



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

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

**NOTICE OF A MEETING
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
111 Liberty St., #100, Columbus, OH 43215
June 5, 2024, 2:30 - 4:00 p.m.**

AGENDA

- 2:30 p.m.** **Welcome and Introductions** – *Ben Kessler, Chair*
- 2:35 p.m.** **MORPC Updates** – *Brandi Whetstone, Interim Sr. Director of Planning, MORPC*
- Regional Water Study & Riverfest
 - Electric Vehicle Charger Reliability and Accessibility Accelerator Grant
 - LinkUS
 - Policy Update
- 2:50 p.m.** **2024 Summit on Sustainability** – *Brandi Whetstone, MORPC*
- 3:05 p.m.** **Ohio State University's UN Climate Conference (COP) Study Abroad Program** –
Drs. Nick Breyfogle and Bart Elmore, Environmental History
- 3:25 p.m.** **Board and Working Group Reports**
- Energy & Air Quality Working Group – Matt Stephens-Rich
 - Central Ohio Greenways Board – Mike Andrako
 - Sustainable2050 – Laurie Jadwin
 - Sustaining Scioto Board – Glenn Marzluf
- 3:45 p.m.** **New Business and Member Updates** – *Ben Kessler, Chair*
- Regional Sustainability Agenda
 - Next meeting
- 4:00 p.m.** **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 Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting will be on September 18, 2024, at 2:30 p.m.

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Chris Amorose Groomes
Chair

Michelle Crandall
Vice Chair

Ben Kessler
Secretary

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

Sustainability Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes

June 6, 2024, 2:30 pm

Members Present

Michael Andrako, Franklin County Engineer's Office
Christine Houk, City of Grove City
Vice-Chair Laurie Jadwin, Mayor, City of Gahanna
Carol Kauffman, Ohio Environmental Council
Emily Keeler, City of Grandview Heights
Chair Ben Kessler, Mayor, City of Bexley

Natalie Kruse-Daniels, Ohio University
Joe Lombardi, SWACO
Glenn Marzluf, Del-Co Water Company, Inc.
Jennie McAdams, Franklin County Public Health
Sandy Nessing, AEP Ohio
Mike Shelton, The Ohio State University
Matthew Starr, Mayor, City of Mt. Vernon

Public Present

Nick Breyfogle, OSU
Elizabeth Ellman, City of Bexley

Bart Elmore, OSU
Alaina Urcio, City of Upper Arlington

MORPC Staff Present

Kenny Anderson	Dave Dixon	Karina Peggau	Maria Schaper
Harry Deandra	Brian Filiatraut	Kyle Probert	Edwina Teye
Mauro Diaz-Hernandez	Lynn Kaufman	Padmini Roy-Dixon	Brandi Whetstone

Meeting Called to Order at 2:33 pm.

MORPC Updates

Regional Water Study & Riverfest

Please contact Edwina Teye (eteye@morpc.org) for an invite to the next Regional Water Study webinar. The study will examine existing and future water quality and quantity as well as existing and future demand. This information will help to inform investments in water and wastewater infrastructure.

Riverfest will be downtown at the Main Street bridge during the Columbus Arts Festival this Saturday and Sunday, June 8 – 9. Kayaking is free.

Electric Vehicle Charger Reliability and Accessibility Accelerator Grant

MORPC was awarded \$2,000,000 from the US DOT Federal Highway Administration's Electric Vehicle Charger Reliability and Accessibility Accelerator (EVC-RAA) Program focused on repairing or replacing broken or non-operational EV charging ports throughout the 15-county region. MORPC will soon issue an RFP looking for vendors to complete the work.

LinkUS

There will be an item on the ballot this November, asking residents to approve a ½% sales tax increase. These monies will go to building five rapid transit corridors in our region and toward increasing frequency and expanding coverage and service hours for the existing bus service.

2024 Summit on Sustainability

The Summit will be on October 29, at the Hilton Columbus Downtown. Registration for the summit will open in July. Nominations for Regional Sustainability Awards open June 13 through July 5. The link to nominate will be on MORPC.org and will also be forwarded to Members. SAC members are encouraged to share their ideas for speakers by emailing Brandi.

