



PROJECT 2022

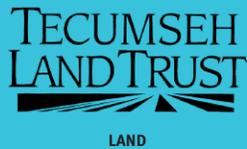
An Environmental Agenda for the Next Governor of Ohio

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The following organizations came together to create

PROJECT 2022



INTRODUCTION

Ohio's new incoming governor has a tremendous opportunity to create the state's environmental agenda and claim a national leadership role in protecting our environment and our economy. A healthy Ohio environment makes possible the governance, education, business, and recreation that the people who live and work in our communities need and depend on. Clean water and air are critical to the health and quality of life for all Ohioans. Open spaces connect us to nature and filter the air and water we need. Clean energy opens doors to a growing and sustainable economy. Sectors of our state's economy – agriculture, manufacturing, recreation, and tourism, to name a few – depend on clean water, clean air, arable soil, vibrant parks and trails, as well as a stable climate to compete and grow. A healthy environment is compatible with a strong business climate, but Ohio's economy suffers under an unhealthy environment.

The organizations on the following page respectfully present the nonpartisan Project 2022 — a roadmap that contains goals and expert recommendations to address some of Ohio's toughest environmental challenges. These groups have come together to identify the most pressing problems facing our state's environment and to offer solutions that Ohio's next governor can enact by using his executive authority or working with the Ohio General Assembly. These recommendations are scientifically smart, politically viable, economically feasible and can be accomplished within the first term of the new administration.

Our organizations work to conserve Ohio's natural environment through a variety of means. Some directly purchase and preserve land, some work through the courts to ensure that environmental laws are enforced, some directly engage communities most impacted by pollution, some perform on-the-ground recreation and restoration work, and some build grassroots support for environmental improvements. We represent Ohioans from all over our state, from every political party and from all walks of life. While our organizations have a wide range of approaches to various environmental issues, we are united by one belief: **Ohio's environment matters.**

These organizations will work with Ohio's next governor to protect and preserve the health of our citizens and the environment that sustains us. In the sections of the Project that follow, we discuss the environmental challenges facing Ohio and offer a series of policy solutions that can and should be enacted by the next governor. Our goal is to make sure the environment is a major campaign issue. Our efforts will include reaching out to the public and encouraging them to engage with the gubernatorial candidates and speak out on behalf of the solutions proposed by this Project.

Throughout the 2018 campaign and the next governor's tenure, our coalition will seek to advance these recommendations. So, let our conversations begin. Brainstorm new ideas. Ask questions. Share your plans to protect Ohio's air, land, and water.

**Together, we can do great things for the
people of the Buckeye State.**



LAND CONSERVATION

Healthy open spaces, parks, and forests enhance the quality of life for all Ohioans. Our public lands are special places and several of Ohio's metropark systems have been recognized as some of the best in the nation. And yet, Ohio consistently ranks near-last in public land acres available per resident. In addition, budget cuts to Ohio's land management agencies have stifled operations and impaired maintenance.

Ohio must expand its public land base and increase funding for existing public lands to ensure future generations have the opportunity to enjoy these unique places.

The state should commit to purchasing the full 60,000-acre American Electric Power ReCreation Land. Now for sale, this contiguous property boasts hundreds of lakes and campsites, as well as multiple trail systems. The AEP ReCreation Land has been open to free public access for 50 years, but public access will likely end if AEP auctions the property to private buyers. Full state acquisition will ensure the public will continue to enjoy this important outdoor destination for generations to come.

Our state forests are a precious public resource, and our state foresters need more resources to successfully manage these lands and to help private landowners throughout the state. The state can ensure our foresters are properly equipped by redirecting existing tax revenues generated by the forest products industry to the Ohio Division of Forestry. In addition, approximately 90 percent of our state forest system is in commercial timber rotation. The state can and should set aside more of the system for mature habitat protection and the outdoor recreation interests and wildlife they support.

Agriculture is Ohio's largest industry, so preserved farms and working forests are an investment in Ohio's jobs—14 percent of Ohio jobs are tied to our working lands. Ohio can do more to help landowners preserve and conserve their lands.

Ohio also has the potential to bring in millions of dollars in additional tax revenue, provide jobs, create new housing options, and steward the environment if we seize the opportunity to redevelop the state's 9,000+ vacant and contaminated "brownfield" properties. The Clean Ohio Brownfields program was defunded in recent years and lost its effectiveness as a result. Ohio should reinstate funding for this vital program.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✓ Support public access to open spaces and outdoor recreation.
- ✓ Provide adequate funding for land preservation, parks, and staff.
- ✓ Diversify revenue streams and management priorities for our state forests.
- ✓ Strengthen the Clean Ohio Agriculture program and restore the Brownfields program.

