



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

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Energy and Air Quality Working Group Meeting
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Microsoft Teams Meeting
Tuesday, January 26th, 2021
2:00pm

AGENDA

1. **Welcome and Acknowledgement of Chairs.** *Matt Stephens-Rich, Chair (2:00 pm)*
2. **Featured Presentation:** *Sarah Conley-Ballew, Rural Action (2:05pm)*
3. **Policy Update,** *Joe Garrity, MORPC (2:35 pm)*
4. **Ohio EPA Update,** *Erica Fetty-Davis, Ohio EPA (2:45pm)*
5. **MORPC staff updates,** *MORPC staff (2:50pm)*
 - a. Energy Program
 - b. End of Season Air Quality Report
6. **2021 Work Plan.** *Brooke White, MORPC (3:00pm)*
7. **Subcommittees (3:10pm)**
 - a. Solar Subcommittee
 - b. Diversity and Environmental Justice Subcommittee
 - c. Air Quality Monitoring Subcommittee
8. **Adjourn (3:30pm)**

Please Notify Brooke White 520-331-4359 or bwhite@morpc.org to confirm your attendance.

The next Energy and Air Quality Meeting is
March 23rd, 2021 2:00pm

Energy & Air Quality Working Group

January 26, 2021



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Featured Presentation

Sarah Conley-Ballew



Clean Energy for All - Equity & Access in Appalachian Ohio

Sarah ConleyBallew, Program Director
Rural Action Sustainable Energy Solutions



Rural Action
Thriving Communities, Healthy Environments

ABOUT RURAL ACTION

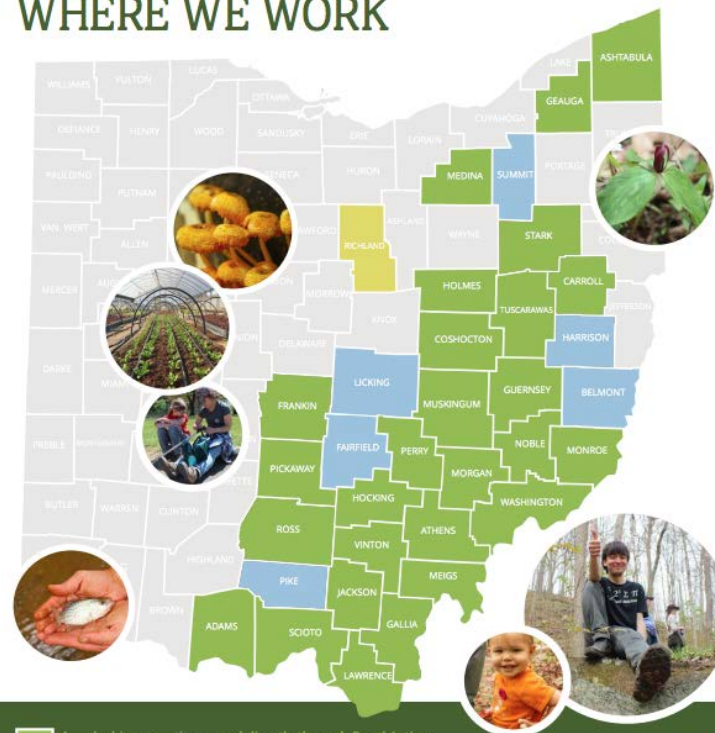
Nestled in the foothills of Appalachian Ohio, Rural Action was founded in 1991 on the principle that locally-based, sustainable, and inclusive development is the main strategy for building resilient rural Appalachian communities.

Rural Action's mission is to build a more just economy by developing the region's assets in environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable ways. Together, we envision a region with clean streams and healthy forests; a place where thriving family farms, meaningful livelihoods and vibrant communities exist for everyone; with people engaged as good stewards of the world they live in and working together to make this vision a reality.

As a membership-based organization, we believe the best development is done with participation from diverse groups who have a stake in the outcome.