[Ohio State University's UN Climate Conference \(COP\) Study Abroad Program](#)

Drs. Nick Breyfogle and Bart Elmore, Environmental History

Board and Working Group Reports

Sustaining Scioto Board – Member Marzluf

The Board met on April 24, where Apoorva Bajaj, Climavision, presented on Climavision's weather radar network which serves to fill in the gaps in radar coverage and provides precise, hyper-local weather forecasts with timely information about local weather impacts.

Energy & Air Quality Working Group – Brandi Whetstone

MORPC and our partners met with US DOT for feedback on our Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant proposal, which was not selected for funding. The proposal, titled MORE EVs, was highly recommended by the reviewers across all grant criteria and the team was encouraged to resubmit the proposal during the next round. They anticipate the next NOFO to post in June, and MORPC will be reaching out to our partners to reaffirm their support and participation in the next round of funding.

The 2024 Columbus Area Residential Solar Co-op kicked off in May and runs through August 26. The co-op is a collaborative effort led by the City of Columbus and Solar United Neighbors with MORPC, IMPACT Community Action, and Green Columbus providing support.

Central Ohio Greenways Board – Member Andrako

The Central Ohio Greenways (COG) Trail Towns Working Group proposed a Trail Town Ambassador Training Program and informed a scope of work to develop the program for inclusion in the City of Columbus's ATIIP grant proposal due in June.

New curated experiences were highlighted in the 2024 Outdoor Trails Pass, launched on Celebrate Trails Day, April 27. Experience Columbus reported over 1,000 new Outdoor Trails Pass sign-ups in April. This is significantly more than typically seen in one month.

The COG Mapping Natural Assets Steering Committee kicked-off their project on April 25.

The COG Wayfinding Strategy is complete and available on the COG Website.

MORPC hosted a COG Forum on March 20 bringing together nearly 100 trail planners, advocates, elected officials, and government staff to learn about regional projects that are going beyond basic trail infrastructure to provide an enjoyable and comfortable trail user experience. The next Forum will take place in the summer and feature a kayaking adventure. The date is still to be determined.

MORPC is partnering with the City of Columbus on an Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP) application due in June. The proposal will address connections from nearby neighborhoods to downtown and include a Trail Towns component.

Sustainable2050 – Vice-Chair Jadwin

Sustainable2050 met May 9, with updates on MORPC's planning and sustainability programs, and a featured presentation from Niel Jurist, MORPC's Sr. Director of Communications & Engagement, "How Local Governments Can Combat Disinformation".

The next deadline to be considered for tier status certification is August 21. The next Sustainable2050 meeting will be August 15, at Del-Co Water, featuring their floating solar panels (floatovoltaics).

New Business and Member Updates

Regional Sustainability Agenda

The Regional Sustainability Agenda Subcommittee will meet starting in August, devise an updated Regional Sustainability Agenda, and take that to SAC and to Commission early in 2025. There will be at least three SAC Members on this subcommittee, along with other stakeholders and partners.

Next meeting

The September 18 SAC meeting will be held at NBBJ. More information will follow prior to the meeting.

Adjourned at 3:57 pm.

**MORPC Sustainability Advisory Committee
Board & Working Group Report
June 5, 2024**



Central Ohio Greenways Board (Chair: Mike Andrako, P.E.)

Next meeting: July 17, 2024

The COG Board met on May 15 to hear project updates and Working Group progress.

The COG Trail Towns Working Group met on May 13 to discuss the best way to implement the COG Trail Town Framework and the COG Wayfinding Strategy. The group proposed a Trail Town Ambassador Training Program and informed a scope of work to develop the program for inclusion in the City of Columbus's ATIIP grant proposal due in June.

The Outdoor Trails Pass partnership with Experience Columbus was originally launched in 2020 and has been upgraded annually with new features every Spring. In 2023, we saw a significant increase in the number of people interacting with and using it due to the inclusion of curated trail experience itineraries. This Spring the curated experiences will be further enhanced through a partnership with local tourism groups, who have submitted trail itineraries that include stops at trail side businesses, restaurants, and cultural amenities. These new curated experiences were highlighted in the 2024 Outdoor Trails Pass, launched on Celebrate Trails Day, April 27. Experience Columbus reported over 1,000 new Outdoor Trails Pass Sign-ups in April. This is significantly more than we typically see in one month.

The COG Mapping Natural Assets Steering Committee kicked-off their project on April 25. This project will summarize and analyze environmental data related to watershed quality. This data will be used to inform development decisions, conservation efforts, and outdoor recreational access.

