NOTICE OF A MEETING
Regional Sustainability Agenda Subcommittee
MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

REMOTE MEETING

February 26, 2021, 9:00 am – 10:30 am

AGENDA

9:00 am – 9:05 am   **Welcome –** *Justin Milam, Chair and Alex Slaymaker, Vice Chair*

9:05 am – 9:20 am   **RSA Framework Updates** *– Brandi Whetstone*

9:20 am – 10:15 am   **Review Objectives and Metrics** *– Liz Whelan-Jackson*

10:15 am – 10:30 am   **Next Steps/Discussion**

10:30   **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.

Microsoft Teams meeting
Click here to join the meeting
Or call in (audio only)

The next Regional Sustainability Agenda Subcommittee
Meeting will be on March 30, 2021 1t 2:00 pm.
This will be a remote meeting. Details to follow.

GOAL 1: Redefined

Improve air quality through emission reductions that protect public health and the environment.

→

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

GOAL 1: Improve air quality and reduce climate change impacts to protect public health and the environment.

Objectives
1. Reduce per capita vehicle miles traveled.
2. Increase alternative fuel vehicles and infrastructure.
4. Increase local renewable energy generating capacity. *(modified)*
5. Reduce per capita energy consumption across all sectors.
6. Reduce regional greenhouse gas emissions.
7. Reduce local disparities in air quality. *(moved up from Goal 3 to position with the air quality work)*

GOAL 2: Protect and preserve natural resources to promote a healthy and resilient region.

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Objectives
1. Reduce the amount of municipal solid waste per capita disposed in the landfill through waste prevention and diversion.
2. Reduce per capita water consumption.
3. Improve water quality in central Ohio watersheds.
4. Increase the amount of land devoted to natural areas to **support ecosystem services.** *(modification based on input)*
5. Protect prime farmland to promote resilient food and farming systems.

GOAL 3: Improve quality of life for all residents by creating sustainable and equitable communities.

Objectives
1. Improve transportation safety for all residents.
2. Prioritize infrastructure development which supports multi-modal transportation options for all users.
3. Increase access to greenspace and regional trails.
4. ~~Increase availability of affordable housing options near transit and job centers.~~ *Moved to Goal 4*
5. ~~Maximize infill and redevelopment along existing infrastructure.~~ *Moved to Goal 4*
6. Reduce household energy cost **burden.** *(modified)*
7. ~~Increase air quality monitoring and data to address local disparities in pollution exposure and related health impacts.~~ *Moved to Goal 1 and modified.*
8. Reduce environmental hazards that pose risks to public health and safety.

GOAL 4: Promote a robust, inclusive and sustainable economy

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Objectives
1. Increase the number of businesses with established sustainability policies and practices.
2. ~~Advance sourcing and purchasing to support sustainable products and services.~~ Clean energy procurement is a strategy under the renewable energy objective, and purchasing materials with recycled content moved to waste reduction strategies.
3. ~~Advance tools and regulations that support sustainable economic development, redevelopment, and reinvestment in Central Ohio neighborhoods.~~
2. Maximize infill and redevelopment along existing infrastructure. ***Moved from Goal 3***
3. Increase availability of affordable housing options near transit or job centers. ***Moved from Goal 3***
4. Propose adding- Increase the number of commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) projects, and/or Increase the number of green jobs (or jobs in the energy and environmental sector).

METRIC SELECTION CRITERIA

RELEVANT - Clearly connected to relevant emerging issues, programs, or policies

MEANINGFUL - Meaningfully describes the objective being measured

INTELLIGIBLE - Simple enough for the intended audience to quickly and easily understand what's being measured

CONSISTENT - Based on data that are consistently available over time, and across places in the region

COMPARABLE - Possible to measure in other regions or times to allow for comparison and benchmarking

TIMELY - Based on data that are collected and/or reported frequently, relative to the objective timeline

STATISTICALLY SOUND - Shows actual change and does not incorrectly measure 'error' as change; Measured using sound methodology

SENSITIVE - Sensitive and specific enough to detect changes within the desired timeframe

GOAL 1: Improve air quality and reduce climate change impacts to protect public health and the environment.