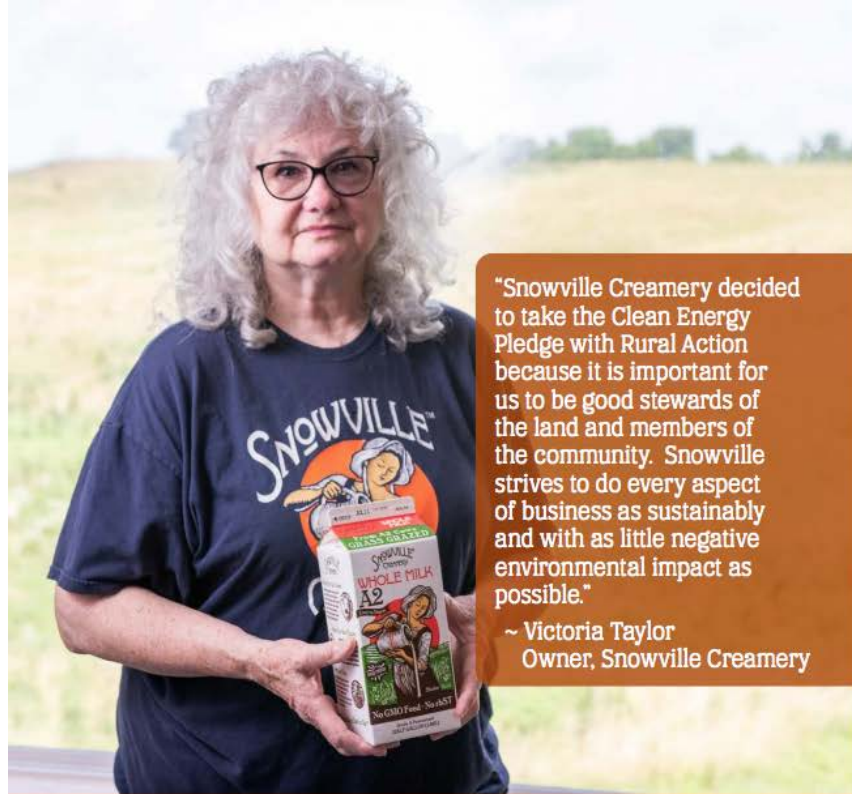


WHERE WE WORK



- Appalachian counties served directly through Rural Action
- Additional counties reached through Ohio Stream Restore Corps partners
- Additional Ohio counties served through Rural Action social enterprises

Rural Action has 5 offices located on the ground in communities where we work. In 2019, Rural Action reached 34 Ohio counties, 27 directly through Rural Action programs. Additionally, 7 counties were served through our Appalachian Ohio Restore Corps partners and Zero Waste Event Productions, LLC. In 2019, Rural Action also worked and collaborated in 10 states beyond Ohio including West Virginia, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, Minnesota, and Illinois through Zero Waste Event Productions, LLC., and regional partnerships.



"Snowville Creamery decided to take the Clean Energy Pledge with Rural Action because it is important for us to be good stewards of the land and members of the community. Snowville strives to do every aspect of business as sustainably and with as little negative environmental impact as possible."

~ Victoria Taylor
Owner, Snowville Creamery

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SOLUTIONS

Appalachian Ohio has a rich history providing abundant energy resources to fuel the nation's cities and towns. Generations of hard-working coal miners proudly supported the development of modern-day America, but many communities have been left behind as the energy economy shifts away from fossil fuels in favor of cheaper and more flexible natural gas, solar and wind. As U.S. coal consumption continues to fall, power producers continue to shutter coal-fired units, impacting many Appalachian communities sustained economically by the industry.

For many years, Rural Action has supported the transition to clean and renewable energy through a number of projects and initiatives including a member-led energy committee. Smart and sustainable energy solutions are a priority for our membership, and at the end of 2018, Rural Action took an important step forward in its commitment to sustainable energy by acquiring UpGrade Ohio and establishing the Sustainable Energy Solutions Program.

Upgrade formed in 2014 as a special project of the Southeast Ohio Public Energy Council (SOPEC). Upgrade Ohio became a 501c3 non-profit organization in 2016, led by Sarah Conley-Ballew as Executive Director. UpGrade worked in Athens and the surrounding counties to connect people with local resources to reduce energy use and to access renewable energy solutions. Among its accomplishments, UpGrade Ohio competed in the Georgetown University Energy Prize (GUEP) through 2015 and 2016 as the official organization for Athens County. Through this effort, they helped the county reduce energy usage by nearly 3 percent, resulting in \$5 million dollars in collective savings and propelling local efforts into the national spotlight. Additionally, UpGrade worked with Ohio University Credit Union to provide 0% interest loans through a hybrid and electric vehicle loan program. Through the program, 71 loans were issued.