The COG Wayfinding Strategy is complete and available on the COG Website. The report includes not only signage and map recommendations but all strategies to integrate Trail Towns, Public Art, and Placemaking concepts into the regional wayfinding effort.

MORPC hosted a COG Forum on March 20 bringing together nearly 100 trail planners, advocates, elected officials, and government staff to learn about regional projects that are going beyond basic trail infrastructure to provide an enjoyable and comfortable trail user experience. The next Forum will take place in the summer and feature a kayaking adventure. The date is still to be determined.

MORPC is partnering with the City of Columbus on an Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP) application due in June. The proposal will address connections from nearby neighborhoods to downtown and include a trail towns component.



Energy & Air Quality Working Group (Chair: Matt Stephens-Rich)
Next meeting: August 28, 2024

The Energy and Air Quality Working Group (EAQWG) held its second meeting of the year on May 22. This meeting featured updates on air quality and energy programming and opportunities, as well as featuring a summary of and discussion on the Fifth National Climate Assessment (NCA5) by Karina Peggau, Sr. Sustainability Planner with MORPC. The EAQWG is still looking for candidates to serve as the Chair and Vice-Chair. If interested in leading the EAQWG, please email Brian Filiatraut, Energy and Sustainability Program Manager, at bfiliatraut@morpc.org. The next EAQWG meeting is on August 28 from 1 – 2:30 pm.

MORPC was awarded \$2 million from the US DOT Federal Highway Administration’s Electric Vehicle Charger Reliability and Accessibility Accelerator (EVC-RAA) Program focused on repairing or replacing broken or non-operational EV charging ports throughout the 15-county region. MORPC will soon issue an RFP looking for vendors to complete the work.

MORPC and our partners met with US DOT for feedback on our Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant proposal, which was not selected for funding. The proposal, titled MORE EVs, was highly recommended by the reviewers across all grant criteria and the team was encouraged to resubmit the proposal during the next round. They anticipate the next NOFO to post in June, and MORPC will be reaching out to our partners to reaffirm their support and participation in the next round of funding.

This year’s Columbus Area Residential Solar Co-op kicked off in May and runs through August 26. The co-op is a collaborative effort led by the City of Columbus and Solar United Neighbors with MORPC, IMPACT Community Action, and Green Columbus providing support. If interested in learning more or registering, please visit: solarunitedneighbors.org/columbus.

Air Quality:

Ozone monitoring season began on March 1 and MORPC has not issued any Air Quality Alerts in 2024, as of May 29. The American Lung Association’s 2024 State of the Air report noted that four California cities and one Oregon city reported the highest particulate matter pollution in the nation; these results stand in contrast to the IQ Air report that stated Columbus was the most polluted city in the U.S. In fact, Columbus did not appear in the State of the Air’s list of most polluted cities, with Franklin County receiving a “B” grade for particulate matter pollution.

The team continues to move forward the US EPA funded air monitoring project working in partnership with Franklin County Public Health. The team completed the collocation of 40 PurpleAir sensors with Ohio EPA monitors to test and validate their performance before placing them in the community. Dr. Huyen Le, professor at OSU and Project Advisory Committee member, agreed to lend us additional sensors for the project's duration; we now have an additional 23 sensors to add to our network. Additionally, MORPC’s Air Quality Awareness Program was featured at ODOT’s Transportation and Environment Sustainability Conference on April 23. Contact Mauro (JR) Diaz-Hernandez for more information about the air quality program at mdiazhernandez@morpc.org.



Sustainable2050

Next meeting: August 15, 2024

MORPC hosted the quarterly Sustainable2050 meeting on May 9, with updates on MORPC's planning and sustainability programs, and a featured presentation from Níel Jurist, MORPC's Sr. Director of Communications and Engagement. Her presentation, "How Local Governments Can Combat Disinformation", included statistics about common sources of consumer information, the impacts of disinformation, and proactive strategies for combating disinformation. MORPC will be hosting the annual social media summit in August where presenters will provide more information on identifying and addressing disinformation.

Sustainable2050 membership is open to all MORPC members and current Sustainable2050 members interested in earning their tier status certification should contact Brandi Whetstone at bwhetstone@morpc.org. A certification workbook will be provided, and a kick-off meeting is encouraged to review the process. The next deadline to be considered for tier status certification is August 21. The next Sustainable2050 meeting will take place on August 15, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Del-Co Water, featuring their floating solar panels (floatovoltaics).



