in the market.

We identified an opportunity for Smart Columbus to offer a clean energy solution that is:
• Cost-competitive
• Simple to implement
• Generated from new Ohio-based wind and solar projects
• Designed to fulfill ESG goals of Acceleration Partners and large Columbus organizations that care about the prosperity of our region

We conducted months of market research and finalized a model with our task force that leverages strategic partnerships to offer clean energy solutions to partners throughout the community.

SMART COLUMBUS ENERGY MISSION: Accelerate Central Ohio’s clean energy transition, so we may become the most prosperous region in the country.
To provide low cost clean energy for private sector organizations, leveraging a portfolio of assets is key.

**SIMPLE**
Pricing is fixed, and you choose how much load it serves

**CLEAN**
Electricity is 100% from new wind and solar assets with associated RECs

**ADDITIONAL**
Power purchases from regional corporations enable new wind and solar projects to be built

**IMPACTFUL**
Projects are Ohio-based, benefitting the local economy. Purchases also fund sustained smart city efforts in our region.

**COST-EFFECTIVE**
Pricing is 12-year flat rate that hedges against future volatility and is competitive with current “brown power” prices
SMART COLUMBUS ENERGY
COMMUNITY VALUE

MISSION
Accelerate Central Ohio’s clean energy transition, so we may become the most prosperous region in the country.

COMMUNITY VALUE
Revenue generated from the program is re-invested back into the community through programming supporting:
- Clean energy
- Electrified mobility
- Improved air quality
- New economic investment
- New tax revenue
Catching Attention

Grove City expected to send RFPs for electricity aggregation in 2021

Alan Frazer ThisWeek group
Published 10:47 a.m. ET Nov. 5, 2020

Grove City voters’ approval of Issue 10 is only the first step in the process to establish an electricity-aggregation program for residents and small businesses.

“The next step is for the city administration to prepare a request for proposals that will be sent to companies,” said council member Ted Berry, who served as co-chair of Clean Grove City, the group that campaigned for Issue 10.

With all precincts reporting, voters approved the issue, 13,472 to 12,786, according to unofficial results Nov. 3 from the Franklin County Board of Elections.

An exact timeframe for when the RFP will be sent hasn’t been set, but proposals will be sought sometime next year, Berry said.

Columbus aggregation initiative aims to procure clean energy for city ratepayers

Cardinal, Huntington, AEP buying renewable energy through Smart Columbus

Ohio

Written by
Kathryn M. Kimbrell
October 22, 2020

Photo by
Nick Chiricosta / ThisWeek Creative Studios

Ballot Issue 1 could lower the Ohio capital city’s greenhouse gas emissions by nearly a fifth, according to supporters.

Columbus, Ohio, voters are deciding this election what role city government should play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Ballot Issue 1 would create Ohio’s largest community-aggregation program. In states where ratepayers choose their electricity supplier separate from their local utility, the program is seen as a popular way to reduce emissions.

The city goal is to provide residents with 100% clean, renewable electricity through a community-aggregation program by 2037, said Eric Beck, director of special projects for the city of Columbus. “Aggregation gives us the leverage to drive those changes in a win-win-for-consumers, our economy, and the environment.”
TOTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT SO FAR

Environmental impacts can be massive when the private sector is bought in.

For many of you, your largest GHG contributors may be private industry. To effectively address GHG in your community, the private sector needs solutions.

Cardinal Health, Huntington and AEP are purchasing Ohio wind and solar power for its Central Ohio offices through Smart Columbus Energy

Annual average clean electricity purchased is 63,454,000 kWh

→ This totals 761,448,000 kWh over the 12-year term

This will remove 44,865 metric tons of CO2e emissions per year

→ This totals over 538,380 metric tons over the term

Equivalent to reducing 5,048,331 gallons of gasoline consumed

This is the equivalent environmental impact of planting 741,844 trees

This is enough renewable energy to power 5,177 homes
COLUMBUS WAY IN ACTION

The Smart Columbus Energy program shows how the spirit of collaboration among private sector organizations in Central Ohio can achieve community good.

Nowhere in the country does a localized private sector clean energy program like this exist. The model was built by the companies who have participated. AEP and Cardinal Health are the fellow initial participants in the program.
Communities can supply renewable energy to residents and small businesses by aggregating their community’s energy load, through community choice aggregation (CCA). One of the most powerful ways to achieve community sustainability goals is to leverage a CCA and power it with renewable energy. **Community choice aggregation is the most efficient way to shift the region toward a clean energy future.**

- Electric aggregation started in Ohio in 2000 (Toledo)
- Over 400 communities aggregate in Ohio
- Different types of aggregators
  - Counties, township, cities, villages
- Not everybody can participate
  - Only residential and commercial (<700,000 kWh/year)
  - Within municipal boundary
  - Not with another supplier
  - Not in PIP
- Types of Aggregation (opt-in/opt-out)
- Agreements (community and resident)
- Why communities aggregate - better rate, savings, renewable, non taxed-based revenue
COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION
COLUMBUS IMPACT

Installed capacity for the CCA creates Ohio jobs

- The new 700 MW wind and solar capacity supporting the Columbus CCA will create or induce roughly 4,463* jobs.

This includes:

- 213 direct and indirect induced jobs post-construction.
- 4,250 direct and indirect induced construction phase jobs.
• Solar and wind jobs are good paying jobs and have been two of the fastest growing jobs in the US in past years.

• Utility scale solar projects present opportunity for not only jobs, but for new sustained tax revenue for municipalities.

• Our goal is to drive $1 billion of new investment into Ohio’s energy infrastructure.
COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION
TOTAL REGIONAL POTENTIAL

By facilitating the aggregation of as many of the Columbus region’s municipalities as possible to then procure clean energy, the potential benefits are massive:

HEALTH
• $525 millions of avoiders healthcare costs in Ohio over 20 years
• 45+ fewer premature deaths
• 1,600+ fewer cases of breathing illness
• 16,000+ fewer school days missed
• 2,500+ fewer work days missed

ECONOMIC
• 18,000+ construction phase jobs
• 200+ permanent jobs
• $900 million new local tax revenue
• $3.2 billion total economic impact

ENVIRONMENTAL
• 56 million MT CO2e removed
• Equivalent of 46 million trees
• Equivalent of taking over 600,000 gas cars off the road

Central Ohio is mostly void of active aggregation programs, leaving a large opportunity to drive adoption of new aggregation programs specifically focused on the clean energy transition.
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