Objectives	Metrics
1. Reduce per capita vehicle miles traveled.	Per capita vehicle miles traveled
2. Increase alternative fuel vehicles and infrastructure.	*Data Limitations*
3. Increase local renewable energy generating capacity.	Renewable energy generating capacity
4. Reduce per capita energy consumption across all sectors.	Per capita household energy consumption Per capita commercial & industrial energy consumption
5. Reduce regional greenhouse gas emissions.	Per capita greenhouse gas emissions from transportation, household, commercial, and industrial energy consumption
6. Reduce local disparities in air quality.	*Data Limitations*

Objective 1.2 Increase alternative fuel vehicles and infrastructure

	Relevant	Meaningful	Intelligible	Sensitive	Statistically Sound	Comparable	Consistent	Timely
Percentage / number of registered vehicles that use alternative fuels	Yes	% versus number	Yes	Yes	Possible error involved in 'coding' vehicle types as AFV	Somewhat – may be limited to Ohio counties	Data process for non-electric AFVs may lead to update / consistency challenges	Yes
Percentage / number of registered electric vehicles	Yes	% versus number	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unclear whether methodology is replicable in other places	Presumably, yes	Yes
Number of charging stations	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

POTENTIAL ALTERNATIVE:
- Percentage of alternative fuels consumed for transportation out of total transportation fuel consumption
  - U.S. Energy Information Administration
  - Available at state level only – *may be possible to estimate locally*

Objective 1.7 Reduce local disparities in air quality

		Relevant	Meaningful	Intelligible	Sensitive	Statistically Sound	Comparable	Consistent	Timely
Unknown		Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

OBJECTIVE CHALLENGE :

- We *know* there are place-based health disparities in Central Ohio
- We *know* some of the health disparities can likely be attributed to environmental factors
- We *think* there could be local disparities in air quality that may be contributing to these health disparities
- **We are currently working to understand these disparities, but do not currently have the data to demonstrate that they exist**

GOAL 2: Protect and preserve natural resources to promote a healthy and resilient region.

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Objectives	Metrics
1. Reduce the amount of municipal solid waste per capita disposed in the landfill through waste prevention and diversion.	Per capita landfill waste disposal
2. Reduce per capita water consumption.	Per capita water consumption
3. Improve water quality in central Ohio watersheds.	*Data Limitations*
4. Increase the amount of land devoted to natural areas to support ecosystem services.	Native landscape acres protected and restored through federal, state, and local funding programs
5. Protect prime farmland to promote resilient food and farming systems.	*Data Limitations*

Objective 2.3 Improve water quality in Central Ohio watersheds

	Relevant	Meaningful	Intelligible	Sensitive	Statistically Sound	Comparable	Consistent	Timely
Attainment to EPA water quality standards	Low specificity makes this objective difficult to act upon and measure progress	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Attainment standards can change	No – EPA evaluates attainment infrequently

PROPOSED NEXT STEPS:
- Engage with the Sustaining Scioto Board around identifying specific objectives that can be more clearly measured
  - *Next meeting in April*

Objective 2.4 Increase the amount of land devoted to natural areas

	Relevant	Meaningful	Intelligible	Sensitive	Statistically Sound	Comparable	Consistent	Timely
Native landscape acres protected and restored through federal, state, and local funding programs	Yes	Do we have a subset of data substantial enough to reflect progress?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Uncertain	Uncertain