GOALS

AGENCY	100 DAYS	1 YEAR	1 TERM
Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)	Commit to buy the entirety of the AEP ReCreation Land	Purchase 50% of the ReCreation Land	Acquire the AEP ReCreation Land in full
ODNR	Identify robust funding sources for acquisition, operations, and maintenance of state-owned lands	Ensure adequate funding for each of ODNR's divisions to enable full staffing and end maintenance backlogs	
ODNR	Extend High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) designations to the Rock Run watershed in Shawnee State Forest and the Spruce Run watershed in Hocking State Forest	Earmark a portion of receipts from existing taxes on forest products industry for Ohio Division of Forestry	Dedicate a preserve system within Ohio's state forests to ensure a healthy balance of habitats and outdoor experiences
Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC)	Pledge to maintain full funding for the Clean Ohio Fund Green Space Conservation Program		Clean Ohio's Green Space Program is fully funded
Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA)	Ensure ODA's Farmland Preservation Program approves and funds projects in a timely manner	Waive onerous Current Agricultural Use Valuation (CAUV) penalties when land is taken out of agricultural production for conservation purposes	
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA)	Streamline Ohio EPA's Voluntary Action Program (VAP) by providing legal assurances from the state to prospective landowners	Reinstate the Clean Ohio Brownfields program	Establish a new annual \$25 million Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund for Brownfield cleanup and revitalization



ENERGY & AIR QUALITY

The electric sector is undergoing rapid transition on multiple fronts due to accelerating innovation in electricity production and the evolution of electricity consumers from passive recipients to active managers regarding how they meet their energy needs at their home or business. Older, less efficient coal and nuclear plants are slated to retire due to these plants reaching the end of their operational life and the growing predominance of natural gas and renewable resources in energy production markets.

Corporate America is driving an unstoppable trend that is making renewable power cheaper and more mainstream, as over half of the Fortune 500 companies have set targets to reduce greenhouse gases, improve energy efficiency, and buy renewable power directly from wind and solar developers. Such investments are now expected by corporate executives, investors, employees, suppliers, and customers.

In recent years, however, Ohio has faltered for several reasons: persistent attacks on Ohio's Clean Energy Standards; erosion of energy efficiency opportunities due to special exemptions and watered-down definitions of what is considered efficiency; the enactment of wind turbine siting criteria that has effectively halted large-scale wind projects; and approvals for rate-payer subsidies for older, uneconomic coal plants. Due to an almost four-year-old effective moratorium on new wind projects, the state has put \$4 billion in local economic impact at risk. Meanwhile, 17 projects built in nearby states such as Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Pennsylvania have represented over \$2 billion invested in those states since 2014.

Despite a two-year freeze on Ohio's Clean Energy Standards for both efficiency and renewables between 2014 and 2016, the standards are in effect today, delivering millions in utility bill savings to Ohioans and helping prevent over 43,000 asthma attacks for their duration through 2027. However, permanent law changes such as the loss of the in-state requirement for renewables and special energy efficiency exemptions for certain customers have eroded the integrity of these standards, thereby leaving a lot of clean energy opportunity on the table. Ohio needs policy and market certainty for our clean energy markets to flourish and bring about environmental, economic, and societal benefits. Most importantly, the state must maintain its modest standards to send the right signals to the market that Ohio is open and ready for not only clean energy developers, but for Fortune 500 companies looking to locate offices and facilities in Ohio.

A positive aspect of Ohio's electric utility regulatory structure is that Ohioans can exercise choice when it comes to their energy provider and that state law enables customers to generate their own electricity to meet their needs. As the costs of these on-site solutions come down and technology improves, customers will demand more control and more choices such as rooftop solar, wind turbines, battery storage systems, and electric vehicles. This trend in particular will put pressure on Ohio's electric distribution utilities to keep pace and evolve with strong consumer trends. Utilities will play a critical role in grid modernization. The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) will need to guide the investments that Ohio's electric distribution utilities are planning to upgrade the power grid so the state is ready for the coming wave of customer innovation and investments to maximize reductions in emissions and costs.

Ohio possesses the exact elements to make substantial progress on clean energy. We have a skilled workforce that wields tremendous abilities in installing, manufacturing, and improving the performance of buildings, appliances, and energy systems. It's clear Ohioans of all political persuasions support increased use of clean energy, with some polls indicating that conservative and liberal voters would urge their party's candidates to support policies to grow clean energy opportunities in the state.

RECOMMENDATIONS

✓ Relaunch Ohio as a renewable energy leader.

- Halt attacks on Ohio's Renewable Portfolio Standard, and maintain Ohio's modest 12.5% by 2027 standard.
- Ensure the minimum setback distances for utility-scale wind projects enable and encourage wind farms to be built in Ohio.
- Amplify and enable Ohio's small renewable project market by establishing clear and consistent rules on net energy metering across utility territories.
- Increase the Ohio Power Siting Board's (OPSB) project size threshold from 5 megawatts to 15 megawatts to encourage larger energy users to deploy clean energy on-site at their businesses.
- Enact legislation to enable community solar projects via virtual and aggregate net metering.