Sustaining Scioto Board (Chair: Glenn Marzluf)

Next Meeting: June 26, 2024

The Board met on April 24, where Apoorva Bajaj presented on Climavision and their weather radar network which serves to fill in the gaps in radar coverage and provides more precise, hyper-local weather forecasts with timely information about local weather impacts. They have installed 26 weather radars in various states, and they are currently working on locating up to three radars in Ohio before the end of the year. Most notably is the radar planned for Zanesville which will cover the Scioto Watershed. This is timely given the ongoing regional water study and the complimentary dataset the radar will provide. The Board will meet again on June 26.

The Agricultural & Rural Communities Outreach Team met on May 16. Edwina Teye provided an overview of the Farming for Clean Water Communications Plan completed in April. The Team is planning to work in partnership with local water utility providers to organize a field day in the fall based on the recommendations from the Communications Plan. Their next meeting is on July 18.

MORPC and Ohio EPA hosted a Regional Water Study kick-off webinar on April 24 which generated significant interest with 150 in attendance. Tiffani Kavalec with Ohio EPA provided an overview of the consultant selection process, timelines, and workflow of the study. Other speakers from ODNR and MORPC presented datasets that they will include in the study, including future population and household growth, employment, protected spaces, and green spaces. The next webinar will take place in June or July. If you would like to receive invitations for future webinars, please contact Edwina Teye at eteye@morpc.org.

MORPC and the consultant team, Hazen & Sawyer, finalized the agreement for MORPC to provide data, mapping, and stakeholder engagement support for the Regional Water Study, with services extending through the end of the 2024 calendar year.



SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

June 5, 2024



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

AGENDA



2:30 **Welcome & Introductions** – *Ben Kessler, Chair*

2:35 **MORPC Updates** – ***Brandi Whetstone, MORPC***

- Regional Water Study, Riverfest, & EV Charging Grant
- LinkUS – *Maria Schaper, MORPC*
- Policy update – *Kyle Probert, MORPC*

2:50 **Summit on Sustainability** – *Brandi Whetstone, MORPC*

3:05 **Ohio State University's UN Climate Conference (COP) Study Abroad Program** – *Drs. Nick Breyfogle and Bart Elmore, Environmental History*

3:25 **Board & Working Group Reports**

- Sustaining Scioto Board – *Glenn Marzluf*
- Energy & Air Quality Working Group – *Matt Stephens Rich*
- Central Ohio Greenways Board – *Mike Andrako*
- Sustainable2050 – *Laurie Jadwin, Vice Chair*

3:45 **New Business & Member Updates** – *Ben Kessler, Chair*

4:00 **Adjourn** – *Ben Kessler, Chair*

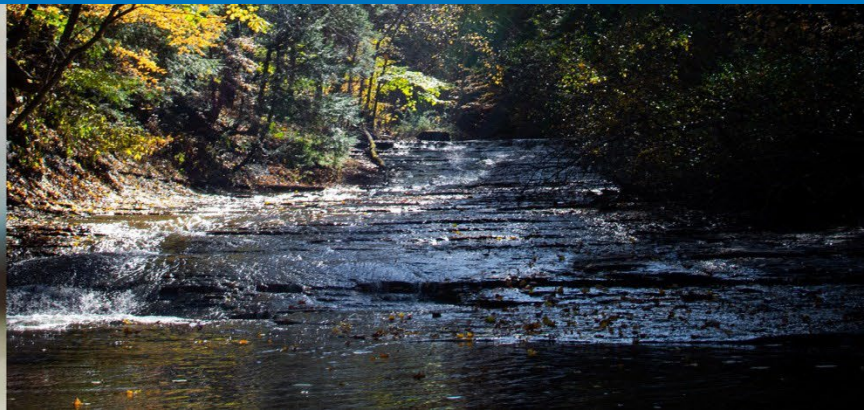
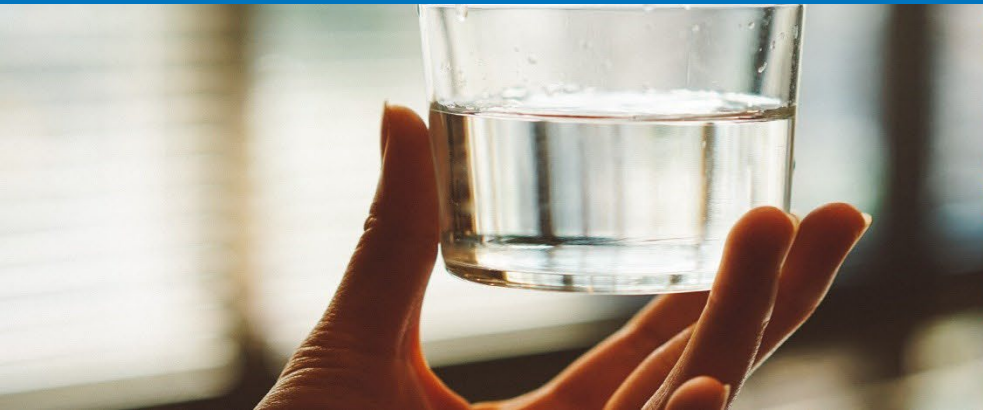