POTENTIAL DATA SOURCES TO AGGREGATE:
- Clean Ohio Fund Projects
- Appalachia Ohio Alliance
- Tecumseh Land Trust
- Farm Bill conservation title program investments (e.g. CRP, CREP, WRP, WHIP)
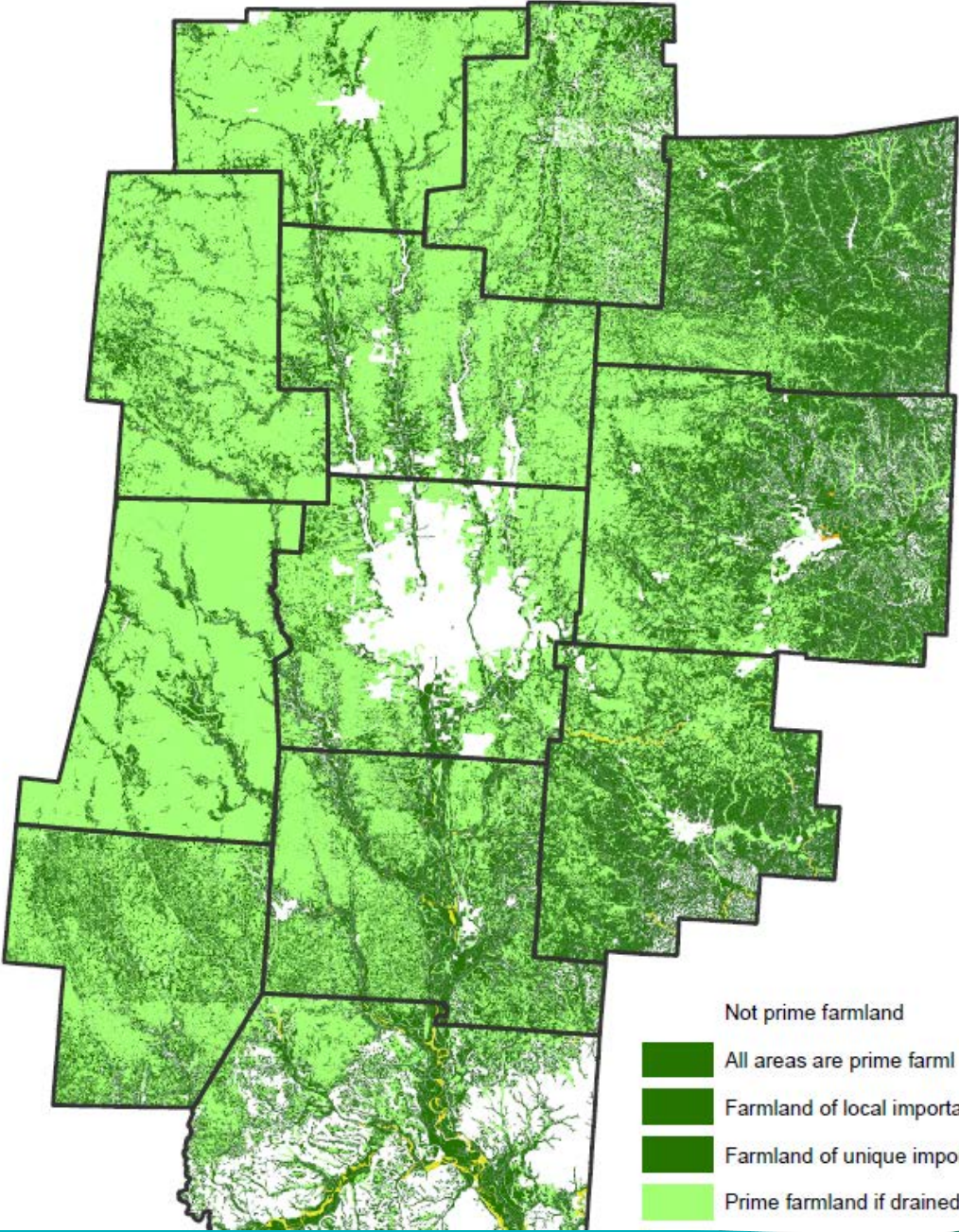
Objective 2.5 Protect prime farmland

	Relevant	Meaningful	Intelligible	Sensitive	Statistically Sound	Comparable	Consistent	Timely
Acres of developable prime farmland	Maybe	Prime farmland (especially developable) is too-broad a definition – it may not capture the objective	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	MORPC land use standardization and updates are completed only once every 4 years (next update in 2022)