Much of Upgrade Ohio's work will continue as Rural Action's Sustainable Energy Solutions (SES) Program. Through SES, Rural Action will work to support initiatives that accelerate clean energy development in Appalachian Ohio, focusing on efforts that scale up energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean transportation initiatives.

BY THE NUMBERS

\$60,699



was received by two agricultural businesses through the USDA Rural Energy for America (REAP) grant to install solar panels at their facilities. Rural Action provided grantwriting and technical assistance to both of these businesses.

75
PEOPLE
EDUCATED



about clean energy products and technologies at three clean energy expos in Southeast Ohio.

225
HOMES



received items to help families weatherize their homes. Products given out included LED bulbs, power strips, rubberized foam, and solar lanterns.

6 EV
STATIONS



were installed in rural communities with support from Rural Action's Sustainable Energy Program. Increasing access to fast Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations will encourage more residents to buy clean energy vehicles as well as increase tourism from current EV owners.

NEW HORIZONS FOR CLEAN ENERGY

“Our vision creates a federal jobs program that can put people back to work in largely outdoor jobs, while simultaneously helping us to address the climate crisis and the need for racial justice, while also maximizing the creation of good union jobs.”

-Amanda Woodrum, Policy Matters Ohio



Marshall Plan for Middle America



“We’re talking about getting what is our due share in what we paid in building this country, and what the rest of the country owes us in the transformation from fossil fuels.”

-Bill Peduto, Mayor of Pittsburgh

NEW ADMINISTRATION, NEW PRIORITIES



Mr. Biden said he intends to make tackling climate change a cornerstone of his coronavirus recovery action, calling for 500,000 new electric vehicle charging stations, the construction of 1.5 million new energy-efficient homes and public housing units, and the creation of a “civilian climate corps” to carry out climate and conservation projects.

New York Times; Jan 25 2021 <https://nyti.ms/36f5VKq>

“The president also will direct the government to conserve 30 percent of all federal land and water by 2030, create a task force to assemble a governmentwide action plan for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, issue a memorandum elevating climate change to a national security priority.”

New York Times; Jan 25 2021 <https://nyti.ms/36f5VKq>

"A cry for survival comes from the planet itself, a cry that can't be any more desperate or any more clear."

President Joseph R. Biden, Inaugural Address

CLEAN ENERGY FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

REAP GRANT WRITING SUPPORT

Rural Action Sustainable Energy Solutions provides application preparation services and technical assistance to businesses seeking to apply for the USDA Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) grant.



Rural Action

LEARN ABOUT THE PLEDGE AT RURALACTION.ORG

CLEAN ENERGY PLEDGE

Rural Action Sustainable Energy Solutions Clean Energy Pledge connects nonprofits and small businesses with available technical and financial resources to achieve energy conservation, renewable energy, and clean transportation goals.

RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

GROW SOLAR JOBS INITIATIVE

The Grow Solar Jobs Initiative supports the growth of the Appalachian solar industry by facilitating professional training for job-seekers intending to advance their professional careers in the solar field.



SOLAR SITE ASSESSMENTS

Thanks to a partnership with Third Sun Solar, Rural Action members are eligible for a free solar evaluation — and a discount if they decide to have panels installed.

CLEAN TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVES

APPALACHIAN CLEAN TRANSPORTATION

The Appalachian Clean Transportation Initiative engages a network of economic development partners, industry specialists, and statewide policy experts to plan implementation strategies that bring clean transportation infrastructure and development to Appalachian Ohio.



APPALACHIAN
CLEAN TRANSPORTATION FORUM

ROADMAP

Rural Open Access Development Mobility Access Plan (ROADMAP) is a three-year initiative funded by the Department of Energy. This project aims to pilot and study advanced vehicle technologies in a rural setting to gather information and enhance awareness of innovative mobility solutions that fill rural transportation gaps.

EV CRUISERS CLUB

The Electric Vehicle (EV) Cruisers electric car club originally started in Athens County, Ohio, in early 2016. The club acts as a hub for networking between EV owners, advocates, and enthusiasts who believe in the future of electric transportation throughout Appalachia Ohio.