MID-OHIO REGIONAL
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REGIONAL WATER STUDY

Contact Dr. Edwina
Teye to be included
on the email list at
eteye@morpc.org



SAVE THE DATE Riverfest 2024



MORPC

June 8-9, 2024 | Downtown Riverfront | 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

ACCELERATING INCLUSION

Join us at the Columbus Arts Festival for Riverfest! Enjoy free kayaking for the entire family on a first come, first served basis. Safety vests will be provided.

For more information, visit: www.morpc.org/riverfest



girlscouts
of ohio's heartland



THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR
DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC UTILITIES

BetheChange
for clean water .org



EV CHARGING GRANT



MORPC Awarded EV Charger Reliability & Accessibility Accelerator Grant

- \$2 million from USDOT/FHWA
- Repair or replace existing non-operational EV charging infrastructure.
- June 2025 deadline to complete ~150+ ports
- RFP to be released in July



MORE COTA, MORE SIDEWALKS MORE OPTIONS



**FASTER, MORE
RELIABLE PUBLIC
TRANSPORTATION-
45% MORE SERVICE
HOURS**

**SAFER AND EXPANDED
SIDEWALKS, BIKEWAYS AND
TRAILS - 500+ MILES**

**FOCUSED GROWTH -
WALKABLE COMMUNITIES
WITH MORE AFFORDABLE
ACCESS TO WORK, HOME,
AND ENTERTAINMENT**



MOVING OUR REGION FORWARD, TOGETHER

STAY CONNECTED

- Visit our website at LinkUSColumbus.com and sign up for project updates.
- Send us an email at info@LinkUSColumbus.com with questions and comments.
- Follow us on social media [@LinkUScolumbus](https://www.instagram.com/LinkUScolumbus) to keep up with the latest happenings about LinkUS.
- Check out our YouTube channel [@LinkUScolumbus](https://www.youtube.com/LinkUScolumbus) for program videos and presentations.



OUTREACH
TOOLKIT





MORPC

POLICY UPDATE

Kyle Probert

Public Policy Coordinator, MORPC

AGENDA



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3:25 **Board & Working Group Reports**

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3:45 **New Business & Member Updates** – *Ben Kessler, Chair*

4:00 **Adjourn** – *Ben Kessler, Chair*



SAVE THE DATE

Date: October 29, 2024

Where: Hilton Columbus Downtown

Time: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.



MORPC

SPEAKERS



POTENTIAL KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

MORNING PLENARY SESSION

Panel discussion focused on community development, growth, & sustainability

LUNCH PLENARY SESSION

Jeff Speck, City Planner & Author of “*Walkable Cities*” will provide the keynote presentation

PECHA KUCHA SPEAKERS

Natalie Daniels, Ohio University

Bernita Reese, City of Columbus Recreation & Parks

Carlie Boos, Affordable Housing Alliance

Elizabeth Ellman, City of Bexley

BREAKOUT SESSION TOPICS



MORPC

Track 1 – Morning

Water Quality

Energy

DEI focus - Sustainable2050

Economic Development

LinkUS

Track 2 - Afternoon

Greenways

Policy

Waste Reduction

Housing/Community Planning

Data

Track 3 - Afternoon

General Sustainability

Leaders Listen Survey

State Agency Initiatives

DEI

Air Quality

NEXT STEPS



- Regional Sustainability Award Nominations Open June 15, 2024
- Registration Opens July 1, 2024
- Breakout Sessions
- Sponsorship Opportunities
 - PRESENTING SPONSOR - \$25,000
 - PROGRAM - \$15,000
 - NETWORK - \$10,000
 - PLENARY - \$5,000
 - SUPPORTING - \$3,000
 - BREAKOUT - \$2,000
 - EXHIBITOR - \$500





DISCUSSION



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Bringing the United Nations Climate Negotiations to Ohio



Environmental Historians Nick Breyfogle and Bart Elmore
Faculty in the Department of History and Sustainability Institute at Ohio State
Elmore.83@osu.edu & Breyfogle.1@osu.edu

What is COP?

