



Green Pact

Meeting Summary

March 3, 2016
9:30 – 11:00 AM

Amelita Mirolo Barn
4395 Carriage Hill Lane
Upper Arlington, Ohio 43220

Partners in Attendance:

[Randy Bowman](#), Columbus
[Matthew Holdren](#), Gahanna
[Justin Milam](#), Upper Arlington
[J.M. Rayburn](#), Dublin

[Andia Sangale](#), Metro Parks
[Katie Wears](#), Franklin Soil & Water Conservation District
[Kevin Weaver](#), Westerville
[Paul Wise](#), Genoa Township

MORPC Staff:

[Amelia Costanzo](#)
[Evelyn Ebert](#)
[Amanda McEldowney](#)

[Brandi Whetstone](#)
[Brian Williams](#)

Welcome & Introductions

Justin Milam welcomed everyone to the Amelita Mirolo Barn. Amelia Costanzo thanked Upper Arlington for hosting the meeting, and then led everyone in a round of introductions.

Green Pact Metrics

Amelia reminded everyone that they had discussed creating a subcommittee to establish metrics to keep track of work being done by member's communities regarding each Green Pact principle. Justin Milam and Erin Miller (Columbus) had expressed interest in participating on the subcommittee. **Amelia asked that anyone else who is interested let her know by April 1.** She will then arrange for a meeting of the subcommittee before the June Green Pact meeting.

Relating Working Groups' 2016 "Hot Topics" to the Green Pact Principles

Amelia reminded everyone that MORPC has five working groups who report directly to the [Sustainability Advisory Committee](#). Each of those working groups has a different focus and goals.

The staff lead for each of the working groups attended this Green Pact meeting to share the main efforts of the working groups for 2016, and to relate those efforts directly to the Green Pact principles (attached). Amelia handed out index cards and asked that everyone put their names on the index card and write notes about how their community's efforts and how they tie into each of the working groups' foci. They were also asked to make note of any working groups in which they'd like to participate.

The main efforts of the working groups for 2016 are included in the attachment. The related Green Pact principles are highlighted. If you want to be involved in any of the working groups, are interested in additional information, or have a related project/effort to share, please contact the working group staff person listed on the attachment.



Here are questions and comments that came about during the presentation:

Water Quality Working Group:

- Katie Wears explained Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District (FSWCD) has a lot of information available regarding lawn care and nutrient pollution.
- Katie Wears announced that FSWCD's www.getgrassy.org will be available soon. Check it out and look for promotional materials.
- Matt Holdren mentioned that information on the impacts of different land uses on water quality would be useful.
- The next meeting will be held on June 3 at 9:30 AM at MORPC.

Central Ohio Greenways:

- Dublin, Gahanna, and Genoa Township shared that they are doing substantial trail development work.
- There is an extension of the Clean Ohio Grant.
- The next meetings are March 7 and July 11 at 9:00 AM at MORPC.

Materials Management Working Group:

- The next meeting will be held on March 23 at 10:00 AM at MORPC.

Energy & Air Quality Working Group:

- Look for information on the upcoming Commute Challenge.
- MORPC issues air quality alerts during part of the year. Let Evelyn know if you have ideas for ways you can partner to share these updates.
- A new energy tool is available for project financing. In January, the first energy special improvement district (E-SID) was established in City of Columbus. It was initiated with an eligible project and property owner, which is the PNC Plaza, financed through the Columbus-Franklin County Finance Authority. On March 10, a reception took place to recognize this accomplishment and the funding partners, which include Franklin County through the announcement of the Energy Works program. An article from The Columbus Dispatch provides more information at <http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2016/03/10/downtown-pnc-building-getting-publicly-financed-upgrades.html>.

MORPC is working in coordination with the City and Finance Authority to assist with the effort on a regional basis. The E-SID board was established with representation from MORPC, which includes Director Christina O'Keeffe. As you may recall, the goal is to establish a regional PACE district that can attain shared services across political jurisdictions. If anyone is interested they can follow-up directly with Christina O'Keeffe at cokeeffe@morpc.org.

- The next meeting will be on March 29 at 2:00 PM at MORPC.

Regional Food Council:

- The Institutional Demand study will assess the need for local food in institutions around Central Ohio such as schools and prisons, and work toward creating a sustainable regional food system – growing, logistics, etc.
- Justin Milam said that bee keeping model ordinances and best practices information would be useful.
- The next meetings are March 9 and May 11 at 9:00 AM at MORPC.