Reach out!

Sarah ConleyBallew, Sustainable Energy Solutions
Program Director

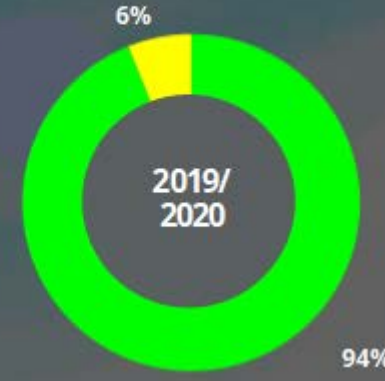
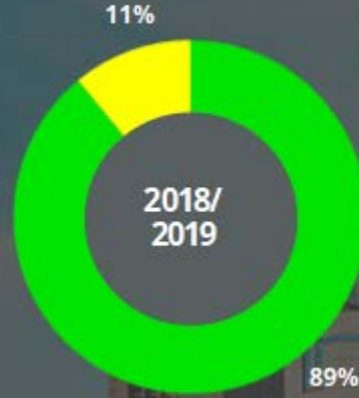
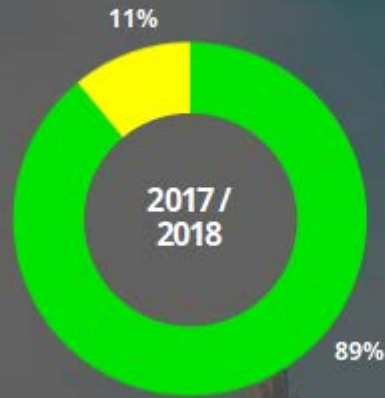
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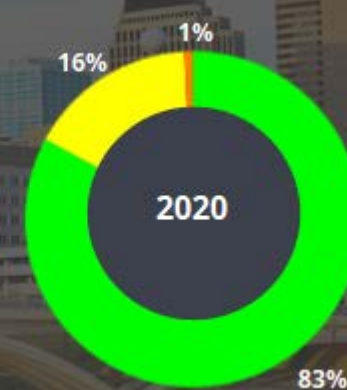
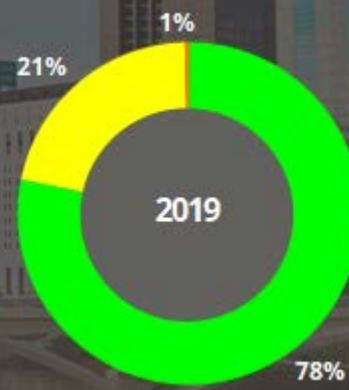
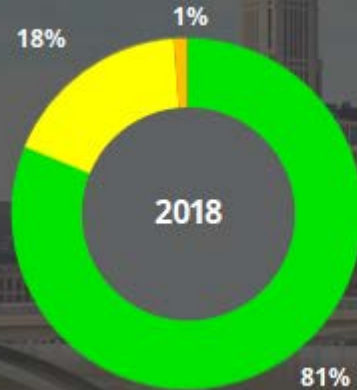
www.ruralaction.org



Percentage of Days at Each AQI Category—PM_{2.5} (November-October)

