



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

111 Liberty St., Suite 100
Columbus, Ohio 43215
www.morpc.org

NOTICE OF A MEETING

SUSTAINABLE2050 – HYBRID MEETING

MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
111 Liberty St., #100, Columbus, OH 43215

December 5, 2024, 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

AGENDA

Welcome and Introductions

Columbus and Franklin County Tree Canopy Assessment – *Jennie McAdams, Franklin County Public Health and Jon Bowers, Columbus Recreation and Parks*

The Columbus and Franklin County Tree Canopy Assessment is a collaborative effort between multiple agencies, including Franklin County Public Health, Columbus Recreation and Parks, and the Franklin County Engineer's Office. The study process involved analyzing land cover changes from 2011 to 2021 using LiDAR technology.

Findings included:

- Tree canopy coverage increased by 2.8% countywide.
- Areas with lower tree canopy often correlated with historical redlining, lower-income neighborhoods, and higher air pollution levels.
- Increased tree canopy is linked to reduced stormwater runoff, carbon sequestration, and improved public health outcomes (e.g., reduced asthma rates).
- Jurisdictional analysis showed Bexley had the highest tree canopy, while Grandview Heights, Minerva Park, and Urbancrest experienced canopy losses.

The Tree Equity Score Analyzer was introduced as a new tool for planning and prioritization of tree planting.

Next Steps:

- Community fact sheets with jurisdiction-specific data are available online.
- Franklin County Public Health will distribute tree canopy data via its Climate and Health Dashboard.

MORPC Program Updates

208 Planning

- MORPC is pursuing designation as an Areawide Planning Agency under Section 208 of the Clean Water Act.

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Chris Amorose Groomes
Chair

Michelle Crandall
Vice Chair

Ben Kessler
Secretary

- An Ad-hoc committee has been established to review operational procedures and dispute resolution for wastewater facility planning.
- The Regional Water Study covering MORPC's 15-county area will conclude in February 2025, focusing on water supply, conservation strategies, and infrastructure planning.

Air Monitoring Project

- The CLEAN Project (Community Led Enhanced Air Quality Network) involves the deployment of 40 low-cost air quality sensors throughout Franklin County.
- Progress:
- 21 sensors installed in the past three weeks; 14 more scheduled by year-end.
- Sensors will feed data into Ramboll's SHAIR model to provide real-time pollution source attribution.
- Community outreach efforts include public education events and digital display dashboards for local transparency.

Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant Award

- MORPC received \$15M in federal funding to install EV chargers in 13 counties.
- 406 charging ports will be installed, with an additional 50 curbside chargers in Columbus.
- Next steps include finalizing grant agreements and launching a site assessment and RFP process.

Central Ohio Climate Action Plan

- The Regional Greenhouse Gas Inventory was expanded from four to ten sectors, adding categories such as solid waste, refrigerants, and water infrastructure.
- Transportation emissions remain the largest contributor, followed by residential and commercial energy consumption.
- Mitigation strategies will be developed to address emission reduction goals.

Government Affairs & Policy

Regional Sustainability Agenda

2025-2028 Regional Sustainability Agenda Goals:

1. Improve air quality and reduce climate change impacts.
2. Protect natural resources and enhance regional resilience.
3. Promote equitable communities with improved mobility and greenspace access.
4. Advance sustainable economic growth, including green jobs and affordable housing.
5. Enhance climate resilience through disaster preparedness and infrastructure adaptation.

Timeline for Completion of Update

December 2024 – January 2025: Strategy alignment with current and future sustainability initiatives.

February 2025 – Public stakeholder review of the draft agenda.

March 2025 – Presentation to the Sustainability Advisory Committee.

April 2025 – MORPC Commission adoption.

Priority Topics for 2025

Members suggested:

- Expansion of EV infrastructure and clean energy workforce development.
- Strengthening climate resilience measures for extreme weather preparedness.

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- Increased funding for urban greenspace and air quality initiatives.

Member Updates

Meeting Adjourned

Please notify Lynn Kaufman at 614-233-4189 or lkaufman@morpc.org to confirm your attendance at this meeting or if you require special assistance.

The next Sustainable2050 meeting will be February 27, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.