✓ Optimize energy efficiency.

- Halt attacks on Ohio's Energy Efficiency Resource Standard (EERS) and Peak Demand Reduction (PDR) targets and maintain Ohio's 22.2% by 2027 standard.
- Establish and maintain fact-based analysis on the benefits of energy efficiency programs and continually improve the PUCO's implementation of Ohio's EERS.
- Remove artificial limits on utility energy efficiency program expenditures.
- Ensure accountability in the granting of special exemptions for industrial customers for their participation in utility-administered efficiency programs.
- Enforce accountability mechanisms to prevent free-ridership.

✓ Transform the power sector.

- Speak out against subsidies to legacy generation and in favor of a level playing field for independent power providers.
- Ensure electric distribution utilities are preparing for and evolving with the rise of the clean energy consumer and require them to update rate structures accordingly.

✓ Enable a modern, decarbonized, and resilient electric grid.

- Cost-effectively reduce grid inefficiencies by requiring electric distribution utilities to deploy voltage optimization and non-wires alternatives to relieve grid constraints.
- Provide distributed energy system developers with full grid access through sensible and standardized interconnection standards and information about grid needs and opportunities.
- Direct the PUCO to recognize the value of distributed energy resources in providing grid resiliency, cost avoidance, overall system efficiency, and air pollution reductions.

GOALS

AGENCY	100 DAYS	1 YEAR	1 TERM
Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) and Ohio General Assembly	Relaunch the wind energy industry by correcting wind turbine siting laws, particularly minimum setback distances from neighboring properties	Expedite rules to accommodate updated wind turbine setback distances, and streamline other regulatory wind review processes	Direct the PUCO/OPSB to issue annual reports on wind energy trends in Ohio
PUCO	Establish goals, metrics, and objectives for electric utility grid modernization and prioritize voltage optimization, electric vehicles, distributed solar and wind, and energy efficiency	Require electric distribution utilities to implement best practices for integrated distribution system planning and interconnection and update rate structures to value distributed energy resources	Update tariffs for all utilities and rate structures that support customer-sited innovations, and support energy efficiency.
Development Services Agency, Department of Administrative Services, PUCO	Set a state goal for megawatts of solar deployed in Ohio by 2030 and focus on meeting the goal through utility-scale projects, community-based projects enabled by virtual and aggregate net metering, and distributed solar projects built by Ohioans earning fair wages	Establish solar energy procurement and development goals for state agencies, and establish processes by which the state will track solar development occurring at the local level	Finalize rules on virtual and aggregate net metering to ensure consistency and transparency across utility territories

PUCO	End energy efficiency program spending limits and instead amplify cost-benefit analysis tools that will demonstrate consumer and environmental benefits of energy efficiency	Establish a Working Group that represents environmental, low-income, consumer and efficiency experts to evaluate net benefits of Ohio's EERS and make recommendations to strengthen utility efficiency and demand-side management programs for all customers	Implement recommendations from Working Group to grow energy efficiency opportunities in Ohio
PUCO	Block any attempts to expand eligibility for special exemptions from utility-run efficiency programs (mercantile opt-out), and prepare a report for policymakers on the economic impact of existing exemptions for large industrial customers	Establish a task force to explore barriers to industrial energy efficiency, develop better alternatives to opt-out policies, and make recommendations on how to optimize, track, and quantify efficiency savings being achieved in the industrial sector	Implement the task force's recommendations
Ohio Energy Office/PUCO/ Ohio Consumers Counsel	Empower electric customers with access to better information on retail electric choice offerings that claim to be sourced from clean energy	Establish a website to provide relevant consumer information on clean energy retail offerings in Ohio and provide educational resources about time-varying rate structures in Ohio	Encourage competitive suppliers to disclose sourcing information on their clean energy retail offerings



OIL & GAS EXTRACTION & TRANSMISSION

The natural gas industry has been growing in southeastern Ohio since the end of 2011 with over 2,300 shale gas wells drilled. Shale gas exploration and drilling is an industrial process that involves 4-5 acres for each well pad, millions of gallons of water for the fracking stage, heavy truck traffic, and the use of multiple chemicals for fracking each well. While the Appalachian region has certainly experienced economic benefits from the shale gas boom, rural communities have also experienced community, health, and environmental impacts. These impacts have included chronic problems such as methane pollution and major incidents such as well blowouts, brine spills affecting drinking water, and chemical fires. Most recently a fracking well blowout released methane and unknown air pollutants for 21 days in Powhatan, Ohio causing the evacuation of about 20 families from their homes.