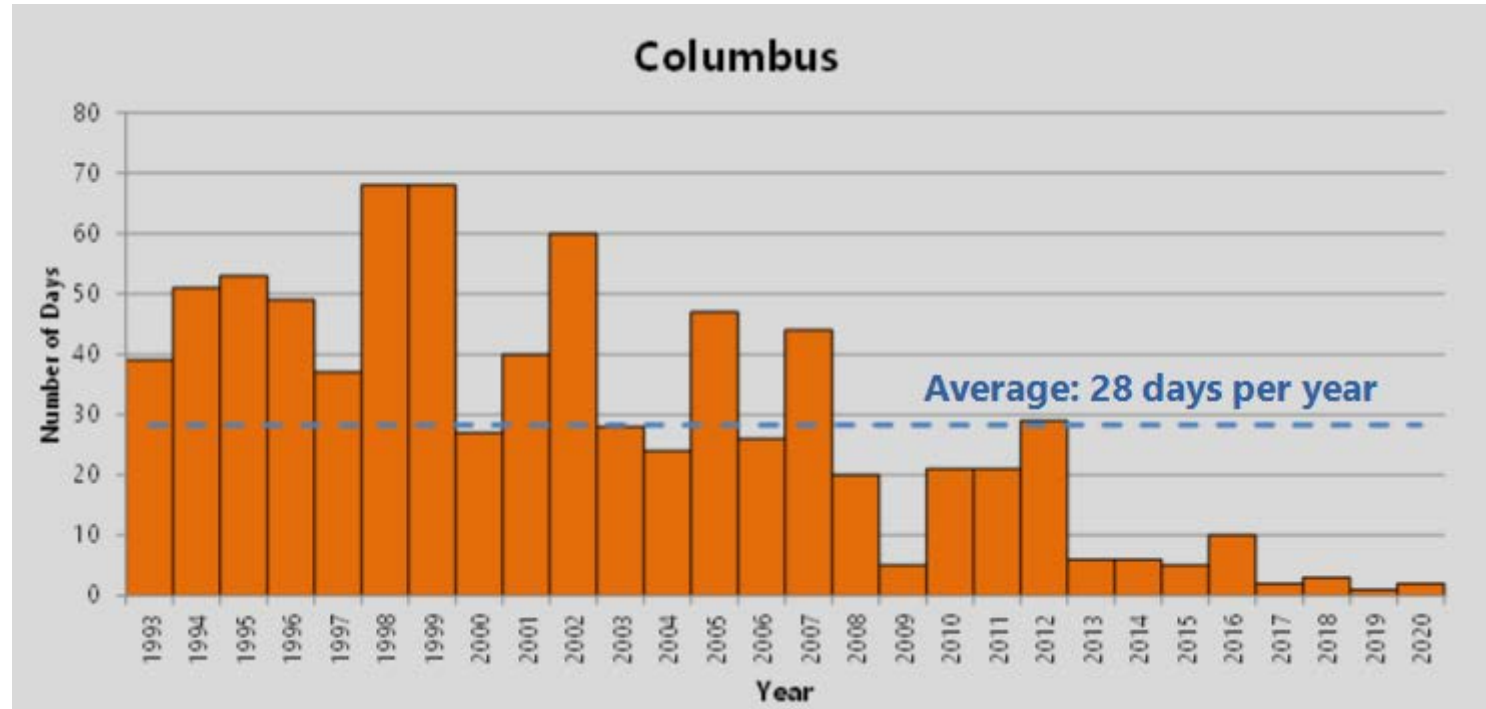


Percentage of Days at Each AQI Category—Summertime Ozone (March-October)



