

# County Council of Cuyahoga County, Ohio

## Resolution No. R2017-0168

Sponsored by: **Councilmembers  
Miller, Simon and Conwell**

**A Resolution** adopting the 2017 Cuyahoga County Sustainability Plan in accordance with Section 202.18 of the Cuyahoga County Code, and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

WHEREAS, Section 202.18 of the Cuyahoga County Code requires the Director of Sustainability to prepare and present to Council a proposed five-year Sustainability Plan for actions to be carried out by the County itself, and in partnership with other public and private agencies and organizations, for the purpose of achieving the objectives outlined in Subsection 202.18(A)(2); and,

WHEREAS, Section 202.18 further requires the Director of Sustainability to review and revise the Sustainability Plan as needed but not less than once every five years in accordance with the Cuyahoga County Code; and,

WHEREAS, it is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective in order to efficiently begin implementation of the plan for sustainability throughout Cuyahoga County.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO:**

**SECTION 1.** The 2017 Cuyahoga County Sustainability Plan, including all changes thereto approved by Council, is hereby adopted in accordance with Section 202.18 of the Cuyahoga County Code. The final plan adopted herein includes such changes the Council and the County Executive have agreed upon prior to adoption.


**SECTION 2.** It is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective for the usual daily operation of the County and the reasons set forth in the preamble. Provided that this Resolution receives the affirmative vote of at least eight members of Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon the earliest occurrence of any of the following: (1) its approval by the County Executive through signature, (2) the expiration of the time during which it may be disapproved by the County Executive under section 3.10(6) of the Cuyahoga County Charter, or (3) its passage by at least eight members of Council after disapproval pursuant to Section 3.10(7) of the Cuyahoga County Charter. Otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.


**SECTION 3.** It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of the Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

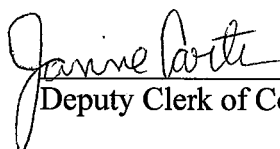
On a motion by Ms. Simon, seconded by Mr. Miller, the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted.

Yeas: Gallagher, Schron, Conwell, Jones, Brown, Hairston, Simon, Baker, Miller, Tuma and Brady

Nays: None

  
County Council President      Date

  
County Executive      Date

  
Deputy Clerk of Council      Date

First Reading/Referred to Committee: September 26, 2017

Committee(s) Assigned: Education, Environment & Sustainability

Committee Report/Second Reading: October 10, 2017

Cuyahoga County Sustainability Plan Substituted on the Floor: October 10, 2017

Journal CC028  
October 24, 2017



## Department of Sustainability Proposed 5 year Strategic Plan

Dear Council President Brady, Sustainability Chair Simon and members of Council,

In April, 2016, County Council passed Ordinance # 2016-0008 requiring the creation of a 5-year Sustainability Strategic Plan. We in the Department of Sustainability and the Administration wholeheartedly supported this idea. especially as the Department was a relatively new entity in County government, had a fairly large and broad mandate, but with a small, yet passionate staff.

We know that in order to be successful, we need to leverage as many resources as possible, cooperate with as many agencies, businesses and members of the community as we can and generally organize ourselves in a way that collaborates with the great array of partners in Cuyahoga County who seek environmentally sustainable solutions to climate change, clean energy development, water quality safety, transportation alternatives and overall more green environs.

In our first 2.5 years of existence we think have worked in that manner, but also believe that the process of developing this plan has been helpful in honing the work we should be engaged in for the next phase of our Department's life.

I am available for any individual meetings or calls regarding this proposal and of course for hearings you may have regarding the project.

Thanks for your time, consideration and insights,

Sincerely,

Mike Foley  
September 1, 2017

## **Department Strategy 1: Work collaboratively with our partners to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the geographic confines of Cuyahoga County**

### **Initiatives:**

- 1:** Join with other cities and organizations to formulate a comprehensive Cuyahoga County Climate Change Action Plan that deals with both mitigation and adaptation by August 2018.
- 2:** Join with other cities and organizations by declaring an adherence to the Paris Climate Accords by September 1, 2017.
- 3:** Determine a measurement and reporting protocol by January of 2018.
- 4:** Measure all greenhouse gas emissions in Cuyahoga County by the spring of 2018 and set realistic greenhouse gas reduction goals and strategies by July 2018.
- 5:** Devise a dashboard that details comparative greenhouse gas emissions (by sector and geographically) by September of 2018.

