

CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO
COUNCIL MINUTES

July 13, 2020

Special Service Committee Meeting

The special meeting of the Council was called by President Houk and Mr. Berry, Service Committee Chair called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. by a virtual Webex connection due to the Coronavirus-19 pandemic as temporarily allowed by the State.

Roll was called and the following members were present:

Roby Schottke

Aaron Schlabach

Christine Houk

Ted Berry

1. Mr. Berry moved to excuse Mr. Holt; seconded by Ms. Houk.

Mr. Schottke	Yes
Mr. Schlabach	Yes
Ms. Houk	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes

2. Mr. Berry explained that this is an informational/educational update from the City's Sustainability Committee. He turned the meeting over to Linda Rosine, coordinator, to provide said update.

Ms. Rosine explained that the Committee was off to a good start; worked with Grad Students from OSU on a report; she took that report and put the suggestions into categories for the Committee – the COVID hit. She said they just had their first meeting last week, since the pandemic. She shared their Mission Statement and reviewed the Action Item Overview. She said now that the OSU recommendations have been put into categories, the Committee will begin working with each City Department to review those items and determine what is already being done/has been done/needs to be done. They will also utilize established partners to assist with these items. She then explained the Committee's efforts to learn about Energy Aggregation. She said the Committee felt they needed to understand it before sharing with the Administration and Council. She said the Committee was impressed and felt it should be shared to see if the City would like to explore Energy Aggregation for our community. She said some of these Action Items are complicated and want to bring some of them to light to make sure they are good for Grove City before continuing. She then introduced Mr. Chris Bailey, AEP, for a shorter presentation about Energy Aggregation.

Mr. Chris Bailey, Dir. of Community Partnerships of AEP Energy, who shared high level information about Energy Aggregation and the Integrated Renewable Energy product that AEP has developed. He explained that Ohio is one of a handful of States that allows energy aggregation. He said a question to allow this would have to go to the voters. He said most municipalities use a consultant that specialize in energy aggregation to assist with the process. If passed, the City would need to develop a Program, which residents would have the choice to Opt-Out of. He said Aggregation does not cost anything to the Municipality; it can be used to generate non-taxed based revenue; residents can always join or leave the program anytime without penalty; Aggregation can help the City reach its sustainability goal with 100% renewable energy produced in Ohio. Mr. Berry said Mr. Bailey kind of jumped from "a" to "d". He asked if Mr. Bailey could explain what "aggregation" is exactly and what is different for the consumer. Mr. Bailey said most consumers use coal, gas and electric. Aggregation would provide a mix of those and other energy options, like solar and wind. He said they are specific renewable assets that they would built for the City that are renewable. *Mr. Boso, City Admin.*, asked if this was comparable to non-renewable energy or would the monthly fees be different. Mr. Bailey said he wasn't sure, but he would check. He said it will be competitive against the utility rate and is a better product, especially for the environment. *Mr. Boso* asked if it was correct to say that no other municipal jurisdiction in Ohio that has this program. Mr. Bailey said that was correct.

Ms. Houk commented that unless they can talk to the citizens about the real cost benefits, Council would need more information before approaching this item. She said the education piece of this would be a great undertaking. *Ms. Rosine* said if the City feels this is of interest to everyone, the Committee can move to the next steps that highlight cost benefits.

Mayor Stage commented that a huge amount of detail has been provided to the Administration and Council to review. He said we do have an energy consultant. He said there are a lot of components that go beyond this conversation that should be considered.

3. Ms. Rosine introduced Ms. Cathy Becker, member of the Sustainability Committee and member of the Columbus External Advisor's Committee.

Ms. Cathy Becker provided some information about the "Ready for 100" campaign from the Sierra Club who are asking cities to commit to 100% renewable energy. She shared a slideshow, attached hereto, of what cities are doing in Ohio. She said they are targeting cities because they account 70% of the carbon emissions and those need lowered to maintain our Earth.

4. Mr. Berry commented that the City needs to look at the economic development aspect of this issue. He said many businesses are looking to settle in innovative cities. This could drive business to Grove City. He reminded everyone that this is an "opt-out" program. Citizens could decline.

