



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

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

REMOTE MEETING

February 16, 2022, 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm

AGENDA

- 2:30 – 2:45 pm** [Welcome and Introductions](#) – Ben Kessler, Chair and William Murdock, Executive Director, MORPC
- 2:45 – 3:00 pm** [Policy Update](#) – Joe Garrity, Director of Government Affairs & Community Relations, MORPC
- 3:00 – 3:20 pm** **2022 MORPC Program Updates and Priorities** – Ben Kessler, Chair; Kerstin Carr, Chief Regional Strategy Officer & Senior Director of Planning and Brandi Whetstone, Sustainability Officer, MORPC
- 3:20 – 3:35 pm** **Working Group/Board Updates** – Ben Kessler, Chair
- Sustaining Scioto Board: Glenn Marzluff
 - Energy & Air Quality Working Group: Matt Stephens-Rich
 - Central Ohio Greenways Board: Mike Andrako
 - Sustainable2050: Ben Kessler
- 3:35 – 4:00 pm** **Member Updates and Other Business** – Ben Kessler, Chair
- Member updates – 2022 priorities
 - Next meeting
- 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 April 20, 2022 at 2:30 pm
Details will follow.**

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Karen J. Angelou
Chair

Erik J. Janas
Vice Chair

Chris Amorose Groomes
Secretary



2022 Program Updates and Priorities



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REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY AGENDA



MORPC

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



GOAL ONE



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



MORPC

AIR QUALITY & ENERGY

- Air quality forecasting, alerts, annual report
- Neighborhood air quality monitoring
- SolSmart
- Regional solar co-ops
- Rickenbacker Area Consortium
- EV infrastructure
- Regional energy & climate strategy



GOAL TWO



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



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WATER & NATURAL RESOURCES

- Sustaining Scioto
- 208 Water Quality Management Planning
- Clean Ohio Conservation Fund



GOAL THREE



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



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MOBILITY & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Central Ohio Greenways
- Complete Streets
- LinkUS
- Home Weatherization, Repair, and Lead Abatement



GOAL FOUR



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SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

- Regional Housing & Development
- RAPID 5



Promote robust, inclusive,
and sustainable growth and
development.



Sustainable2050 – Member List



Platinum Members

**Bexley
Columbus
Delaware
Dublin
Franklin County
Commissioners
Franklin County Engineer's
Office**

**Franklin Soil & Water
Conservation District
Hilliard
MORPC
Upper Arlington
Westerville
Worthington**

Gold Members

Grove City
Metro Parks

Sustainable 2050 Members

Central Ohio Transit Authority
Clinton Township
Columbus Metropolitan Library
Grandview Heights
Marysville
Mifflin Township
New Albany
Pataskala

Plain City
Powell
Prairie Township
Reynoldsburg
Somerset
SWACO
Violet Township
Washington Township

Silver Members

Blendon Township
Gahanna
Genoa Township
Lockbourne
Whitehall



2021 SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABILITY



Kerstin Carr

Chief Regional Strategy Officer & Sr.

Director of Planning

kcarr@morpc.org

Brandi Whetstone

Sustainability Officer

bwhetstone@morpc.org



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Central Ohio Greenways Board (Chair: Mike Andrako, P.E.)

Next meeting March 9, 2022

The Central Ohio Greenways (COG) Board meet on January 19th, 2022 and welcomed new Board Chair Mike Andrako, Franklin County Engineers Office and showed appreciation to past Chair Letty Schamp for her dedication to trails and the COG Board. The board also adopted a revised Regional Trail Vision that reflects 4 changes communities requested due to updated feasibility understandings. Board also 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. Additionally, the group will meet with communities to learn more about their trail projects and support regional grant applications over the next 6 months.

Marketing & Communications Working Group: The Group is advising 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 began in late 2021 and will continue through July 2022. The results of the effort will provide recommendations for establishing a trail town program. Lastly, the group is organizing a Celebrate Trails Day to be hosted at Nelson Park on April 23, 2022 from 10 – 2. Trail user groups and other organizations will be hosting rides, wellness activities, sharing free food, and other fun activities as part of the event. Experience Columbus will also relaunch the Outdoor Trails Pass as part of the celebration.

Operations & Access Working Group: The group supported a wayfinding strategy application that was submitted for funding consideration to ODOT in January 2022.

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 and multimodal partnerships.



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

Next meeting: March 22, 2022

The Energy and Air Quality Working Group kicked off 2022 with its first meeting on January 25 with a featured presentation from Mike Foley, the Sustainability Director of Cuyahoga County. Mike discussed the county's efforts in tackling climate change by taking the Group through Cuyahoga County's climate action plan, highlighting residential and municipal solar co-ops, starting a green bank, and exploring the development of microgrids.

In energy-related programming, MORPC is continuing with SolSmart designations among members to streamline permitting and zoning to increase the ease of doing solar. Additionally, MORPC is

collaborating with the City of Columbus, Solar United Neighbors, IMPACT Community Action, and Simply Living to develop residential solar in the Greater Columbus region as part of the 2022 Rocky Mountain Institute Solarize cohort. And finally, MORPC is continuing with developing its energy aggregation toolkit to develop more aggregation in the region focused on renewable energy and in-state generation.

The end-of-the-year air quality report gave the project team some key takeaways. For the first time since record-keeping began in 1980, no “Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups” Air Quality Index (AQI) days for ozone were observed. And other than wildfire smoke in July, overall, 85% of days for PM 2.5 were in the “Good” AQI category. Sadly, the Group was informed that Dr. Brooke White is leaving MORPC for a new opportunity. She will be missed.



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 and includes a new level of recognition to highlight the focus on equity.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 18 and will feature a presentation from SWACO. 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: Glenn Marzluf)

Next Meeting: February 23, 2022

The Board met on December 16, 2021, with a Year in Review update from the Agricultural and Rural Communities Outreach Team. There was a featured presentation from by Dr. Carrie Shaffer-Morrison from The Ohio State University on the topic Understanding Sustainable Land Management Among Farmers. Glenn Marzluf, previously Vice Chair of the Board, will serve as the Chair in 2022 and the next meeting is on February 23.

Agricultural and Rural Communities Outreach Team: The Working Team met on January 20, 2022. The new Chair, Brian Brandt of American Farmland Trust, was introduced to the Team and will be serving a one-year term eligible for reappointment. During the meeting, Mr. Brandt led the discussion on programming following Farmer and Non-Farmer Stakeholder Engagement Study conducted in the Scioto Watershed, through the team’s collaborative effort with OSU Capstone Design Class. The Chair and MORPC staff will be presenting logistical considerations and other programming alternatives at the next meeting on March 17.

2022 MEETING SCHEDULE



MORPC

All meetings are 2:30pm

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

Ben Kessler

Chair

Sustainability Advisory Committee

bkessler@bexley.org

Brandi Whetstone

Sustainability Officer

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

bwhetstone@morpc.org



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