Accompanying this increase in natural gas exploration and production is the construction of pipelines, compressor stations, and natural gas processing facilities. Next to come is a wave of ethane pipelines and ethane crackers to move and process Ohio's natural gas liquids. If approved, these pipelines will feed into a regional Appalachian Petrochemical Hub.

Oil and gas operators must be good neighbors and good actors. Ohio can encourage them to do so by putting in place better safeguards for communities' water, safety, and health.

RECOMMENDATIONS

✓ **Establish state standards for methane pollution.**

- Establish reasonable emissions limits through state regulatory action to make up for federal rollbacks on methane emissions standards for oil and gas facilities despite the clear economic, health, and environmental benefits.

✓ **Strengthen safeguards for health, safety, and water resources:**

- Update oil and gas well siting criteria to be more protective of the health and safety of nearby residents.
- Increase protections for first responders and drinking water utilities by closing the chemical reporting loophole for real-time emergencies such as spills, fires, and explosions.
- Increase transparency and reporting of oil and gas enforcement and violations.

**Support communities impacted by oil and gas.**

- Establish a community impact fund for localities that experience infrastructure strain and environmental damage from oil and gas operations.

GOALS

AGENCY	100 DAYS	1 YEAR	1 TERM
Ohio EPA - Division of Air Pollution Control	Establish a reporting mechanism and call for the oil and gas industry to begin voluntary reporting of methane emissions	Draft statewide methane rules, hold an open comment period, and collect and respond to comments	Implement statewide methane standards requiring the industry to cut natural gas waste from accidental leaks and intentional venting
ODNR - Division of Oil and Gas	Include a community impact fund in the Governor's proposed biennial operating budget to address infrastructure impacts and other negative impacts from the shale gas industry	Defend the community impact fund in the Governor's proposed biennial operating budget	Administer the first community impact fund to help communities who have suffered damages due to the shale gas industry
ODNR - Division of Oil and Gas	Study Ohio's current setback distances for horizontal oil and gas wells and brine injection wells to understand potential impacts on public health and drinking water resources	Introduce legislation to update oil and gas siting to increase protections for public health and water resources (if the study demonstrates negative impacts)	Pass legislation to increase setback distances between horizontal wells and homes, schools, streams, and drinking water sources and between brine injection wells and homes, schools, streams and drinking water resources (if the study demonstrates negative impacts)
ODNR - Division of Oil and Gas	Develop legislative recommendations with Ohio EPA to ensure first responders and drinking water utilities have real-time access to proprietary chemical content information in the case of a fire, spill, or explosion at an oil and gas well or other facility	Enact legislation to close the chemical reporting loophole in Ohio law	
ODNR - Division of Oil and Gas	Assess the budgetary needs of ODNR's Division of Oil and Gas to ensure adequate resources for enforcement activities	If needed, increase or reallocate resources for the Division of Oil and Gas	Maintain sufficient resources for ODNR Division of Oil and Gas to ensure the agency can pursue enforcements and thoroughly review permit applications

ODNR - Division of Oil and Gas	Prioritize rulemaking on oil and gas waste processing facilities	Engage impacted communities in the rulemaking process and ensure adequate public health and water resource protections from facilities	Implement and enforce robust rules on oil and gas waste processing facilities
ODNR - Division of Oil and Gas	Develop inspection targets for the Division of Oil and Gas and make them publicly available	Track and report inspection and enforcement activities on a monthly basis and post this information on the agency website	Develop an annual report of inspection and enforcement activities to be shared with the Governor's office and Ohio General Assembly and made publicly available on the agency website



WATER

Clean, safe, and affordable water is essential for Ohio’s public health, quality of life for human and wildlife, and economy. Invasive species, algae, toxins, and unregulated chemicals threaten our waterways and drinking water. While Ohio EPA reports water quality in our rivers, streams, and lakes is improving, much more needs to be done to prevent the water crises that have hit Ohio in recent years.

Asian carp, particularly bighead and silver carp, are knocking on the doors of the Great Lakes. The establishment of Asian carp in the Great Lakes would be catastrophic for the region. According to a study released in 2015, Asian carp could eventually account for about a third of the total weight of fish in Lake Erie if they successfully invaded the lake. They could cause declines in prized sport and commercial fish such as walleye. Thankfully, ODNR is working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service to shut the pathways in Ohio. Unfortunately, these destructive fish are moving up the Chicago Area Waterway System toward Lake Michigan. Preventing Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes should be a priority of the next administration.

Toxic algae has plagued waterways across Ohio, from Lake Erie to Grand Lake St. Marys to the Ohio River, where there was a 600-mile stretch of algae. Nearly half-a-million people in northwest Ohio went three days without safe drinking water when toxic algae infiltrated their drinking water intake pipe. The toxin found within the algae is more toxic than cyanide.