COP refers to the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC signed in 1992

The UNFCCC has been executed through various protocols including:

The Kyoto Protocol of 1997

The Paris Accord of 2015

And we will be attending COP 29 in Azerbaijan, part of our annual study abroad to COP.



*George H. Bush, Rio Earth Summit, 1992
Signed the United Nations Framework Convention on
Climate Change
(UNFCCC)*

“Under the [2015 Paris agreement](#), nearly 200 nations submitted individual pledges to curb their greenhouse-gas emissions and wealthy countries promised to deliver aid — amounting to at least \$100 billion per year by 2020 — to help poor countries develop clean energy and build resilience to disasters.” — *New York Times*, 2017





- First time OSU study abroad program launched! We went to Dubai.
- Announced there would be a Loss and Damage Fund, that would channel hundreds of millions of dollars towards nations that have suffered from climate change.
- New discussions about the Adaptation Fund, esp. helping small island nations.
- Countries recommitted to new nationally determined contributions (NDCs).
- Commitment to “speed up the transition away from fossil fuels to renewables, such as wind and solar power.” This was to be the “beginning of the end of the fossil fuel era.”
- Linking climate change and biodiversity and pollution for the first time (triple planetary crisis).
- But what was also really exciting was seeing Ohio represented at COP 28...



Ohio State students, Professors Breyfogle and Elmore, along with Mayor Andrew Ginther in Dubai