Ms. Houk stated that the Sustainability Committee is an ongoing committee for the City and it is important that everyone is speaking the same language and are all on the same page. She asked who the Energy Consultant is and what they are doing. She said Columbus is putting a solar park in Grove City's back yard and wants to make sure we are having the necessary conversations. She feels we may be a bit behind. She asked Council and the Administration what is the vision on how they would like to move forward. She said if the energy aggregation is a priority to us, the Committee needs to know it because that will take a lot of effort. So she asked how to decide how to move forward.

Mayor Stage said they have heard two (2) presentation that were extremely broad. He said there is a lot to consider and we may want to adopt the Action Plan as a starting point. He said we were all on the same page when the MORPC Renewable Energy Resolution was approved. He said the Energy Consultant is Tony VanGundy, who was hired to look at energy usage, in general – particularly gas – not aggregation. He said aggregation is a huge undertaking and it has not been discussed in detail at all.

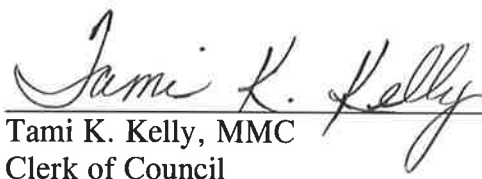
Mr. Berry suggested putting together a Resolution to show support for the concept and ask the Administration to look into it and come back to Council with some recommendations. He also believes an Aggregation Coordinator should be discussed at budget time to help Linda Rosine.

Ms. Houk asked if the Sustainability Committee would be called upon to advise and set goals & action items, but no get into the weeds on one specific component. They would be called upon for expertise but not have to carry it down to field. Mr. Berry said he feels the Committee should be used in total, just like the Park Board. He said sometimes it is disheartening to suggest something and not see it through. He said they have a lot of talent and expertise in that group. Ms. Houk said she thinks we owe it to the Committee to say, absent further instruction, you don't need to get in the weeds on this. Ms. Linda Rosine said the Committee voted to state that the product is good and something that the Administration should look at. She feels that each Department Head needs to be on the same page with this Committee. She said the Committee wants to work with them to make sure the action items are correct and we are all playing from the same page. She said if we all don't understand it, the community engagement piece will be difficult. Mr. Berry said the aggregation piece is important because the City of Columbus is moving forward with a vote in November. He said that is why he feels this issue is more urgent.

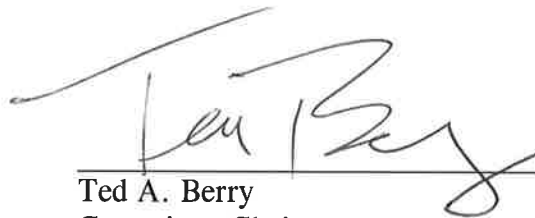
Mr. Schottke suggested that the Sustainability Committee may need to work like GC2050 did. He said maybe the Overview Plan needs to be adopted, after the Department Heads have worked with the Committee. Ms. Rosine said she understands that there are some crossover items with GC250 and other plans. She said she feels that as long as it is in one place, it doesn't need to be in both, they just need to make sure it is consistent. Mr. Schottke asked if this Action Plan is a Draft. Ms. Rosine said yes.

5. After closing comments, a motion to adjourn was approved by unanimous consent.

Council adjourned at 8:00 p.m.



Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Clerk of Council



Ted A. Berry
Committee Chair

Grove City Sustainability Programs and Projects

2010 – Present:

- Installed rain gardens in 6 parks and 1 one school
- Rain barrel workshops - 740 rain barrels
- City facility recycling program - 2010

2012

- Permanent recycling containers in Town Center
- Permanent recycling containers in our parks

2014

- Start LED replacement in all traffic signals, completed in 2015
- Two EV charging stations – 1 in town center and 1 at Derby Square Shopping Center which includes a Tesla charging station

2015

- Created a Sustainability Policy for Parks and Recreation
- Creation of the Grove City EcoFest, which is ongoing in August of each year
 - Zero waste
 - Reusable water bottles
- Created LED replace. program for all street light and parking lots, ongoing based on cost of lamps and a \$35K budget annually

2016

- Installation of Blue Roof at the Grove City Police Department
 - Storm water treatment train project including rain garden, permeable pavement patio and rooftop control of storm water runoff using an innovating 'blue roof' product

2017

- Resolution to commit to MORPC's Sustainable2050 Program: CR-41-17

2018

- Resolution to accept the GroveCity2050 Community Plan
- Start LED replacement lighting in all City facilities
- Water fountains changed to water fillers in City Hall, Museum and Police Lobby
- Recycle bins placed in all the dugouts at our baseball fields
 - 16 at Fryer Park
 - 18 an Windsor Park