Recently Governor Kasich declared the open waters of the Ohio western Lake Erie basin impaired for algae under the Clean Water Act. The only mechanisms in place to help move Lake Erie out of impairment are the Domestic Action Plan and the Healthy Lake Erie Fund. These measures are beneficial but do not go far enough to solve the harmful algal bloom problems Lake Erie faces every year. The Domestic Action Plan needs to be supplemented with legislation setting a timeline for producers to implement best practices such as nutrient management plans. Starting with the 2020-2021 state budget, the Healthy Lake Erie Fund needs a drastic increase to expand the list of project funds and assist producers in implementing best practices. The new administration must also upgrade wastewater treatment plants, utilize green infrastructure like wetlands, and establish nutrient water quality rules. Ohio should work toward deploying these tools as part of a comprehensive total maximum daily load (TMDL) under the Clean Water Act. The development of an Ohio TMDL

for western Lake Erie either for its own waters or jointly across the watershed with other states will provide a road map for achieving the necessary nutrient pollution reductions and accountability mechanisms to ensure the state stays on track to actually accomplish those reductions.

Algal toxins are currently unregulated along with thousands of other chemicals flowing from our taps every day, like the cancer-causing chemical perfluorooctanesulfonate (PFOS), the non-stick chemical family found in Teflon. In many cases, these unregulated chemicals are a regional concern. The next administration should work with the General Assembly to identify funding to assist water utilities to monitor for these regional chemicals of concern. The Ohio EPA should then use this data to develop public health advisories with the end goal of creating standards for these unregulated chemicals.

Lead in drinking water is an issue plaguing Ohioans across the state. After news broke that Sebring, Ohio residents had lead in their drinking water, similar issues were identified throughout the state. Many challenges were identified in schools and daycares as well as homes of private residents, including elderly individuals. Legislation passed in 2016 required quicker notification of the presence of lead in water, updated the lead-free definition, and provided funding for schools and communities struggling with lead-in-water issues. However, much more needs to be done to proactively remove lead fountains, fixtures, and pipes from schools. There is no safe level of lead. It is particularly harmful to unborn and young children resulting in lower IQ, reproductive issues, and behavioral issues which have been traced to increased incarcerations. At high doses, lead can cause comas and even death.

The American Society of Civil Engineering's 2017 infrastructure report card gives Ohio a D and D+ in drinking and wastewater infrastructure respectively. According to the US EPA, Ohio has a \$27 billion need over the next 20 years for drinking and wastewater infrastructure upgrades. Unfortunately, the need outweighs the funding allocated for these upgrades. As a result, the burden falls to the local ratepayer, putting additional pressure on families already struggling to pay their water bills. The next administration should create a state Water Shutoff Protection and Water Rate Affordability Program much like the Low Income Energy Assistance Program. The administration also should develop grants for communities struggling to pay for their upgrades due to a low ratepayer base.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✓ **Reduce toxic algae by requiring agricultural producers to work with certified professionals to develop and implement comprehensive nutrient management plans that are then audited.**
- ✓ **Increase funding for water infrastructure and septic system upgrades and replacement, including grants for low-income communities and homeowners, green infrastructure, and agricultural best management practices.**
- ✓ **Develop standards for unregulated chemicals in drinking water, including public health advisories and standards.**
- ✓ **Protect surface water from water quality degradation.**
- ✓ **Incentivize cities and municipalities to have Source Water Protection Plans.**
- ✓ **Prevent Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes.**

GOALS

AGENCY	100 DAYS	1 YEAR	1 TERM
Ohio EPA	Develop criteria for green infrastructure usage and provide a carve-out for green infrastructure within water infrastructure funds	Ensure full funding for the Division of Surface Water and its monitoring program	Establish stormwater and related climate change policies
Governor	Support Clean Lake 2020 funding at \$100 million each year for the next 5 years	Establish and fully fund the Clean Lake 2020	Fully fund Clean Lake 2020 each year and work with the General Assembly to pass the renewal of the funding
Ohio EPA	Introduce the small stream nutrient assessment procedure rule	Develop the large river nutrient assessment procedure rule	Develop statewide numeric nutrient water quality standards Finalize rules to protect primary headwater streams Establish small and large river nutrient assessment procedure rule, taking into account downstream impacts
Ohio EPA		Work with the General Assembly to advance stormwater policies to better protect stream health	Establish stormwater rules to protect water quality
Ohio EPA		Remove all fountains and water faucets with lead in them from schools and public early education programs and replace them with fixtures that use filters	Proactively “get the lead out” of schools and early childhood programs by removing lead service lines and lead-bearing plumbing
Ohio EPA	Establish a line item in the biennial budget for the development of a database to house Consumer Confidence Reports and water quality data of rivers and lakes	Develop a layman’s database where customers can access current and historical Consumer Confidence Reports for water supplies in their area and compare their water with water supplies throughout the state	Establish monitoring standards for unregulated contaminants and contaminants of local or regional concern
Ohio EPA	Provide funding in the biennial budget to incentivize the development of source water protection plans through grants and zero interest loans	Develop a policy to require public water systems to assess vulnerabilities to source drinking water from agricultural and other industrial activity in the area, climate and weather related issues, and intentional acts	

