OHIO BUSINESS
ENERGY PARTNERSHIP

Top Employer Energy Trends
Methodology
January 2026

Research Findings Overview

Blue CSR Strategies conducted research on behalf of the Ohio Environmental Council to gain a better understanding of Ohio's energy landscape as it pertains to businesses, citizens, and the state at large. To thoroughly assess key indicators, a two-part research approach was employed.

In the first phase of the analysis, Blue CSR analyzed the top 100 employers in Ohio (as determined from the Ohio Governor's Top 100 Employers list). Each of these employers (companies) were evaluated based on their commitments to renewable energy, greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction, and/or net zero goals. Companies with *formal* targets – such as a specific percentage of renewable energy or emissions reduction by a target year, or a goal to become carbon neutral by a certain date – were identified as having *formal* commitments, and those goals were recorded. Companies with informal aspirations related to renewable energy, GHG reductions, and carbon neutral targets were also noted for a holistic view. In addition, local governments listed on the Power A Clean Future Ohio (PCFO) website were evaluated based on their commitments to the same environmental indicators. Using these findings, a holistic view of the top 100 employers' commitments was determined.

As not all the top 100 employers in Ohio are headquartered in the state, a few additional facets of research (represented by case studies) were conducted to understand the energy landscape on a more granular level. In the second phase, three critical Ohio employers/companies (that are headquartered in Ohio) from the manufacturing, financial services, and retail industries were analyzed. Within this analysis, each company was assessed for its energy and carbon goals, specific actions taken within the state of Ohio to reach their goals, progress achieved to date, and the programs, investments, and partnerships supporting their decarbonization efforts. An additional case study was conducted on the top technology companies with locations in Ohio as there is a high level of energy needed to power data centers and other AI-related facets of their businesses. Lastly, the three largest cities in Ohio (Columbus, Cleveland, and Cincinnati) were examined as they each have carbon actions plans with corresponding energy reduction commitments. Drawing on these insights, clearly identifiable trends in demand despite lack of access to renewable energy in the state of Ohio were determined across business industries and townships.

Altogether, the research illustrates both the progress and structural barriers that both businesses and municipalities face when aiming to fulfil their decarbonization commitments in Ohio.

Main Research Sources

Top 100 Employers, Municipal, and PCFO

- Top 100 Employers in Ohio
  - Individual research was conducted for each company on this list. Public facing documentation including ESG, CSR, Sustainability, and Annual reports were assessed for environmental implications. Additionally, company websites were assessed in the absence of formal reports.
- PCFO Communities List
  - Communities on this list were also assessed for environmental implications. While some communities had climate action plans or community programing website pages, most of the communities had very little public facing information.

Case Studies

- Cleveland Cliffs 2024 Sustainability Report
- Goodyear 2024 Corporate Responsibility Report
- Sherwin Williams 2024 Sustainability Report
- Key Corp 2024 CSR Report
- Fifth Third 2024 Sustainability Report
- Huntington 2024 Corporate Social Responsibility Report
- Bath & Body Works 2024 Sustainability & Impact Report
- Wendy's 2024 Corporate Responsibility Report
- P&G 2023 Citizenship Report
- 2024 Amazon Sustainability Report
- 2025 Apple Environmental Progress Report
- 2025 Google Environmental Report
- 2025 Microsoft Environmental Sustainability Report
- 2025 Meta Sustainability Report
- Intel 2024-25 Corporate Social Responsibility Report
- City of Cleveland Climate Action Plan 2025
- Columbus Climate Action Plan 2021
- Columbus Climate Action Plan Progress Report 2024
- Green Cincinnati Plan 2023
- Additional weblinks including press releases, links to environmental dashboards, and other supplemental sources are available in each industry case study.