### **County Goals/Priorities Supported:**

- 1.3 Deploy sustainability practices to support our competitive advantage
- 10.3 Strengthen and expand relationships with new and existing community partners
- 11.2 Work with partners to align, scale and sustain efforts to achieve systems-level solutions

### **Performance Measures**

GHG emission levels

## **Department Strategy 2: Increase resources for clean energy and environmentally sustainable programs, projects, and practices in Cuyahoga County**

### **Initiatives:**

- 1: Devise a variety of streams of funding for programs, projects, and practices**
  - a. Convene a stakeholders group with the goal of establishing an ongoing Sustainability fund with adequate resources similar to the **Arts and Culture Fund** which has a consistent source of revenue and governance.
  - b. Help create a **Clean Energy Pre-Development Fund** for business/local government/institutional/residential sectors to affordably help analyze, measure and communicate renewable and energy efficiency measures.
  - c. Rethink/re-develop a **clean energy loan and/or grant program** for business/local government/institutional/residential use.
  
- 2: Utilize devised funding streams to support a variety of programs, projects, and services that address at least one of the following three anticipated outcomes:**
  - a. Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions within Cuyahoga County
  - b. Reduction in cost of clean energy
  - c. Increased business and workforce opportunities in sustainability-related industries (e.g. solar, wind, energy efficiency)

### **County Goals/Priorities Supported:**

- 1.3 Deploy sustainability practices to support our competitive advantage
- 10.3 Strengthen and expand relationships with new and existing community partners
- 11.2 Work with partners to align, scale and sustain efforts to achieve systems-level solutions

### **Performance Measures**

Amount of funding available (\$)

# of projects proposed

# of projects funded

# of projects in process of being completed (What does this mean?)

# of projects completed

**Department Strategy 3:** Increase access to alternative methods of transportation for residents and visitors to Cuyahoga County to enhance air quality and the environmental health of the community

**Initiatives:**

- 1:** Work with NOACA, RTA, Clevelanders for Public Transportation and others to help create a bigger vision for transportation alternatives and help municipalities develop more projects to transform the transportation system.
- 2:** Encourage bike and pedestrian infrastructure on County-funded projects (e.g. bike lanes, signal systems, timing).
- 3:** Encourage bike and pedestrian infrastructure in private developments where new construction or renovation occurs.
- 4:** Apply for and leverage grant funding and existing county resources to increase the accessibility to and utilization of bike share in low-income areas.
- 5:** Encourage the development of electric vehicle infrastructure throughout the county

**County Goals/Priorities Supported:**

- 1.3 Deploy sustainability practices to support our competitive advantage
- 10.3 Strengthen and expand relationships with new and existing community partners
- 11.2 Work with partners to align, scale and sustain efforts to achieve systems-level solutions

**Performance Measures**

- Miles of pedestrian trails and bike lanes
- Bike share utilization (riders and # of miles traveled, CO<sub>2</sub> reduced)
- Reduction in GHG emissions resulting from bike share riding
- EV infrastructure – amount of charging stations
- E.V.'s – amount of vehicles licensed in the county

## **Department Strategy 4: Increase community awareness, knowledge, and advocacy regarding environmental issues, policies, and initiatives**

### **Initiatives:**

- 1:** Develop an effective and measurable educational campaign to inform citizens and the community about climate change and sustainability issues for residents of Cuyahoga County.
- 2:** Continue to coordinate local clean energy brown bags for Cuyahoga County environmental and sustainability leaders.
- 3:** Help organize policy advocacy across the County for environmental and sustainability leaders in order to positively affect state and national changes.
- 4:** Measure and track equity and inclusion for sustainability initiatives for Cuyahoga County residents.
- 5:** Convene a regional consortium of county sustainability leaders to increase best practice information sharing and opportunities for collaboration.
- 6:** Create and continuously enhance a best management practices information repository for use by all of our partners

### **County Goals/Priorities Supported:**

- 1.3 Deploy sustainability practices to support our competitive advantage
- 10.3 Strengthen and expand relationships with new and existing community partners
- 11.2 Work with partners to align, scale and sustain efforts to achieve systems-level solutions
- 11.5 Speak out on issues, policies and decisions at the state and federal level

### **Performance Measures**

Measure of outreach-Number of participants in outreach events (if discernible)

Utilization of BMP repository (site hits, etc.)