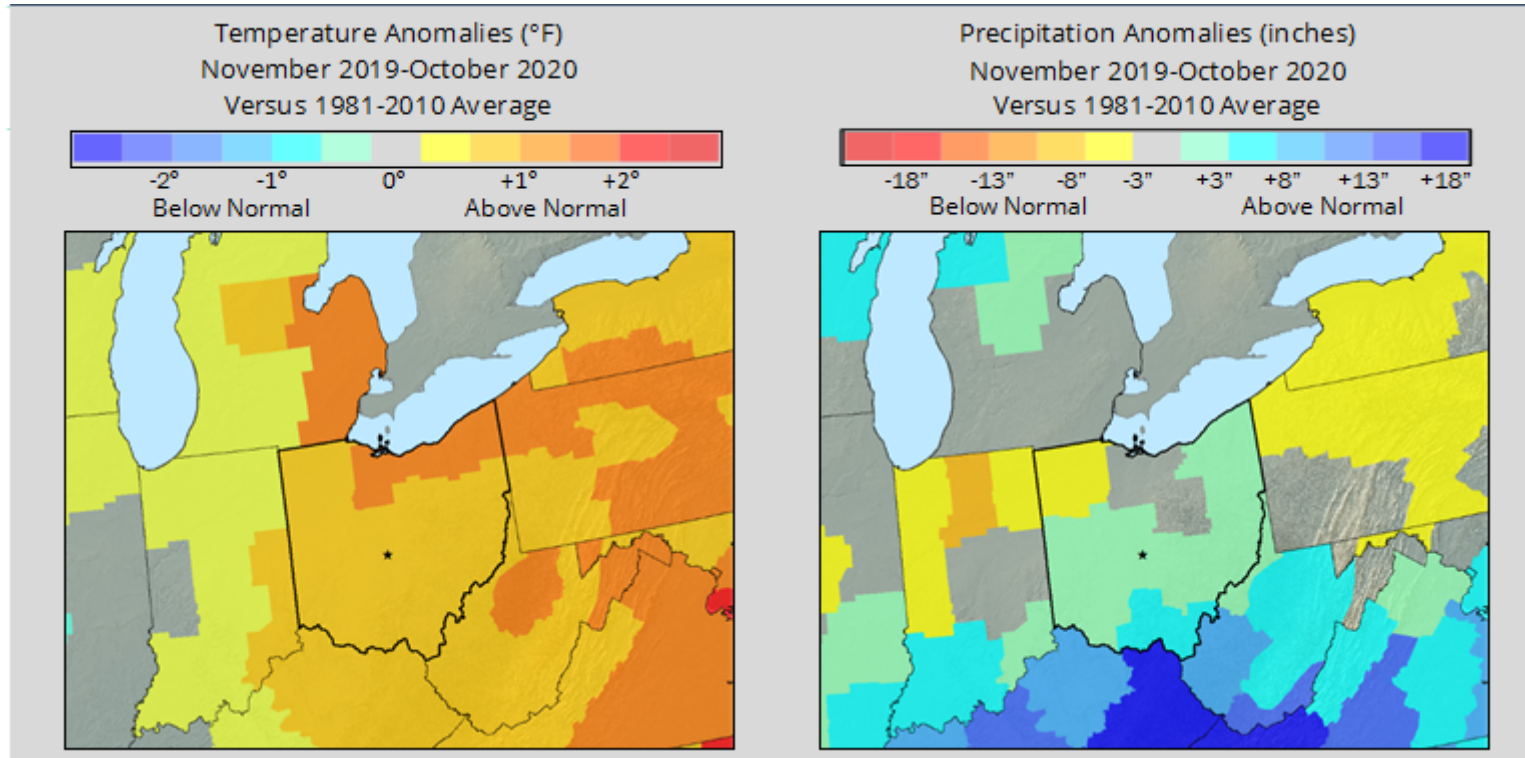
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Interannual Trend Ozone Exceedances per Year



