

Dear Mayor Riggle, Vice Mayor Shafer, Member at Large Frazier, and Ward Councillors Tackett, Haynes, Hoffman, and Farrell of Delaware,

It is interesting that Delaware City Council appears to have chosen energy suicide for the unsuspecting residents of our lovely city (Delaware appears on the list below of subscribing cities). 1% is a lot less than 100%, which even the math-challenged will be able to grasp.

Below is one particularly relevant quote from the referenced article, which should be digested with discernment by those apparently voting to return us to a pre-industrial subsistence lifestyle.

[A U.S. Department of Energy report released in August](#) found that the federal government spent \$83.3 billion in taxpayer subsidies for solar and wind energy development, between 2016 and 2022.

The report found that in 2022, the solar industry generated 0.6 quadrillion British thermal units of energy, less than one percent of total energy

Sincerely,
Deborah K. Guebert, Citizen

<https://buckeyereporter.com/stories/649994205-flush-with-federal-tax-dollars-columbus-planning-agency-pushes-ohio-farmers-to-replace-crops-with-solar-panels>

Flush with federal tax dollars, Columbus planning agency pushes Ohio farmers to replace crops with solar panels

[Special to the Buckeye Reporter](#)



A Columbus-based non-profit founded to coordinate regional road building and stormwater management is now spending tens of millions in federal tax dollars lobbying for the building of government-subsidized solar panel farms across central Ohio.

Leaders of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) are urging county and city leaders to authorize the replacement of thousands of acres of soybean, corn and wheat fields with tens of thousands of rows of solar panels, arguing their construction is the best way to "decarbonize" the state.

"We want to signal that our region is 'open for solar business,' and we're ready to help more communities as they consider solar, along with the sustainability and economic development benefits it brings," said Kerstin Carr, [MORPC "Director of Planning & Sustainability."](#)

So far, the effort has brought millions in federal grants to MORPC, and promises hundreds of millions more in federal subsidies to companies who promote and install solar panels in Ohio.

A *Buckeye Reporter* analysis of reports submitted by MORPC to the State of Ohio Auditor found the group is budgeting \$23.2 million in spending in 2023. That's up from \$14.8 million last year.

Federal taxpayer grants to MORPC have more than doubled over the past five years, from \$6.5 million to \$13.8 million.

All told, MORPC has spent \$78.4 million since 2019, \$40.1 million of which came from U.S. taxpayers.

According to its published budget, in 2023 MORPC will spend \$9.92 million on employees and another \$6.5 million on consultants.

The report says MORPC had 84 employees in 2022.

A ban on starting your car in winter?

Those employees include "Senior Energy Planner" Jon-Paul D'Aversa, an "energy equity" activist and [advocate for taxpayer subsidies to help the working poor afford solar panels](#).

[Along with MORPC's "sustainability officer," Brandi Whetstone, D'Aversa developed a "tool kit" for Central Ohio cities looking to embrace solar panels.](#)

Whetstone is [a Bowling Green State graduate who previously worked as a Sierra Club executive](#) and on Democrat political campaigns in Columbus.

The Sierra Club is dedicated to banning the production of energy with fossil fuels, [like coal and natural gas](#).

Solar panel development "aligns perfectly with MORPC's Local Government Energy Partnership, Sustainable2050 and the Regional Sustainability Agenda," Whetstone said.

"Sustainable 2050" is MORPC's initiative to get Central Ohio municipal leaders to agree to take steps to end fossil fuel use in their communities by 2050. Measures include banning natural gas hook-ups in homes and a ban on Ohio drivers heating up their cars in winter. Whetstone is currently [offering "educational materials" to cities that](#) encourage a car-starting ban.

MORPC has secured promises from mayors in 22 communities-- including Columbus, Reynoldsburg, Upper Arlington, Westerville, Grove City and Dublin-- pledging they will work towards the ban. It is lobbying others, including Mount Vernon in Knox County.

[MORPC was organized in 1943](#) as the Franklin County Planning Commission, charged with helping leaders of municipalities in the county coordinate the building of highways, water and sewer systems. As metro Columbus expanded, it expanded into outlying counties, including Fairfield, Knox, Hocking, Licking, Delaware, Morrow and Perry. Its name was changed in 1969.

[Ohio state law](#) authorizes the creation of regional planning commissions, and allows them to take federal and state grants as well as to levy dues on participating municipalities.

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The report found that in 2022, the solar industry generated 0.6 quadrillion British thermal units of energy, less than one percent of total energy, versus 44.9 quadrillion from the natural gas industry, or 45 percent of total energy.

The solar industry received \$7.5 billion in subsidies last year, versus \$2.3 billion for the natural gas industry.

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Budget, 2019-2023

Year	Total Revenue	Federal Revenue
2019	\$13,154,883	\$6,561,391
2020	\$11,774,316	\$5,579,546
2021	\$15,392,610	\$6,561,472
2022	\$14,856,335	\$8,590,996
2023	\$23,216,198	\$13,504,800
Five year totals	\$78,394,342	\$40,798,205

MORPC "Sustainable 250" Communities

Which communities have signed on to MORPC's program to ban fossil fuels by 2050?

Cities/Villages	Pop.	County
Bexley	13,854	Franklin
Columbus	906,528	Franklin
Delaware	39,930	Delaware
Dublin	49,085	Franklin/Delaware/Union
Gahanna	35,551	Franklin
Grandview Heights	8,321	Franklin
Grove City	41,265	Franklin
Hilliard	35,414	Franklin
Lancaster	40,552	Fairfield
Lockbourne	247	Franklin
Marysville	25,572	Union
New Albany	10,848	Franklin/Licking
Pataskala	17,886	Licking
Plain City	4,065	Madison/Union
Powell	13,309	Delaware
Reynoldsburg	41,076	Fairfield/Franklin/Licking
Shawnee Hills	805	Delaware
Somerset	1,481	Perry
Upper Arlington	36,800	Franklin
Westerville	39,190	Franklin/Delaware
Whitehall	20,127	Franklin
Worthington	14,725	Franklin
Townships	Pop.	County
Blendon	10,152	Franklin
Genoa	24,806	Delaware
Mifflin	38,368	Franklin
Prairie	17,145	Franklin
Violet	45,785	Fairfield

Washington	43,593	Franklin/Delaware/Union
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Source: [MORPC](#)