Process metric (for first several years): What you are doing (# of events held, # of attendees)

**Department Strategy 5:** Convene and collaborate with partners to advocate for improvements to water quality for Cuyahoga County residents and visitors

**Initiatives:**

- 1:** Assist in discerning and describing our region's fresh water advantage. Understand its ecological and economic value to the County and work with others including NEOPIPE, Cleveland Water Alliance, CRWP, Port of Cleveland, and others in appropriate promotion and protection.
- 2:** Assist the Port of Cleveland, Ohio EPA and others in developing strategies for the beneficial re-use of dredged materials from the Cuyahoga River in order to reduce the need for Combined Disposal Facilities and keep materials out of Lake Erie.
- 3:** Work with and assist NEORS in overall water quality work and in the development of a larger green infrastructure program for the County.
  - a.** Support/encourage cities to use NEORS Member Community Infrastructure Program funds to support green infrastructure
- 4:** Work with County Planning to devise an environmentally sustainable land use strategy

**County Goals/Priorities Supported:**

- 1.3 Deploy sustainability practices to support our competitive advantage
- 10.3 Strengthen and expand relationships with new and existing community partners
- 11.2 Work with partners to align, scale and sustain efforts to achieve systems-level solutions

**Performance Measures**

Measure of improvements in water quality

Reduction in watershed Beneficial Use Impairments

# of Projects using NEORS storm water infrastructure funding



## **Department Strategy 6: Demonstrate the county's leadership in environmental stewardship by increasing the utilization of sustainable, green practices throughout the organization**

### **Initiatives:**

- 1:** Have the county install renewable energy systems and storage in as many of its facilities as feasible and reduce usage in its buildings through energy efficiency measures
- 2:** Create and spearhead an internal council to drive intra-organizational sustainability efforts
- 3:** Develop a protocol/policy for procurement practices which incorporates environmental sustainability as a metric for determining County vendors.
- 4:** Work with our County departments and resources to develop green storm water infrastructure policies for Cuyahoga County related projects to lessen storm water runoff and gain benefits from greater amounts of green infrastructure.
- 5:** Work with Cuyahoga County Public Works to create a sustainable vehicle replacement plan that includes both hybrid and electric vehicles
- 6:** Determine and assist in implementing additional pre-tax incentives to encourage utilization of alternative transportation

### **County Goals/Priorities Supported:**

- 1.3 Deploy sustainability practices to support our competitive advantage
- 10.3 Strengthen and expand relationships with new and existing community partners
- 11.1 Align and enhance internal resources to build a strong foundation for operational and strategic success
- 11.2 Work with partners to align, scale and sustain efforts to achieve systems-level solutions

### **Performance Measures**

- % reduction in electricity usage for county buildings
- % of vehicle fleet replaced with hybrid and electric vehicles
- % of departments implementing internal sustainability policies

**Department Strategy 7:** Enhance land use practices to spur greater clean energy development, reduce local greenhouse gas emissions and, ultimately, positively impact local air quality

**Initiatives:**

- 1:** Support development of the ten most suitable landfill sites for large scale solar farms in Cuyahoga County
- 2:** In collaboration with municipalities and partner organizations, devise a comprehensive tree canopy enhancement plan for the county at large
- 3:** Encourage the use of integrative planning strategies wherever possible
- 4:** Continue to partner with CSU, CWRU, the City of Cleveland and others on a local MicroGrid project for Cuyahoga County.
- 5:** Work with groups like the Metroparks, County Planning, the Trust for Public Land, the Cuyahoga Greenways Partnership and others on increasing the amount of trails and greenspace in the County for hiking, biking, recreational and passive uses.

**County Goals/Priorities Supported:**

- 1.3 Deploy sustainability practices to support our competitive advantage
- 10.3 Strengthen and expand relationships with new and existing community partners
- 11.2 Work with partners to align, scale and sustain efforts to achieve systems-level solutions

**Potential Metrics**

- Estimated CO2 sequestration attributable to enhanced tree canopy
- % tree canopy in Cuyahoga County
- # of new trees added
- # of landfill solar sites developed
- # of trails in the County