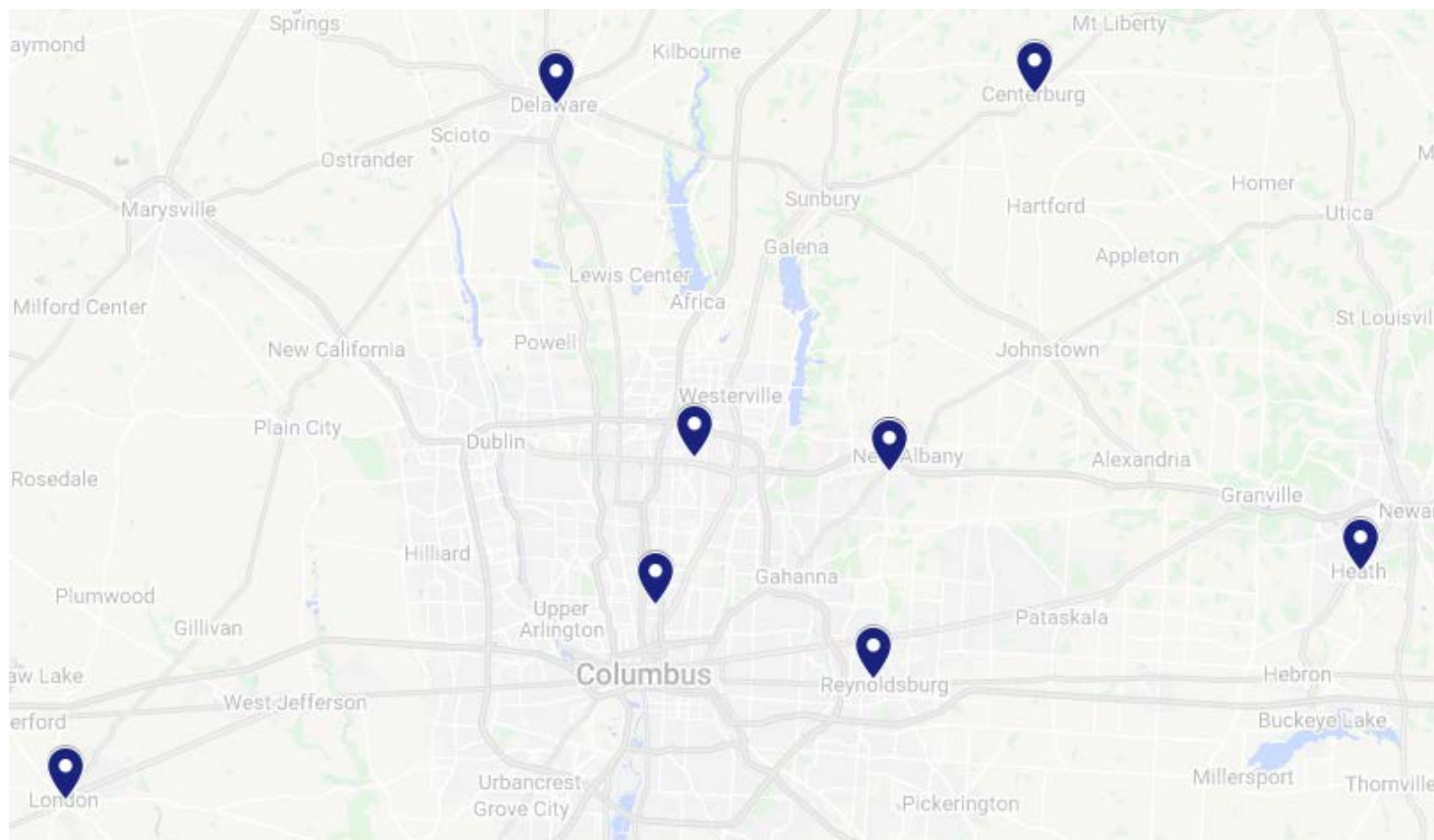
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Weather Conditions