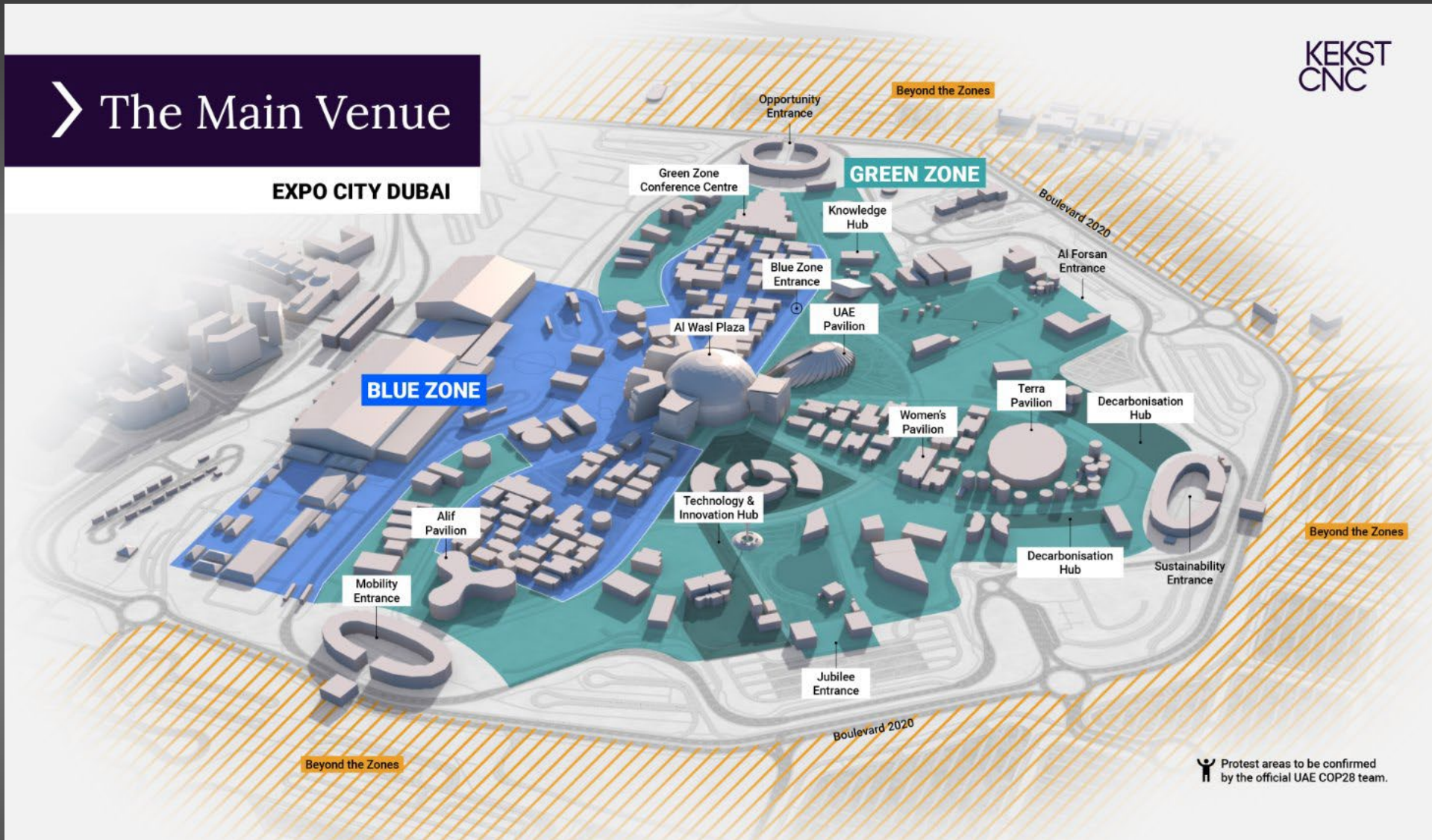


Meeting with the Abby Finkenauer, Special Envoy for Youth, US State Department

> The Main Venue

EXPO CITY DUBAI

KEKST
CNC



The “Green Zone” and the “Blue Zone”



The “Green Zone” and the “Blue Zone”



The “Green Zone” and the “Blue Zone”



What can we do for you at COP 29?



Bringing the United Nations Climate Negotiations to Ohio

To learn more about the trip, scan this QR code:



Environmental Historians Nick Breyfogle and Bart Elmore
Faculty in the Department of History and Sustainability Institute at Ohio State
Elmore.83@osu.edu & Breyfogle.1@osu.edu

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REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY AGENDA UPDATES



MORPC

Updated Timeline:

- **August:** Sub-committee meeting 1
- **September:** Present to SAC for input (Sept. 18)
- **October:** Sub-committee meeting 2
- **November:** Sub-committee meeting 3
- **December:** Present to SAC for input (Dec. 18)
- **February 2025:** Introduce RSA to MORPC board and solicit input.
- **March 2025:** Present final RSA to MORPC Board for adoption.

REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY AGENDA 2021-2024



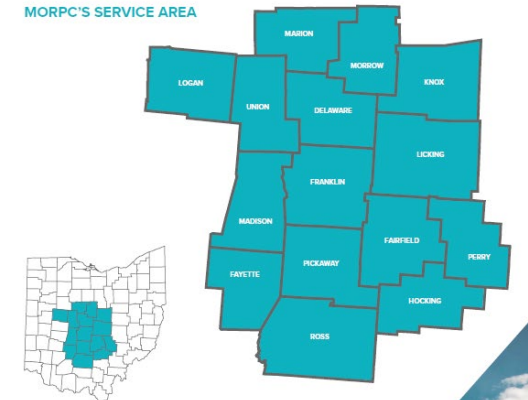
WHO WE ARE

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) is Central Ohio's regional council for more than 70 members comprised of counties, cities, villages, townships, and regional organizations. We take pride in bringing communities of all sizes and interests together to collaborate on best practices and plan for the future of our growing region.

SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC) is a top-level committee of MORPC's board and serves as the voice of sustainability. The SAC weighs in on important sustainability-focused programs and policies that have an impact on air quality, water resources, trails, energy, growth, and planning.

MORPC'S SERVICE AREA



MEETINGS



Sustainability Advisory Committee

2024 schedule (2:30 p.m.):

- September 18
- December 18



Ben Kessler
Mayor, City of Bexley
Chair

Sustainability Advisory Committee
bkessler@bexley.org

Laurie Jadwin
Mayor, City of Gahanna
Vice-Chair

Sustainability Advisory Committee
laurie.jadwin@gahanna.gov

Brandi Whetstone, LEED Green Associate
Interim Sr. Director of Planning
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
bwhetstone@morpc.org