2019

- Continuation of LED replacement lighting in City Facilities
 - Kingston Center, Evan Center, Service Complex
 - City Hall, Safety Complex and Big Splash to complete in the next 3 months
- Water fountains to change to water fillers at the Evans Center and the Kingston Center
- Passed resolution to establish the Environmental Sustainability Committee
- Upgrade current charging station in Town Center on east side of Broadway
- Add new charging station with 2 ports on west side of Broadway in Town Center
- Contracted w/GT Environmental to do a master plan study of recycling in parks and Town Center
- Reviewing building and development code; should have recommendations in 2020

2020 and beyond

- Two EV cars are in the budget for 2020; one for Parks and one for IT
- Changing over to B-5 diesel fuel in 2020 to be B-15 by 2021/2022
- 5 – hybrid, interceptor police cruisers in the 2021 budget

Miscellaneous:

- Keep Grove City Beautiful – become an affiliate of KAB in 1991
- Grove City Tree Commission – chartered in 1991
- City owns one C & G truck

Grove City Sustainability Action Item Overview

BUILT ENVIRONMENT	• Update zoning codes to encourage sustainable development. • Remove regulatory and permitting barriers for Low Impact Development (LID) practices. • Remove regulatory and permitting barriers for Green Infrastructure (GI) and practices. • Incentivize LEED principles for new buildings and retrofits. • Incorporate EV compatible outlet in new builds and retrofits.
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	• Create community gardens within the Grove City community. • Increase the number of native species planted on non-recreational areas. • Implement community a community education program around planting more native species on private residences. • Form a community volunteer group to remove invasive species. • Encourage homeowners to manage their gardens and yards as Backyard Wildlife Habitats.
ENERGY	• Explore energy aggregation. • Commit to City operations utilizing 100% emission-free sourced electricity. • Educate the public about renewable energy sources. • Promote energy efficient building practices.
TRANSPORTATION	• Adopt a complete streets policy. • Build more active transportation infrastructure. • Enhance connectivity and access to EV charging stations. • Expand multimodal options citywide.
WASTE REDUCTION & RECYCLING	• Partner with SWACO to create commercial recycling initiatives. • Promote convenient food waste recycling options for our residents. • Increase the community's diversion rate. • Increase recycling in City facilities and City parks.
CITY OPERATIONS	• Create an Office of Sustainability for the City of Grove City. • Create a sustainable procurement/purchasing policy. • Transition City fleet to electric vehicles. • Implement City potable water consumption policies.
BUSINESS PRACTICES	• Create a Grove Green checklist. • Create a Grove City new development checklist. • Create a Green Business roundtable.
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	• Improve social media and publication presence involving sustainability topics, events and progress. • Create educational community workshops on sustainability. • Meet with Grove City HOA's to provide resources for and encourage sustainable practices.

NOTE: This document will continue to evolve and change from year to year



An **AEP** Company

Energy Aggregation for the City of Grove City

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BOUNDLESS ENERGY



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Aggregation Insights

- Ohio is one of a handful of states that have energy aggregation.
- Ohio law allows municipalities to form a larger “buying group” for their residents to negotiate better rates and develop more unique products.
- Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) oversees municipal aggregation and they have strict rules which must be followed.
- Almost all aggregation programs are opt-out, which automatically enrolls the eligible resident unless action is taken by the individual to not participate or “opt-out”.
- For opt-out aggregation, Ohio law requires the municipality to place the issue on the ballot of a primary, general or special election, which must pass by a simple majority of voters.
- Entire aggregation process can take 5-12 months, divided equally among pre and post-ballot activities.
- Municipalities typically hire an energy consultant that specializes in aggregation to help them through the process.