Governor	<p>Issue an Executive Order or pass legislation to create the Water Shutoff Protection and Water Rate Affordability Program</p> <p>Create a local green bond initiative to allow subdivisions green bonding authority</p>	<p>Work with the General Assembly to usher through a Clean Water Trust resolution for water infrastructure upgrades, natural infrastructure, criteria for low-economic base communities to receive grants, and agricultural best management practices</p>	<p>Work with the General Assembly to usher through an Ohio Climate Change policy to protect streams and programs for healthy agricultural soils</p>
Ohio EPA		<p>Develop criteria and rules for the Water Shutoff Protection and Water Rate Affordability Program, a state water affordability program</p>	<p>Develop a policy requiring more transparency from water suppliers about how they determine their water rates, billing, and shut-off policies</p>
Governor	<p>Introduce budget priorities to establish funds for Ohio EPA to track and audit nutrient management plans</p>	<p>Work with the General Assembly to usher through funded mandates for comprehensive nutrient management plans tracked and audited through the Ohio EPA</p> <p>If such a plan isn't achievable in 2019, the Ohio EPA Director will establish a total maximum daily load (TMDL) for phosphorus in the western Lake Erie basin</p>	<p>Establish state funding to cost share further agricultural land conservation practices throughout Ohio</p>
Governor	<p>Introduce budget priorities to establish funds to help share the cost of implementing riparian buffers in the western Lake Erie basin watershed</p>	<p>Work with the General Assembly to usher through funded mandates for riparian buffers throughout Ohio</p>	<p>Establish state funding to expand this program to the entire state</p>
Governor	<p>Support structural protections at Brandon Road Lock and Dam to prevent Asian carp from reaching Lake Michigan including those put forward in the United States Army Corps of Engineers Tentatively Select Plan (TSP) from its draft Brandon Road Study.</p> <p>Commit to intergovernmental collaboration with Illinois, the other Great Lakes states and provinces, and city of Chicago to drive the Brandon Road TSP forward.</p>	<p>Advocate for authorization of full federal funding for construction and operations and maintenance of structural controls at Brandon Road Lock and Dam to prevent Asian carp from getting into the Great Lakes.</p>	



TRANSPORTATION

The emissions from both the electric sector and transportation sectors impact Ohioans' health, but at the same time, pose the largest opportunity to create jobs and new economic opportunity through policies that also reduce these emissions. Because Ohio is an urban and rural state, residents require a range of transportation options that connect farming and industrial hubs, workers to jobs, and residents to services.

The sheer amount of private and public fleets presents an opportunity to transition these vehicles to cleaner burning fuels such as compressed natural gas (CNG) and propane, and all-electric vehicles. Ohio already has a rather robust portfolio of grant and loan programs that can assist fleet managers, cities, and companies with fuel cost savings and improve efficiencies. Amplifying and streamlining these programs will go a long way to creating a business-and consumer-friendly access point to help in the transition away from petroleum-based fuels.

Ohio cannot compete for large employers without offering robust transportation options, including public transit and electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure that helps customers go further on a single charge. Ohio, like many other Midwestern states, is experiencing an increase in consumer adoption of electric vehicles, and one-car households are simultaneously on the rise. Ohio can support the flourishing trend towards emissions-free vehicles by increasing charging station infrastructure and ensuring regulatory uncertainty does not impede market trends.

Financially-healthy and functional public transit systems can reduce air emissions and offer an affordable option to residents. But, over one-third of Ohio's 3,200 transit vehicles are in need of replacement, having passed their useful life. Additionally, Ohio's per capita contribution to public transportation is currently \$0.63, while neighboring states such as Pennsylvania and Michigan invest over \$24 per resident. Increased state funding for public transit authorities will provide for a diverse set of options for cities to reduce congestion and emissions and create greater mobility and well-connected communities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

✓ Broaden state incentives for clean fleets and increase funding for local transit authorities.

- **State and local government fleets:** Restore use of biodiesel in applicable state fleet vehicles. Develop bid specifications and a process for a wide range of alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) and EVs. Establish a plan for use of advanced vehicles and fuels in the state fleet. Facilitate adoption of AFVs and EVs by local government fleets.
- **State funding for mass transit:** Increase funding for local transit authorities by \$30 million or more to ensure affordable and accessible public transit choices for Ohioans.
- **State incentives:** Extend Ohio Air Quality Development Authority's (OAQDA) authority to use finance and sales tax exemption tools for private fleet acquisitions of cleaner advanced/alternative vehicles. Expand current grant programs administered by Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA) geared towards heavy-duty natural gas and propane fleets to include a wider range of AFVs and EVs. Consider transitioning to a simple rebate program.
- **State procurement:** Set parameters for the broad set of procurement specifications for AFVs and EVs and set policy that encourages local governments to adopt AFVs and EVs for their fleets.

