



Hi, all!

As the year comes to a close, I have been thinking about how far we have come together. 2025 has been a year of building, listening, and preparing for what comes next. From powerful conversations at our Freshwater Luncheon to finalizing the Cleveland Environmental Policy Platform, our team and partners have kept the focus on equity, collaboration, and results. Cleveland continues to show that environmental progress happens when community and policy move hand in hand. I am proud of what we have accomplished and grateful to everyone who made it possible. As we head into a new year, I am looking forward to turning this momentum into an even greater impact for our city and region.

Yours in the Fight,

Brian Siggers

Cleveland Metro Advocacy Director



Regional Events

Tuesday, December 2, 2025: Park Advocate Celebration | 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM | ThirdSpace Action Lab (1464 E. 105 St, Cleveland, OH 44106)

Friday, December 12, 2025: [Winter Solstice Luminary Walk & Holiday Market](#) | 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM | Nature Center at Shaker Lakes (2600 South Park Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44120)

Regional & Partner Updates

Freshwater Advocacy in Cleveland

On September 30, OEC hosted a lunch conversation with regional leaders, advocates, and residents to discuss the importance of water advocacy and freshwater culture in Northeast Ohio. This lunch event featured Cuyahoga County Executive Chris Ronayne and Alliance for the Great Lakes President Joel Brammeier, who underscored how local action drives regional impact—from ensuring safe and affordable access to recreation and creating freshwater stewards, it will take a collaborative effort to protect our Great Lakes.

Advancing the 2025 Policy Platform

After months of collaboration, analysis, and coalition-building, the **2025 Cleveland Environmental Policy Platform** is complete. Crafted with the collective expertise of the **Cleveland Environmental Advocacy Coalition**, the platform lays out a bold vision for cleaner air, accessible green space, affordable water, and sustainable transportation. Each recommendation reflects a shared commitment to justice, community health, and equitable investment. The OEC team extends sincere thanks to every partner organization and advocate who contributed ideas, data, and feedback throughout the process, including **Jade Davis of the Buckeye Thornton Group**, who provided valuable consultation and guidance during the platform's development. **Details about the public rollout, scheduled for early 2026, will be shared soon** as we prepare to bring these priorities from planning to action.

What's inside the new platform:

- **Water Justice & Affordability** focuses on modernizing water infrastructure, replacing lead service lines, protecting Lake Erie and the Cuyahoga River, and expanding affordable water access for all residents.

- **Parks, Vacant Land, and Green Infrastructure** reimagines underused spaces as climate-resilient community assets by implementing the city's 15-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan and expanding the urban tree canopy.
- **Energy Equity & Community Power** advances affordable, reliable, and clean energy by reducing household energy burdens, upgrading Cleveland Public Power, and expanding community solar access.
- **Environmental Justice & Infrastructure Equity** ensures that new investments repair historical harms through coordinated "Dig Once" upgrades, cumulative air quality assessments, and community-informed planning.
- **Workforce & Economic Inclusion** promotes local hiring, union apprenticeships, and capital support for BIPOC-owned businesses to connect Clevelanders to good-paying green jobs.
- **Innovation & Industrial Symbiosis** drives circular economy partnerships and decarbonization of legacy industries to make Cleveland a hub for sustainable manufacturing.
- **Transportation & Mobility** charts a more connected future through expanded GCRTA service, safer streets, and 15-minute neighborhoods that reduce emissions and improve access.

Port of Cleveland Transitions to Electric Power

In a major step toward cleaner operations along Cleveland's waterfront, the Port of Cleveland has announced plans to transition its heavy-duty equipment to electric power. Backed by a \$94 million federal grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the initiative will replace diesel-powered cranes, trucks, and other machinery with zero-emission alternatives. The move is expected to cut the port's carbon emissions by more than 60 percent and significantly reduce air pollution for nearby communities. This investment represents one of the largest environmental modernization efforts in the port's history and underscores how federal funding can accelerate local climate action. As the Port transitions to electric power, Cleveland is positioning itself as a leader in sustainable infrastructure, economic innovation, and clean air for all. [Read the full story here.](#)

OEC 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}}

Ohio Environmental Council
556 E Town St, Columbus, OH 43215

If you believe you received this message in error or wish to no longer receive email from us, please
(Unsubscribing is not supported in previews).