



FRANKLIN COUNTY ENERGY STUDY

Led by the Franklin County Board of Commissioners and conducted by the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), the Franklin County Energy Study provides further understanding of how the county produces and uses energy, and the impact energy has on communities and residents.

Decisions made today should create a better future for Franklin County. As the county grows and changes, communities must be able to evaluate opportunities and make informed decisions in their planning efforts.

WHY THE STUDY WAS CONDUCTED:

- The Franklin County Energy Study establishes the energy baseline and will serve as a starting point to better align regional energy initiatives, set priorities, and measure success.
- Energy is an important part of our region's economic growth and our quality of life. Energy is required to power and heat our homes and businesses, fuel our vehicles, and support a vibrant regional economy.
- Central Ohio could grow by up to one million people by the year 2050, with the majority of that growth occurring in Franklin County. Proactive planning will help accommodate for this growth to meet future energy needs and support a high quality of life.

WHAT WE LEARNED:

Franklin County is doing well in many areas:

- Franklin County is productive with the energy it uses. The energy productivity is on par or better than the national average, which is a measure of the income generated per unit of energy consumed.
- Total emissions associated with energy consumption are decreasing while population increases.
- Local utilities are active in pursuing customer-focused programs around energy efficiency. Many local initiatives are already in place to address energy consumption.

There are three areas needing improvement:

- **There are neighborhoods in Franklin County that are paying a higher-than-acceptable percentage of their household income to heat and power their homes.** The residential energy burden is a measure of spending on energy compared to household income. These communities are paying more than what is typical and acceptable in the United States.
- **Our money flows out of Franklin County because most energy comes from outside the county.** Nearly 100 percent of the electricity, heating, and transportation fuels consumed in the county come from outside the county.
- **The majority of energy is wasted due to inefficiency.** As a result, Franklin County residents and businesses are spending more on energy than what is necessary.

WHERE WE ARE HEADED:

- **Provide support for local clean energy job-training programs.** Clean energy development supports local job opportunities and reduces the outflow of dollars from the county. If all study recommendations are implemented, we can expect to add 12,000 clean energy jobs by 2030.
- **There is opportunity to be more energy efficient.** If Franklin County homes and businesses reduce energy consumption 20 percent by 2030, it will result in \$348 million annually in consumer energy savings.
- **Reduce the residential energy burden to less than five percent in any zip code.** This goal will require strategic interventions to improve the energy efficiency as well as household income of affected areas.
- **Reduce single occupant vehicle (SOV) commutes and increase electric vehicle (EV) adoption.** We have a jump start with Smart Columbus, and the goals are consistent with trends in new technologies. The transportation sector is the least efficient due to a reliance on the internal combustion engine.
- **Increase local renewable generation.** Locally-sourced renewable energy can create job opportunities and keep more dollars flowing in the local economy. Adding one gigawatt of local renewable capacity would mean 19 percent of electricity in Franklin County is from renewable sources.

Franklin County has the opportunity to capitalize on an improved and modernized energy system. There is a need to evaluate how to build infrastructure, change our habits, and re-work programs in order to be smarter and more efficient with energy. In addition, we can expect a \$500-million annual increase in the local impact of energy expenditures.

TARGETS:



29,000

clean energy sector jobs



20%

energy reduction



5%

reasonable level of energy burden



25%

sustainable modes of transportation



10%

electric vehicle adoption



1GW

solar, combined heat and power, and energy storage

IMPACT:

- **QUADRUPLE CLEAN ENERGY EMPLOYMENT**
- **\$348 MILLION IN ANNUAL ENERGY SAVINGS**
- **\$500 MILLION IN ADDITIONAL ECONOMIC IMPACT**
- **19% ELECTRICITY GENERATION FROM CLEAN ENERGY**