✓ Define and accelerate Ohio's EV market.

- **Define parameters:** Define the parameters and policies which would clarify how Ohio's electric vehicle charging station infrastructure will be built, and paid for, including public, workplace, and residential locations. Ensure that any customer-funded utility investments, if permitted, provide for long-term economic benefits for all utility customers.
- **Road taxation:** Delay road tax on compressed natural gas (CNG) and EVs until minimum level of market adoption. Use 50% of any "sticker fee" on EVs to create a fund for EV charging infrastructure development.
- **EVs and Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE):** Clarify PACE rules to allow investments for EV charging.

✓ Support market development for clean transportation technologies.

- **Renewable natural gas:** Provide legislative Guidance to PUCO to create a clear pathway for renewable natural gas (RNG) injection. Allow flexibility for cost-effective project development provided consistent quality of injected RNG is assured.
- **Smart mobility technologies:** Establish policies to foster smart and efficient mobility development in consumer, commercial, and government fleets.
- **Renewable energy integration:** Encourage integration of on-site solar and energy storage within EV charging stations and programs that designate renewable energy as fuel for charging stations.

GOALS

AGENCY	100 DAYS	1 YEAR	1 TERM
Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA)	Pass legislation to broaden and streamline existing state incentives, currently available only for heavy-duty natural gas and propane fleet vehicles, to include a broader range of vehicle technologies such as plug-in electric, a variety of fuel efficiency technologies, hydrogen fuel cells, selected biofuels, as well as natural gas and propane	Develop rules for expanded incentives and implement a streamlined program as a way to simplify marketing and application processes. Support the implementation and administration of incentives	
PUCO	Establish any needed guidance on Ohio's market for EV charging investments at public, workplace, and residential locations	Establish transparent PUCO rules around regulated utility EV investments to ensure that any permitted utility investment provides long-term economic benefits to utility customers	Continually solicit input from EV charging stakeholders to ensure the most innovative technologies and regulatory approaches are considered and updated by all Executive agencies
Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)/ODSA	Propose an increase in state funding for Ohio's 66 local transit authorities for public transportation by an additional \$30 million in state operating budget	Maintain consistent funding for local transit authorities to ensure broad access and affordability of public transit systems	Assess impacts of additional investment in local public transit and assess outstanding needs for local transit authorities
PUCO	Pass legislation to provide a clear, low-cost pathway for pipeline injection of cleaned RNG streams from anaerobic digesters (AD) and landfill gas (LFG) systems. Clarify that funding available under HB 319 can be used to help defray project costs when projects would provide economic benefits	Develop rules for utilities to follow that ensure injected RNG stream will meet quality specifications on a continuous basis. Allow RNG developer to perform project work when feasible	Ensure cost-effective implementation of rules for projects and allow some cost recovery with RNG developers, gas utilities, and PUCO oversight
Taxation/BMV	Oppose taxation of CNG fuel until usage reaches a certain percentage of overall transportation fuel use		
Taxation/BMV	If legislation is introduced regarding creation of "sticker fee" for plug-in EVs, require that at least half of the revenues generated is used to fund EV charging infrastructure	If sticker fee EV infrastructure fund is created, work with ODOD to implement rules for rebates for EV charging at public, workplace, and certain residential locations	Implement EV charging rebate program
ODSA	Clarify PACE rules to explicitly include EV charging infrastructure as allowable expenses to be recovered through financing		

OAQDA	Pass legislation to extend OAQDA's authority to use finance and sales tax exemption tools for private fleet acquisitions of cleaner advanced and alternative vehicles	Work with OAQDA to develop any needed rules and guidance materials for entities seeking financing for clean vehicles	Bring clean vehicle projects to OAQDA and work with lenders
ODOT, Others	Restore use of biodiesel in applicable state fleet vehicles	Monitor and report use of biodiesel	Monitor and report use of biodiesel
Ohio Department of Administrative Services (ODAS)	Set parameters for broad set of procurement (bid) specifications for AFVs and EVs	Develop bid specifications and process for a wide range of AFVs and EVs	Work with state agencies and local governments to utilize bid specifications for cost and time-efficient acquisitions
Auditor/ODAS/OEPA	Set policy that encourages local governments to consider and adopt AFVs and EVs in their fleets	Facilitate adoption of AFVs and EVs by local government fleets	
Auditor/ODAS	Pass legislation requiring development of plan for use of advanced vehicles and fuels in state fleet	Develop plan for use of advanced vehicles and fuels in the state fleet	Implement plan
ODOT	Study policy needs related to onset of a variety of advanced or "smart" mobility technologies and businesses for fleets and individuals	Develop and pass legislation related to these technologies	Implement legislation and continue to monitor for additional guidance and clarification opportunities