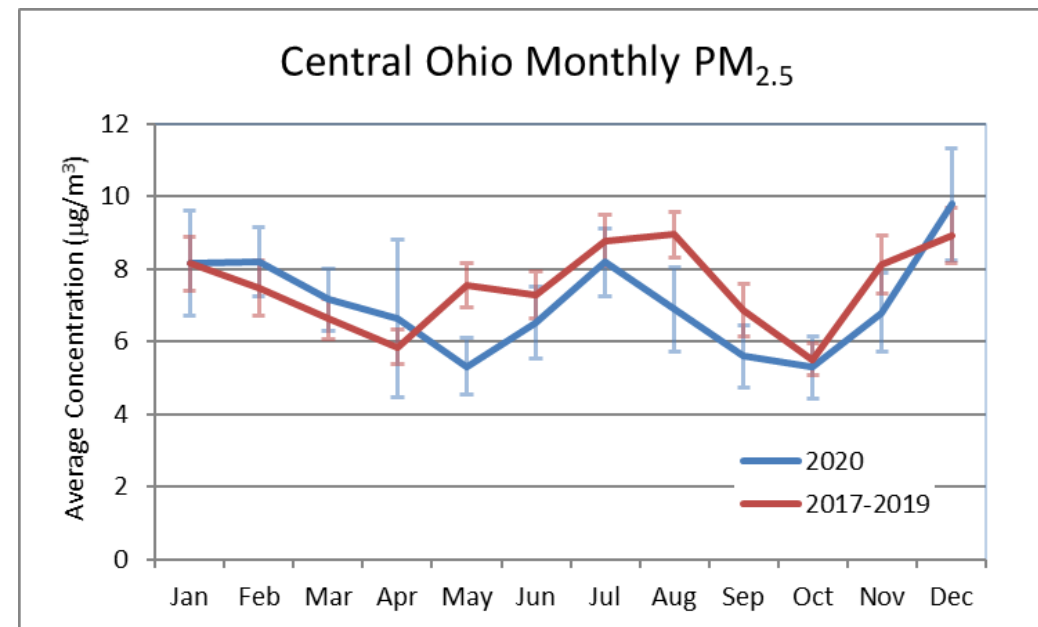
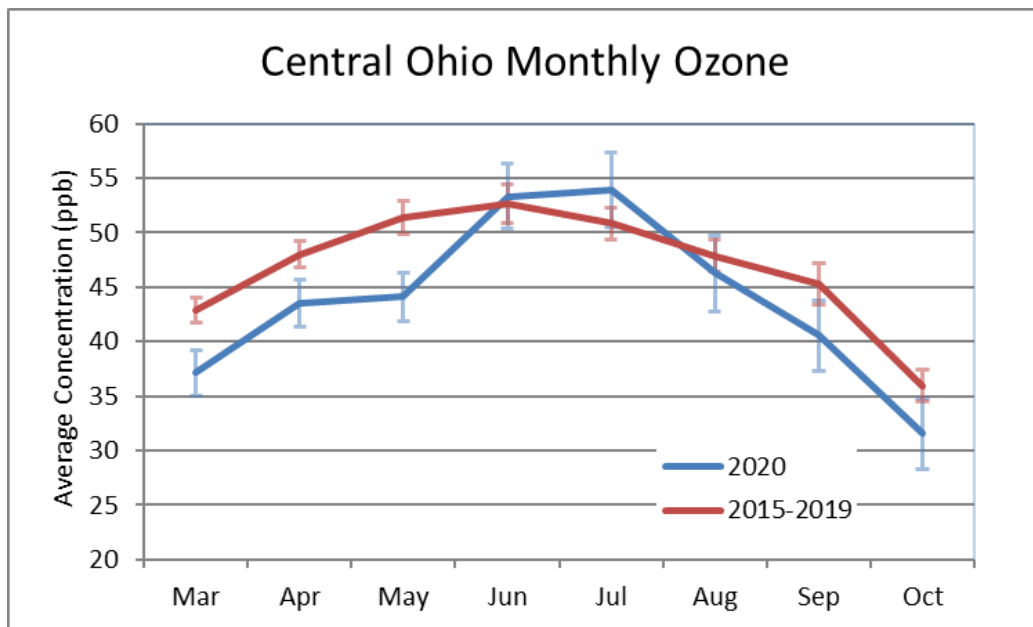
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Date	Next-Day Forecast	Same-Day Forecast	Observed Ozone AQI	Peak Monitor
6/21/20	77	84	93	New Albany
7/5/20	101	101	61	New Albany
7/6/20	105	105	101	Maple Canyon Dr.
7/8/20	101	101	100	Maple Canyon Dr.
7/9/20	105	105	101	Delaware
7/17/20	74	67	90	New Albany
8/9/20	108	108	93	New Albany



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Pandemic Impacts



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2021 Work Plan



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Vision: *Healthy air and access to affordable, efficient, clean energy for all*

Mission: *To drive vitality in Central Ohio through the wise use of energy, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and improved air quality*

Goal 1: Be a forum on energy and air quality issues for regional collaboration, planning, and assessment of the impact of state and federal policies on Central Ohio

Goal 2: Advocate for, and pursue, the implementation of air quality and energy related monitoring, data collection, planning, and best practices implementation projects in Central Ohio to achieve the following:

1. Reduce energy consumption per capita across all sectors
2. Increase number of local renewable energy projects and generating capacity
3. Reduce air pollution to meet National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)
4. Reduce single occupancy vehicle commutes
5. Increase adoption of alternative fuel vehicles and fueling/charging stations
6. Achieve household energy burden of less than 5% of income spent on energy utilities in any Central Ohio zip code

Goal 3: Coordinate outreach and messaging for energy and air quality issues



2021 DISCUSSION THEMES

Utility scale solar policy

Electric vehicle advancements

New administration energy and air quality policy changes

2021 Work Plan



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2021 SUBCOMMITTEE PRIORITIES

- ❖ Diversity and Environmental Justice
 - Developing diversity group roster
 - Developing work plan

- ❖ Solar
 - Achieving Sol Smart designation
 - Serve as a resource for community projects
 - OSU Student Project – Community Solar Playbook
 - Serve as resource for forthcoming MORPC projects and programs

- ❖ Air Quality Monitoring
 - Performing collocation
 - Siting monitors in neighborhoods
 - Collecting data
 - Presentations to community
 - Educational module creation