



Hello, Friends!

We're heading into this year with real momentum. We have a clear roadmap in the 2026–2030 Cleveland Environmental Policy Platform, and it reflects the priorities our coalition has been working toward for years: water justice, parks and vacant land, energy equity, transportation and mobility, workforce and economic inclusion. This is thoughtful, community-driven work, and it gives us direction.

Our coalition members are engaged and ready to move, local leaders are leaning in, and the conversations are more focused on implementation and outcomes. We've put in the work to be in this position. Now it's about execution. I'm glad to be building this with you, and I'm ready for what this year can bring!

Sincerely,

Brian Siggers

*Cleveland Metro Advocacy Director*

## Regional Events

[Pancake with the Birds](#) | Saturday, February 21 | 8 AM-12 PM | Nature Center at Shaker Lakes, 2600 South Park Blvd., Cleveland, Oh

[Greater Cleveland Partnership Sustainability Summit](#) | Tuesday, March 10 | Huntington Convention Center, 300 Lakeside Ave., Cleveland, Oh

[2026 NEO Youth Climate Summit](#) | Thursday, March 12 | Huntington Convention Center, 300 Lakeside Ave., Cleveland, Oh

## Regional & Partner Updates



### New Cleveland Environmental Policy Platform Released

The [2026-2030 Cleveland Environmental Policy Platform](#) was built through months of structured conversations, working sessions, and strategy meetings with advocates, residents, and policy leaders from across the city. It is organized around seven priority areas: Water Justice and Affordability, Parks, Vacant Land and Green Infrastructure, Energy Equity and Community Power, Environmental Justice and Infrastructure Equity, Workforce and Economic Inclusion, Innovation and Industrial Symbiosis, and Transportation and Mobility. Throughout the process, it was clear that affordability, public health, and infrastructure had to be core tenets, not side conversations. Clean water, reliable utilities, safe housing conditions, healthy air, accessible parks, and modern infrastructure are directly tied to quality of life and economic stability.

Thornton Buckeye Group played a substantial role in facilitating the development of this platform, helping us bring diverse voices to the table and translate shared priorities into a focused, implementation-ready roadmap. What we produced is grounded, community-informed, and designed to guide Cleveland's environmental work over the next five years.

### Environmental Professionals Network

Last month, we had a productive meeting in Cleveland with Dr. Harrison Fried, Program Director of The Ohio State University's Environmental Professionals Network (EPN). He shared more about EPN's growing statewide work to connect and support environmental and sustainability professionals through programming, networking, and cross-sector collaboration. The initiative is gearing up to expand its reach and launch new opportunities for engagement across Ohio. We're excited about the potential to strengthen connections between practitioners and advocates throughout the region.

### Cleveland Air Quality Coalition

The Cleveland Air Quality Coalition recently held a press conference at City Hall, calling attention to long-overdue updates to Cleveland's air quality code. The city code has not been meaningfully updated since 1977, despite Cleveland ranking among the most polluted cities in the country for year-round particle pollution. Advocates, public health leaders, and community organizations came together to highlight the connection between outdated policy, asthma rates, heart disease, and the disproportionate impact on Black and underserved communities. The message was simple: modernize the code and protect public health.

## Coming Soon: Annual State of the Environment Event

We're gearing up for our annual State of the Environment event this spring and look forward to bringing together advocates, partners, and local leaders for a focused conversation on environmental justice and public health in Cleveland. This event has become an important space to connect policy decisions to real impacts in our neighborhoods, especially for clean air, safe water, and modern infrastructure. We'll be sharing more details soon, including speakers and registration information. Stay tuned!

## OEC Updates

### 2009 Greenhouse Endangerment Finding Repealed

The Trump Administration repealed the [2009 Greenhouse Endangerment Finding](#). This critical finding affirmed that carbon dioxide and other air pollutants endanger public health, and was a strong scientific basis for legal action. This repeal abandons science in favor of polluters, and its consequences will be felt in Ohio, across the nation, and globally. It will worsen the climate impacts Ohioans are already experiencing. We know the truth, we know our task, and we are on your side committed to fight for our shared values. Our work at the state level is critical to make real change in this moment. **Can you support our efforts with a special gift today?**

[Donate](#)

### Law Center Analysis: Carbon Capture & Storage in HB 170

In March 2025, two Ohio representatives introduced House Bill 170 ([HB 170](#)), legislation designed to regulate carbon storage activities as a "matter of general statewide interest that requires uniform statewide regulation." A laudable mission statement. But would the program, as currently designed, be protective of human health and the environment? [Read more.](#)

### Upcoming OEC 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](#).

**March 18** | [Action Briefings](#) | 12 PM-1 PM | Virtual

**May 9** | [2026 Green Gala](#) | Columbus Zoo Africa Events Center | Tickets Coming Soon!



{{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).