

2015 - 2016

REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY AGENDA



Mid-Ohio Regional
Planning Commission

About MORPC

MORPC is a voluntary association of Central Ohio governments and regional organizations.

About the Sustainability Advisory Committee

The Sustainability Advisory Committee is a top level committee which serves as the voice for sustainability on MORPC's Commission and as advisors to MORPC's sustainability-focused programming, working groups, and committees.

Vision for Central Ohio

A diverse community of local governments and stakeholders collaborating on environmentally and economically sustainable practices, opportunities, and tools that support regional growth and vitality in the Central Ohio region.

LEAD

Opportunities to guide sustainability programs and projects

GOAL 1



Convene public and private stakeholders to share ideas, best practices, and issues related to sustainability programs and projects.

- Advance policies and programs that are both environmental and financially sustainable
- Organize events targeted to elected officials to learn about sustainability best practices in other communities across the region
- Engage and learn from private sector partners that can support regional sustainability efforts
- Coordinate and host regular working group and Green Pact meetings and other educational forums pertaining to sustainability issues, including materials management, energy and air quality, local food, trails, and water quality

GOAL 2



Gather, report, and work on public policy issues and opportunities related to sustainability consistent with the Public Policy Agenda and leadership of the Policy Roundtable.

- Conserve and enhance our region's environmental infrastructure of clean water, air, and parklands
- Promote energy efficiency and safe, reliable, and affordable sources of energy for our region
- Work with local governments to adopt Complete Streets policies or ordinances
- Advocate for trail development among local officials and communicate the need for trail funding with state and local agencies

COLLABORATE

Opportunities to join forces with likeminded organizations and leverage existing programs

Central Ohio Greenways Trails



- Further expand the Central Ohio Greenways (COG) program and its membership to include state agencies and private stakeholders

- Collaborate with local governments and other partners to identify areas in need of pedestrian, bicycle, and transit connections
- Assist in developing educational and enforcement programs to increase usage and safety of pedestrian and bicycle facilities

Energy & Air Quality



- Promote availability and access to alternative transportation options and energy infrastructure that reduce energy consumption and air emissions
- Work with local governments to lead by example on energy and air quality projects and initiatives
- Connect technical and financial resources with communities, businesses, and residents to understand, track, and reduce their energy usage

GOAL 3



Provide valuable educational tools and resources that advance sustainability initiatives.

- Engage the private sector as a partner and economic driver in implementing recommendations of the *Central Ohio Local Food Assessment and Plan*
- Administer programs that support services on sustainable housing, energy efficiency, air quality, transportation, and water quality
- Gather and report on current environmental data and trends
- Host, promote, update, and enhance the reach of websites and social media related to working groups and MORPC projects related to sustainability
- Work with regional stakeholders to create and share best practices around sustainability initiatives, such as zero waste, energy, and transportation safety

GOAL 4



Lead projects and promote sustainability efforts at the local, regional, and state level.

- Advance the recommendations of the Regional Energy Action Plan, including financing for local energy projects
- Identify zoning and planning needs for energy infrastructure and air quality
- Serve as the leading resource on air quality on forecasting, education, and encouraging action to reduce emissions
- Study the impacts of climate change on water through a project called Sustaining Scioto
- Designate 100 miles of Central Ohio streams as water trails
- Conduct an economic impact study of trails
- Implement insight2050 phase 2 to provide local planning assistance on development, regional energy tools, and transportation projects
- Create a regional food system through the development of food hubs across the region

Greenways Water Quality



- Work with the City of Columbus and others on projects to reduce agricultural nutrient run-off
- Work with local partners to promote continued improvement of water quality through the use of green infrastructure, stream restoration, public education, and protection of key landscapes that help protect water quality
- Work with local partners to update county plans as appropriate to include water trails and identification of areas for preservation

Materials Management



- Utilize the Materials Management Working Group's expertise to support the needs and interests of MORPC members and bring new stakeholders into the group
- Work with regional stakeholders and local governments to promote recycling resources
- Explore opportunities to increase organic waste diversion efforts in Central Ohio

Regional Food System



- Increase farm-to-school programs and other opportunities for institutions to procure local food
- Find ways to increase the meat-processing capacity in the region
- Collaborate with Materials Management on organic waste diversion

SUPPORT

Opportunities to assist with other sustainability efforts

- Support partners working on other sustainability efforts by serving as subject matter experts on committees, steering groups, etc.
- Support partner organizations' outreach initiatives and programs



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