BOUNDLESS ENERGY



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Aggregation Insights

- Pre-ballot activities for the municipality will include:
 - Formally creating an ordinance to authorize opt-out electric aggregation.
 - Propose and submit a ballot question with the Franklin County Board of Elections not less than 90 days prior to the election. Should the City want to place it on the 11/3 general election, the City will have to file it by 8/5.
 - Holding informational meetings and early community engagement and local support will help ensure voter approval.
- Post-ballot activities for the municipality will include:
 - Developing and adopting a **Plan of Operation and Governance** which describes in detail how the aggregation program will operate, including eligibility, disclosures, billing, customer service and other details. Holding two public meetings about it is also required.
 - Submitting a **Governmental Aggregators Application** to PUCO and getting certified takes 30 days.
 - Developing the **Request for Proposal** (“RFP”), assessing bids, selecting the winning supplier and executing a contract.
 - Winning supplier will notify eligible residents by opt-out letter and provide them 21-days to decide if they do not want to join before enrolling.

BOUNDLESS ENERGY



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To recap...

- Aggregation does not cost anything to the municipality. In fact, it can be used to generate non-taxed based revenue.
- Residents can always join or leave program anytime without penalty.
- Aggregation can help your City reach its sustainability goal with 100% renewable energy produced in Ohio.

BOUNDLESS ENERGY



An **AEP** Company

How aggregation can help your City reach its sustainability goal

- AEP Energy has developed an innovative approach to renewable energy with our Integrated Renewable Energy (IRE) product.
- This product has been used in commercial applications with companies like Google and the Columbus Regional Airport Authority.
- AEP Energy is rolling this out to municipal aggregation.
- We believe this product is ground breaking.
- IRE bundles the power generated from a portfolio of new, local renewable assets into a competitively priced retail energy product.
- This product relieves the community's burden of sourcing renewable power by meeting 100% of its renewable goals through a portfolio of Power Purchase Agreements.
- It also eliminates the risk of directly contracting with developers and dealing with construction issues, project financial security, asset performance, regulatory reporting, FERC, PUCO, and OPSB compliance matters, and project administration.
- AEP Energy strongly believes that the IRE product stands apart from the more traditional method of sourcing Renewable Energy Certificates or RECs.
- Instead of purchasing offsets, customers are the beneficiaries of 100% renewable energy produced locally serving their homes and businesses.

Ready for 100 Ohio



Ready for 100
Sierra Club Ohio Chapter

Agenda

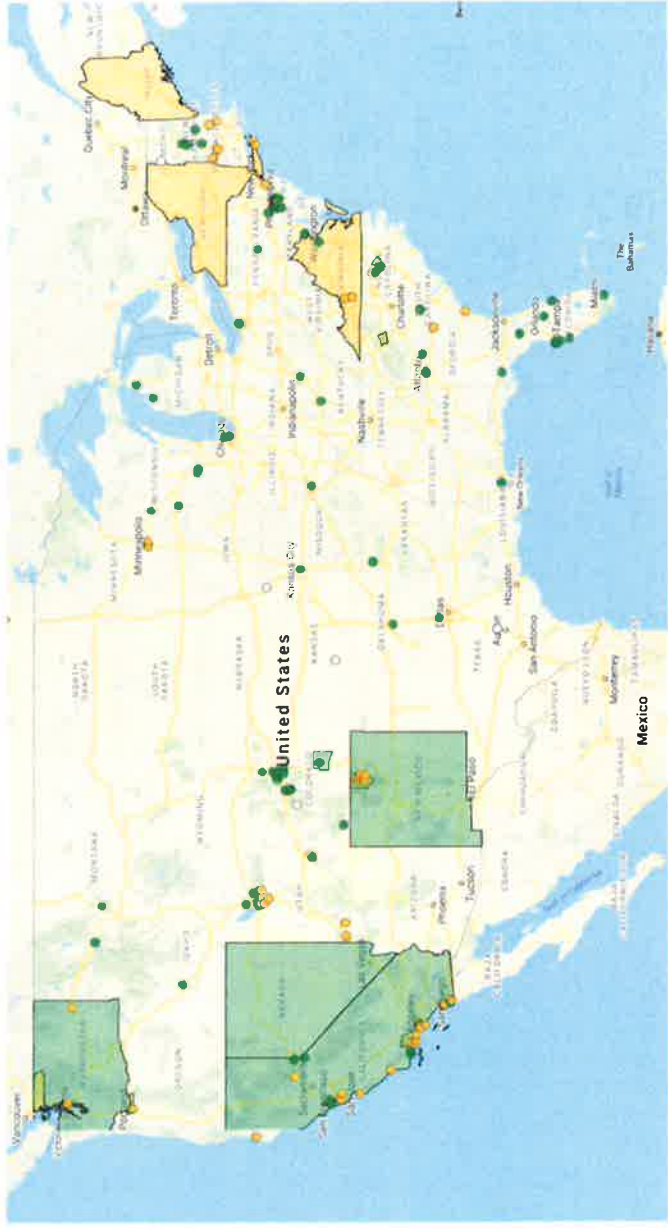
- What is Ready for 100?
- Why cities?
- Sustainability in Columbus
- Community Choice Aggregation
- Our recommendations