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE & JUST TRANSITION

Protecting the environment is ultimately about ensuring the health and safety of the places where we work, worship, play, learn, and live. Communities of color and low-income Ohioans have historically been, and currently are, disproportionately subjected to higher levels of environmental risks than other segments of society. The siting of high polluting facilities in or near communities of color furthers the unequal distribution of health impacts. Those areas with higher poverty levels see increases of these health threats, especially from air pollution, translating into an even larger health burden on African American communities. These disparate impacts pose a clear and present risk to the local and state economy.

It is thus essential for the economic viability and social well-being of this state that no segment of the population, regardless of race, national origin, age, education level, or income should bear disproportionately high or adverse effects of environmental pollution.

To move Ohio forward, the new administration must identify, address, and prevent discriminatory public health and environmental effects of state laws and policies. To facilitate a fair regulatory system, meaningful involvement must be the norm — communities deeply affected by environmental injustices should be highly involved throughout the decision-making process in meaningful and culturally appropriate ways. Ensuring that residents have ample opportunity to participate in decisions about a proposed activity that will affect their environment and their health is essential for state departments to make effective and just decisions.

Environmental justice is far too often spoken of in negative terms and perceived as antithetical to economic development. However, the very minority and low-income communities have felt the brunt of environmental injustice, are the communities best poised to lead in transition to a sustainable future for Ohio. Appalachian Ohio, as one example, certainly knows what economic transition looks like. Even a brief glance at our history reveals it in droves. It's written into our landscapes; we hear it in the placenames of home; it's part of our family lore. We hear "that ridge used to be my great-grandfather's farm, before the land company stole it," or "I can remember when every building in this downtown had a busy store." But for all this wealth of experience regarding economic transition, examples of a just economic transition are sparse.

Any work towards just economic transition in Ohio, from Appalachian valleys to the urban core, must attend both to the structures that allowed for injustice in the old economy and create structures that will not allow the continuation of further injustice. Not all economies are transitioning away from the same things, nor do they strive toward the same goals. But all are similarly in this time of flux, and can, and should, share practices that disrupt the sedimentation of unjust practices and institutions and ensure the sedimentation of just ones.

The new administration’s work for a just economic transition must also be animated by a vision of the new, just economy we are working towards. The new economy must be based on human need, recognize the knowledge economy and the infrastructure necessary to achieve that, freedom, and creativity, rather than the pursuit of profit alone. A Just Transition model must include the input of the communities that are being impacted. **Ohio’s ideal post-transition economy and ideal environment prioritize the well-being of all.** A meaningful environmental justice and just transition policy for Ohio can create real public benefits including millions of clean energy jobs and build an inclusive economy strong enough to lift people out of poverty.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✓ **Articulate and implement the state’s commitment to environmental justice.**
- ✓ **Ensure a just transition for fossil fuel workers and legacy communities that includes community-level workforce development at a livable wage where possible and economic development and that includes financial support on a temporary basis for tax losses.**
- ✓ **Propose a state operating budget that supports environmental protection and resource conservation and cuts or limits funding for environmentally detrimental programs.**
- ✓ **Develop the infrastructure to provide community members adequate participation in environmental and conservation decision-making.**

GOALS

AGENCY	100 DAYS	1 YEAR	1 TERM
Governor/ Lieutenant Governor	<p>Issue Executive Order creating the Ohio Office of Environmental Justice within the office of the Lieutenant Governor</p> <p>Establish an Environmental Justice Advisory Council which will offer the Executive Branch perspectives of the environmental justice community and provide guidance</p>	Develop a state environmental justice plan to promote environmental justice in Ohio	Ensure that state agencies promote transparency and consistency and make regulatory decisions that accomplish regulatory objectives with the least possible burden on underserved populations and consider the cumulative impacts of other agency decisions on those existing communities

Environmental Protection Agency		Promulgate guidelines to support and supplement traditional/required public participation with techniques designed to raise trust with underserved communities (including collaboration with local units of government, faith-based organizations, community service groups, etc.)	Target and resolve instances of environmental health injustices by incorporating environmental justice considerations into permitting, compliance, and enforcement decisions
Governor/ Department of Taxation/OBM	Propose a biennial budget that drastically reduces fossil fuels-based incentives, adequately funds environmental protection and resource conservation, and supports local workforce development and human health services	Develop a statewide just transition plan that includes reform of fossil fuel-related taxes and provides grant money to impacted communities for workforce development, tax base loss, and public health and safety	Conduct at least one round of just transition grants and program funding to communities affected by energy job transitions



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