



Dear Friend,

As we close out 2025, protecting the Darby Creek remains one of our top priorities. The Darby is one of the most ecologically diverse waterways in the Midwest, home to countless species that depend on its clean, healthy ecosystem. However, the accord that has long safeguarded the Darby is now being reconsidered, potentially opening the door to more development and threatening this vital watershed. After a summer of stakeholder engagement led by MKSK, the proposed amended accord is expected to be released soon. Stay tuned for opportunities to get involved and help ensure the Darby continues to thrive for generations to come. Read below for more updates in the Central Ohio region.

Yours in the fight,

Annalisa Rocca

Central Ohio Regional Director



Regional Events

December 4, 2025: [Keep Electricity Prices Down - Public Meeting](#) | 6 PM | Columbus Metropolitan Library, Main Library Auditorium (96 S. Grant Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43215)

December 10, 2025: [EPN Signature Winter Event - Planting the Pathway: Connecting Pollinator Habitat through Community Collaboration](#) | 5 PM – 7:30 PM | Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center

January 13, 2026: [Old-Growth Forests in Ohio: Lessons for Forest Stewardship in a Changing Environment](#) | 7:15 – 9:30 AM | Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center

Regional & Partner Updates



Darby Creek Event

Recently, we had an inspiring event walking along the [beautiful Darby Creek](#), discussing why this exceptional watershed is so important to Central Ohio and how we can all play a role in protecting it. Together, we explored ways to engage in advocacy and ensure the Darby remains a clean, thriving ecosystem for generations to come. It's not too late to get involved—stay tuned for an upcoming webinar where you can learn how to submit comments once the proposed updated Darby Accord is released!

Upcoming Event: Sustainable Holiday Market

The OEC Emerging Leaders are excited to announce plans for a Sustainable Holiday Market this December! This festive event will feature local vendors offering eco-friendly and sustainably made products—the perfect way to shop for holiday gifts that support both people and the planet. Stay tuned for more details on the date and location. In the meantime, if you're interested in learning more or getting involved, reach out to me at arocca@theoec.org.

Public Survey for the Central Ohio Cycling Guide

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission is developing a Central Ohio Cycling Guide! The guide will result in a printed Columbus Area Bike Map and a 15-County Central Ohio Trail Map with curated trail itineraries. This survey will support the development of the Cycling Guide. [Take the survey here and make sure your voice is heard.](#)

Tell the Columbus School Board & Superintendent: Make CCS Schools Healthy, Green and Financially Sustainable

In Columbus, parents, teachers, students, and community members won a [Safe Green Schools](#) resolution to get Columbus City Schools (CCS) to commit to being carbon-free by 2050, an important goal for our state's largest school district. Now we have an opportunity to have the district pass a policy that provides a roadmap for integrating cost-saving green improvements, such as transitioning to solar energy and geothermal heating and cooling. The Safe, Green Schools coalition is also encouraging CCS to begin installing solar on its first school building before the huge benefits of the IRA expire soon. [Sign the petition](#) to show your support. Safe Green Schools is a campaign of [Parents United for Public Schools](#).

2025 Green Spot Awards

On Thursday, Oct. 2, [GreenSpot](#) held its annual sustainability celebration at the Lincoln Theater to celebrate our community's ongoing sustainability efforts. The keynote speakers were Councilmember Chris Wyche and Columbus Water & Power Director Kristen Atha. The event featured the GreenSpot program's annual GreenSpot Light Awards that honored four businesses: [GeoAlchemy Studio](#), [DLZ](#), [Rewash Refillery](#), and Kimley-Horn. For the very first time, the Clean Energy Columbus program sponsored a Community Partner of the Year award, presented to IMPACT Community Action for their dedication and commitment to sustainability and climate action. Congratulations to all the award winners!

Ohio Environmental Council Updates

Giving Tuesday

Every day, we strive at the Ohio Environmental Council to fight for the future Ohioans' needs. We fight for cleaner and affordable energy, for safe drinking water for all families, for public lands to remain public goods, and for a democracy where our voices make an impact.

We are facing a moment in history where it is vital to protect everything we have earned up to this point, and we aren't going anywhere. This #GivingTuesday, we invite you to join us and unleash our collective power as Ohioans. **Our goal: raise \$25,000 to power our advocacy**, so that we can continue to win local protections and hold leaders accountable in Ohio. **Every dollar we raise will be matched, doubling the impact that you can make!**

[Donate Now!](#)

Upcoming Events

We have a variety of exciting events happening all the time, so we encourage you to keep up to date with our [events page](#).

December 17 | [Law Center Webinar Series: The History of Ohio's Air Nuisance Rule: Our Secret Weapon Against Air Pollution](#) | Virtual | FREE for General Admission! \$25 for CLE Credit

December 11 | OEC's Annual Meeting | Virtual | FREE

Save the date! 2026 Green Gala will be Saturday, May 9 at the Columbus Zoo Africa Events Center.

Education & Advocacy



BREAKING NEWS

PUCO \$250 MILLION PENALTY AGAINST FIRST ENERGY

Including customer restitution

FirstEnergy ordered to pay more than \$250 million for misconduct in sweeping Ohio bribery scheme: “In fining FirstEnergy over \$250 million, the PUCO has sent a message to Ohio’s electric distribution utilities: corruption will not be tolerated,” [Karin Nordstrom, the Ohio Environmental Council’s clean energy attorney](#), said in a statement. “At a time when Ohioans’ electric bills are skyrocketing, the commission has finally acted to hold FE accountable for HB 6, forcing FirstEnergy to repay its customers for money it unduly collected.” [Read the full report in AP.](#)

Stand Up for Solar: Across Ohio, county commissioners, local residents, and the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) are making decisions that will shape our energy future. To help you stay informed, the Ohio Environmental Council has launched a new resource: [the Ohio Utility-Scale Solar Trends](#) page and the [Stand Up for Solar](#) email list.

OEC Joins Lawsuit to Protect Air Quality: On Thursday, October 30th, the Ohio Environmental Council, Sierra Club, SOBE Concerned Citizens, Donna Ballinger, and the Freshwater Accountability Project filed a lawsuit against the State of Ohio and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. Their complaint alleges that select sections of H.B. 96, Ohio's state budget passed this summer, violate the One-Subject Rule of the Ohio Constitution. [Read the full press release.](#)



{{Disclaimer}}

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