Ready for 100 Columbus tabling at Grove City EcoFest 2019

Ready for 100

- Part of Sierra Club
- Asks cities to commit to transitioning to 100% clean energy
- Commitments so far
 - 166 cities
 - 13 counties
 - 8 states
 - District of Columbia
 - Puerto Rico
- 100 million people
- 1 in 3 in the U.S.



Sierra Club Ready for 100 map

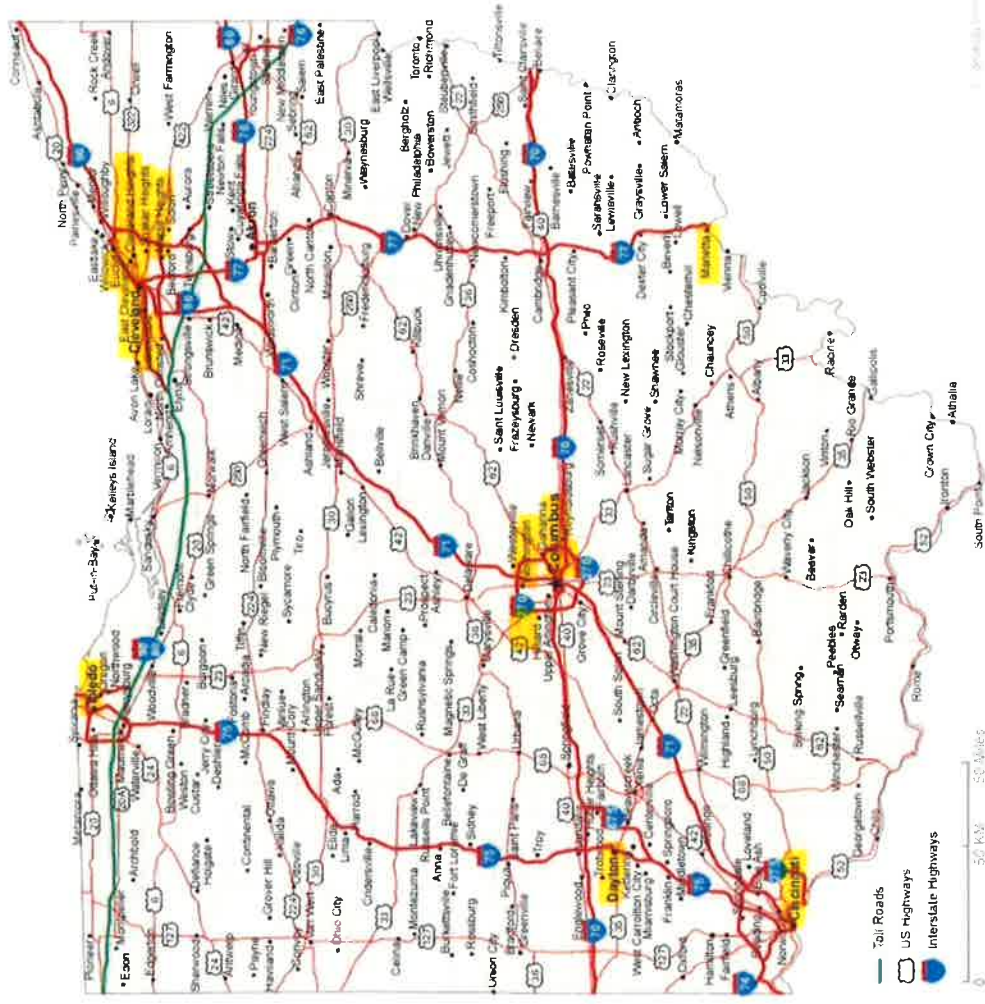
Ready for 100 Ohio



SIERRA
CLUB

Ready for 100 Ohio

- Cities committed
 - Cleveland
 - Cincinnati (100)
 - Lakewood (141)
 - South Euclid (166)
- Mayors committed
 - Bexley
 - Maple Heights
- Active campaigns
 - Columbus
 - Dayton
 - Cleveland
 - Heights
 - Dublin
 - Euclid
 - Marietta
 - Shaker Hgts
 - Toledo
 - Worthington



Why cities?