Green Pact Member Updates

Columbus – Randy Bowman:

- The “Mayor’s Green Team” has been rebranded as *Community Green Team*.
- The Department of Public Service is bidding out a new recycling contract.
- Randy described the Smart Cities Challenge application that Columbus made and the process for awarding. An announcement will be made on March 12 about initial awards. Those making it to that step will then go through another round of applications and awarding. (see attachment)

Westerville – Kevin Weaver:

- Westerville is working on Smart Cities projects.
- Westerville City Schools are developing alternative fueling stations.

Dublin – J.M. Rayburn:

- Dublin is kicking off an effort called *Eco Dublin*. This will initially focus on developing best practices for the City operations to follow. Dublin intends to broaden the reach to businesses within the City at a later date.

Metro Parks – Andia Sangale:

- Metro Parks went through the Columbus Department of Public Utilities Green Infrastructure Stormwater Credit Program at the Grange Audubon Metro Park. They applied for the credit in January, and received a 50% reduction in their stormwater utility bill.

Next Meeting Location and Topics

The next meeting will be on June 2 at 9:30 AM at a location to be determined. **Please let Amelia know if you would like to host.**

The meeting will focus on the following Green Pact Principles:

Green Public Fleets

Collaborating to Purchase Green Products

Adopting Sustainable Land Use Policies



We, the community leaders of Central Ohio, are committed to enhancing and protecting the quality of life and economic vibrancy of the region. With this Green Pact, we affirm that it is in the best interest of our residents, business community and natural environment to take practical steps to protect our air and water, to preserve natural resources, to increase green space, reduce our consumption of raw materials and increase recycling. We hereby commit to lead by example, through this series of common sense steps to greener growth, management and living for our jurisdictions.

Greener Public Fleets

Motor vehicles account for a significant percentage of overall air pollution. We agree to take responsible steps to reduce our contribution to this problem through a variety of measures, which may include: anti-idling policies, purchase of high fuel-efficiency vehicles, use of alternative fuels and power sources, and/or retrofitting existing vehicles.

Growing a Strong, Green Economy

Environmentally-friendly goods and services is one of the fastest growing sectors of the U.S. economy, and is playing a significant role in our region today. We agree to work together to attract, retain and promote these green businesses so that our regional economy will continue to expand. We also agree to work with businesses to promote sustainable practices and encourage others to move in a more sustainable direction.

Collaborating to Purchase Green Products

Purchasing products that are environmentally friendly, including those that have recycled content, can preserve natural resources, reduce waste going into the landfill, and nurture the green marketplace. We will review purchasing codes to include green procurement practices. In addition, we will work together and explore ways to leverage our combined purchasing power and create a green regional procurement network that provides us with greater savings on more environmentally and socially responsible products.

Adopting Sustainable Land Use Policies

The ways our communities grow and redevelop have significant impacts on the environment. We agree to examine our local codes and policies to determine how we can: create walkable, bikeable communities; promote infill and transit oriented development; protect our natural resources and critical habitats; and create more sustainable infrastructure, such as green roofs, bio-swales and rain gardens.

Building Green Facilities and Reducing Energy Consumption

We will explore creating high performing buildings that are more energy efficient, conserve water, and use environmentally friendly products. We will look for other opportunities to reduce our energy consumption, such as performing energy audits, installing high efficiency heating and cooling systems, converting traffic and street lights to more efficient bulbs, installing skylights, and examining the potential for alternative energy.

Reducing Waste

Reducing the waste that is going to our landfill is of vital economic interest to every jurisdiction and taxpayer in Central Ohio. We agree that we will lead by example in our own operations by establishing recycling and reuse programs. We will encourage reduced packaging and recycled content in our purchasing and supply chain, and explore other sustainable materials management options.

Educating and Engaging Our Communities

Our responsibility is to not only for our own operations, but also to lead by example to encourage greater environmental stewardship by residents and local businesses. We will reach out to our stakeholders and citizens to teach the value and practice of sustainable living. We will also make periodic reports to our community about our efforts.

Reducing Emissions and Climate Protection

We agree to examine our emissions and existing carbon footprints and look for proven ways to reduce them, such as through energy-efficiency improvements, alternative energy solutions and a maintained and expanded tree canopy featuring the use of native species.

Preserving Green Space and Creating Greenways

Abundant parkland and a strong, accessible system of greenways and fitness paths are necessary components of a healthy, "green" community. We will support regional efforts to conserve streams, wetlands, forests and the other important natural resources of Central Ohio and increase the amount of parks and recreation areas for our residents. We will work together to create an interconnected system of greenways and bike trails that provide opportunities for alternative transportation, outdoor recreation, and healthy living.

Promoting Mass Transportation

A connected and well integrated transportation system is a vital part of our long-term sustainability. We agree to explore ways to improve and promote a variety of mobility options in Central Ohio by working together to create more efficient ways to navigate the region. This includes exploration of mass transit options, smart traffic technology, creating vanpool or carpooling groups, and encouraging safe biking and walking.