Objective 2.5 Protect prime farmland

Legend:
- Not prime farmland
- All areas are prime farml
- Farmland of local importa
- Farmland of unique import
- Prime farmland if drained

GOAL 3: Improve quality of life for all residents by creating sustainable and equitable communities

Objectives	Metrics
1. Improve transportation safety for all residents.	Number of fatalities and serious injuries by transportation mode
2. Prioritize infrastructure development which supports multi-modal transportation options for all users.	Workers/commuters using alternative modes of transportation
3. Increase access to greenspace and regional trails.	Percentage of population living within X miles of greenspace and trail access points
4. Reduce household energy cost burden	Number of households paying more than XX% of their income on energy costs
5. Reduce environmental hazards that pose risks to public health and safety.	*Data Limitations* 🚩

Objective 3.5 Reduce environmental hazards that pose risks to public health and safety

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	Relevant	Meaningful	Intelligible	Sensitive	Statistically Sound	Comparable	Consistent	Timely
Environmental Response and Revitalization Sites								
Brownfield Properties					TBD			
Lead Pipes								
Nuisance Reports (environmental hazard-related)								

NEXT STEPS:
- This objective as written includes numerous potential data sources (list not all-encompassing) - this may indicate that the objective needs to be broken into specific, actionable, and measurable elements
- Recommend re-evaluating

GOAL 4: Promote a robust, inclusive and sustainable economy

Objectives	Metrics	
1. Increase the number of businesses with established sustainability policies and practices.	*Data Limitations*	🚩
2. Maximize infill and redevelopment along existing infrastructure.	*Data Limitations*	🚩
3. Increase availability of affordable housing options near transit or job centers.	*Data Limitations*	🚩
4. Increase the number of commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) projects, and/or Increase the number of green jobs (or jobs in the energy and environmental sector).	*General Discussion*	🚩

Objective 4.1 Increase the number of businesses with established sustainability policies and practices

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	Relevant	Meaningful	Intelligible	Sensitive	Statistically Sound	Comparable	Consistent	Timely
Number of Greenspot businesses	Yes	May not reflect all businesses that reflect the criteria	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes*	Yes
Number of SmartColumbus Acceleration Partners	Yes	May not reflect all businesses that reflect the criteria	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes*	Yes

Objective 4.2 Maximize infill and redevelopment along existing infrastructure

	Relevant	Meaningful	Intelligible	Sensitive	Statistically Sound	Comparable	Consistent	Timely
Percentage of development within incorporated areas	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Updated only once every 4 years (next update in 2022)

CONSIDERATIONS:
- This metric was evaluated in great detail in the Sustainability Dashboard
- Currently, we are set up to complete a robust comprehensive land use update once every 4 years as part of the MTP
- This is an area where we hope to expand data resources in the future

Objective 4.3 Increase availability of affordable housing options near transit or job centers

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	Relevant	Meaningful	Intelligible	Sensitive	Statistically Sound	Comparable	Consistent	Timely
Change in number of place-based units and voucher recipients near transit stops or job centers	Yes	Does not account for 'market affordability' – "Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing" (NOAH)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Objective 4.4 NEW
Increase the number of commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) projects, and/or Increase the number of green jobs (or jobs in the energy and environmental sector)

GENERAL DISCUSSION - PACE:
- Data sources
  - Columbus Franklin County Finance Authority
  - Other, similar programs?
- Potential metrics

GENERAL DISCUSSION – Green Jobs:
- Data sources
  - ONET Green Jobs List
  - Occupation Data
- Potential metrics

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NEXT STEPS

- Seek input from key stakeholder groups-
  - Business, environmental, racial/social justice, low-income, rural
  - Informational presentation
- Equity Resource Document
- March 30 sub-committee meeting – last one
- Early April - clean up and share with SAC members
- April 17th SAC meeting – present for adoption
- May/June Commission adoption

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