- Scientists say we must keep warming to 1.5°C to have a livable planet
- IPCC says we must cut carbon emissions 7.6% per year next 10 years to hold warming to 1.5°C
- Cities are responsible for 70% of carbon emissions



Lakewood commits to 100% renewable energy, October 22, 2019

Why Central Ohio?

- Columbus is 14th-largest city in the country
- 1 million more people expected to move into Central Ohio by 2050
- Ohio is the 6th-highest carbon emitting state



Ready for 100 Columbus Aerial Art Event – Earth Day 2018

Sustainability in Columbus

- **October 2018**
Wins American Cities Climate Challenge Grant
- **December 2018**
Hires Go Sustainable Energy to inventory sites for renewables
- **January 2019**
First meeting of Sustainable Columbus External Partners group
- **April 2019**
Sets goal of conducting 30,000 home energy audits in two years



Columbus Youth Climate Strike, September 20, 2019

- **October 2019**
Holds hearing on Residential Property Assessed Clean Energy
- **February 2020**
Passes energy benchmarking ordinance for large buildings
- **May 2020**
Releases draft Climate Action Plan, goal of carbon neutrality by 2050
- **July 2020**
Announces plans to build solar farm on top of old landfill



Columbus aggregation

- **February 2020**
Commits to seek aggregation for 100% renewable energy by 2022
- **May 2020**
Hires Trebel LLC to develop Community Choice Aggregation program and communications plan
- **June 2020**
Issues RFP for Aggregation Preferred Electric Supplier
- **July 20, 2020**
Expected to vote to put aggregation on November ballot



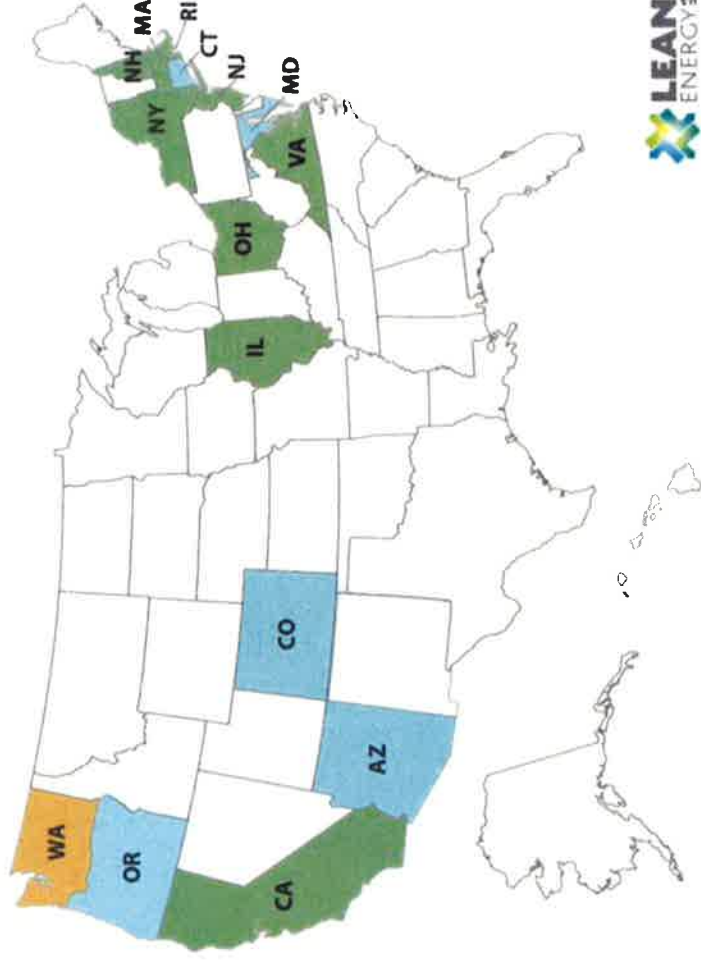
Columbus Youth Climate Strike, September 20, 2019