Mid-Ohio Regional
Planning Commission



Hot Topics for 2016 – Water Quality Working Group

- Collaborate on stormwater mitigation across all sectors
- Engage on water policy issues
- Learn about and monitor development impacts on greenways and natural areas
- Promote use and enjoyment of greenways and streams
- Identify roles in regional water planning efforts (i.e. Columbus' Watershed Master Plan, watershed action plans, source water protection plans)

Staff Lead: Amelia Costanzo / acostanzo@morpc.org / 614.233.4161

Greener Public Fleets

Growing a Strong, Green Economy

Collaborating to Purchase Green Products

Adopting Sustainable Land Use Policies

Building Green Facilities and Reducing Energy Consumption

Reducing Waste

Educating and Engaging Our Communities

Reducing Emissions and Climate Protection

Preserving Green Space and Creating Greenways

Promoting Mass Transportation



Hot Topics for 2016 – Central Ohio Greenways

- Collaborating with communities on trail development
- Collaborating with communities on trail design and signage guidelines
- Developing Partnerships
- Promote programming along trails
- Promote use and enjoyment of greenways trails
- Central Ohio Greenways & Trails Forum

Staff Lead: Amanda McEldowney / amceldowney@morpc.org / 614.233.4112

Greener Public Fleets

Growing a Strong, Green Economy

Collaborating to Purchase Green Products

Adopting Sustainable Land Use Policies

Building Green Facilities and Reducing Energy Consumption

Reducing Waste

Educating and Engaging Our Communities

Reducing Emissions and Climate Protection

Preserving Green Space and Creating Greenways

Promoting Mass Transportation



Hot Topics for 2016 – Materials Management Working Group

- There is interest in conducting an assessment on the state of waste in the MORPC region. Conduct a baseline assessment, include number of compost facilities, recycling facilities, landfills, etc. and map the locations for the region. Include data about costs and tipping fees and identify/include barriers to recycling.
- Connect economic development and jobs with recycling and waste reduction.
- Continue to track the progress resulting from the organics diversion subcommittee efforts. Currently there are projects in development through Franklin county grants. Green Scoop and White Castle are working together as well, and DNO Produce is considering an in-vessel compost system onsite. In Licking County there are efforts to expand organic recycling.
- Visit a location of interest, such as the “Big Hanna” in-vessel compost system used by Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction.
- Look at limitations to recycling for the business sector.
- Examine and address hard to recycle materials.
- Collect more data on recycling.
- Continue to focus on and expand E-waste recycling.
- Follow development of and provide input on solid waste management plans.

Staff Lead: Brandi Whetstone / bwhetstone@morpc.org / 614.233.4174

Greener Public Fleets

Growing a Strong, Green Economy

Collaborating to Purchase Green Products

Adopting Sustainable Land Use Policies

Building Green Facilities and Reducing Energy Consumption

Reducing Waste

Educating and Engaging Our Communities

Reducing Emissions and Climate Protection

Preserving Green Space and Creating Greenways

Promoting Mass Transportation



Hot Topics for 2016 – Energy & Air Quality Working Group

- Regional compliance with the new 70 ppb ozone standard
- Continuous analysis of the Clean Power Plan and its potential effect on the region via the Clean Power Plan subcommittee
- Energy Special Improvement District as new tool via PACE to allow property owners to finance clean energy projects. Seen as a regional tool across multiple jurisdictions via Columbus Franklin County Finance Authority.
- Commute Challenge – individuals throughout region can log non-single occupant vehicle commutes during month of June and be eligible to win cash prizes.

Staff Lead: Evelyn Ebert / eebert@morpc.org / 614.233.4168

Greener Public Fleets

Growing a Strong, Green Economy

Collaborating to Purchase Green Products

Adopting Sustainable Land Use Policies

Building Green Facilities and Reducing Energy Consumption

Reducing Waste

Educating and Engaging Our Communities

Reducing Emissions and Climate Protection

Preserving Green Space and Creating Greenways

Promoting Mass Transportation



Hot Topics for 2016 – Regional Food Council

- Institutional Demand Study
- Building a Local Food Economy

Staff Lead: Brian Williams / bwilliams@morpc.org / 614.233.4187

Greener Public Fleets

Growing a Strong, Green Economy

Collaborating to Purchase Green Products

Adopting Sustainable Land Use Policies

Building Green Facilities and Reducing Energy Consumption

Reducing Waste

Educating and Engaging Our Communities

Reducing Emissions and Climate Protection

Preserving Green Space and Creating Greenways

Promoting Mass Transportation