Ready for 100 Ohio



Community Choice Aggregation

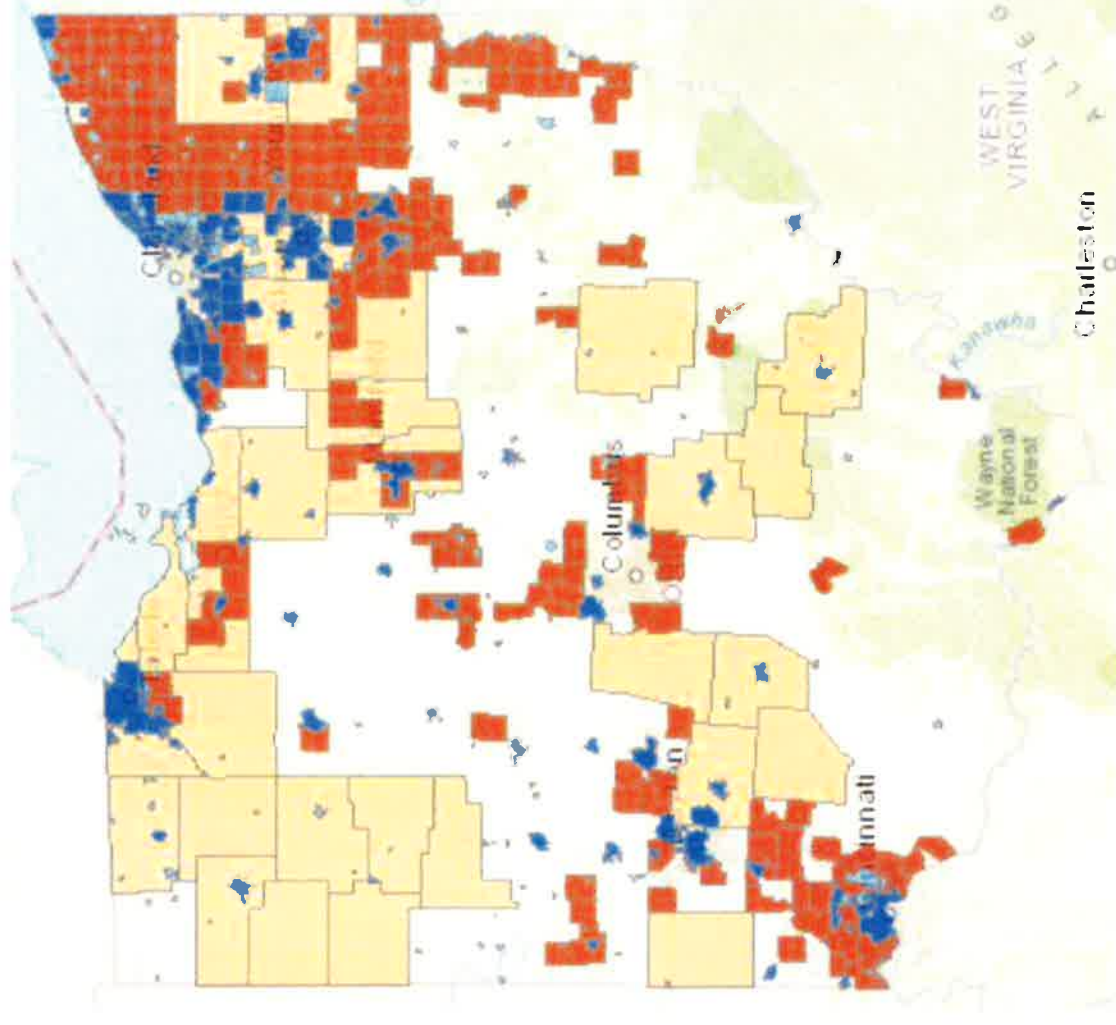
- “Collective bargaining for energy”
 - Allows local governments to buy energy on behalf of residents
 - Way for cities to take control of their own energy supplies
- Legal in 9 states
 - Being considered in 6 states
 - We are lucky to have this program in Ohio



Source: LEAN Energy U.S.
Sept. 2019

Aggregation in Ohio

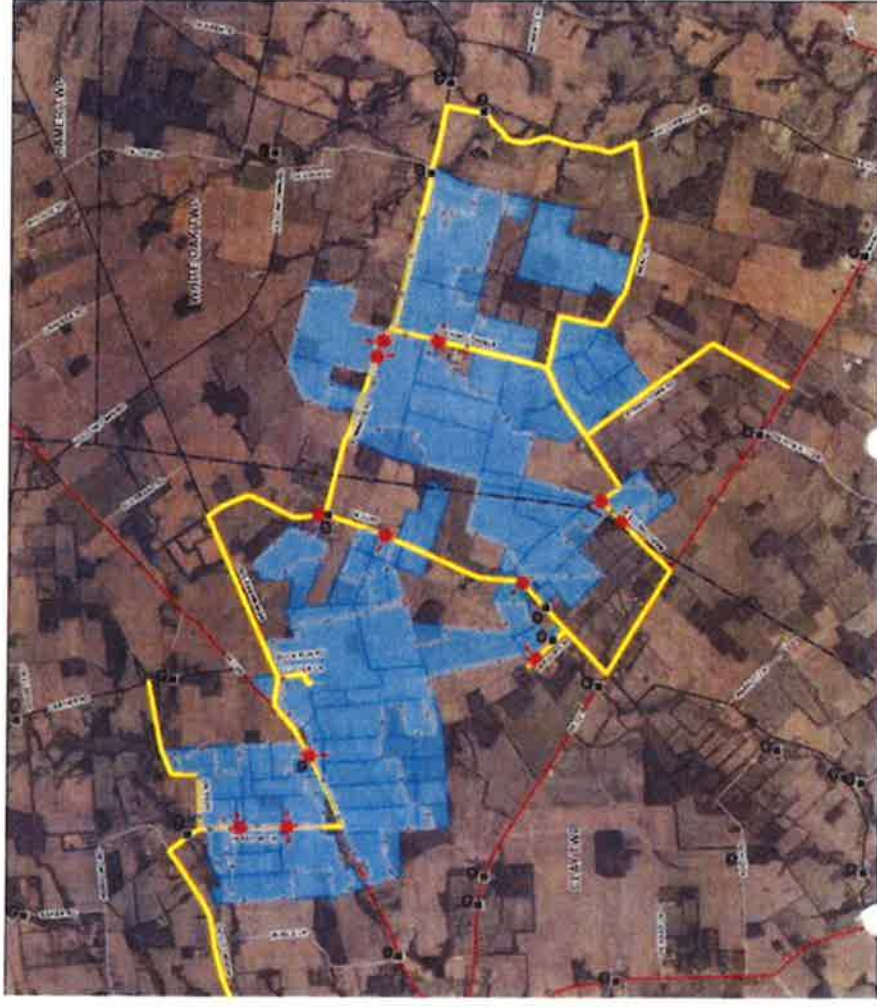
- Requires local governments to pass a ballot initiative
- Must be opt-in or opt-out
 - Opt-in less effective because few people take action
 - Opt-out allows bulk purchase, but lets those who don't want to be in the program leave
- Many areas aggregated
 - Counties, townships, cities
 - Most for fossil fuels
 - Two for 100% renewables



PUCO electric aggregation map

Cincinnati

- Voted to aggregate for 100% renewable energy in 2011
- Supplier is Dynergy Energy
- Broker is Energy Alliances
- Used Renewable Energy Certificates for years
- 2019: Committed to buying 100 MW of power from solar farm in Highland County
 - Largest municipal solar farm in U.S.



Hecate solar project / Ohio Power Siting Board

Worthington

- Voted to aggregate for 100% renewable energy in 2019
 - Initiative passed by 75%
- Provider is AEP Energy
- Broker is Energy Alliances
- Currently using RECs
- Looking into local solar
- Residents saved \$98,241 in energy costs in 10 months



Solar panels on Evening Street Elementary School in Worthington

Columbus RFP

- Goals
 - Competitive costs for residents and small business
 - Local renewable energy – minimal use of RECS
 - Quality, reliable service
- Workforce development tool
 - Create local jobs in renewable energy sector
- Focus on equity
 - Energy efficiency, sustainability for 8 opportunity neighborhoods



SWACO landfill site for Columbus Solar Park

Ready for 100 Recommendations

- Favor local energy over RECs
 - Creates good-paying local jobs
 - Invests in our own community
 - Develops our own workforce
- Ensure equity and diversity
 - Sustainability must be for everyone
 - Schools and community centers
 - Address the split incentive
- Look at innovative programs
 - Incentives to install solar (SF)
 - Round It Up program (Atlanta)
 - 2030 District (Cincinnati)

