



Central Ohio Green Pact

We, the community leaders of Central Ohio, are committed to enhancing and protecting the quality of life and economic vibrancy of the region. With this Green Pact, we affirm that it is in the best interest of our residents, business community and natural environment to take practical steps to protect our air and water, to preserve natural resources, to increase green space, reduce our consumption of raw materials and increase recycling. We hereby commit to lead by example, through this series of common sense steps to greener growth, management and living for our jurisdictions.

1. Greener Public Fleets

Vehicles are a major source of air pollution. We agree to take responsibility to reduce our contribution to this problem by adopting a Green Fleet Policy, which may include: anti-idling directives, purchase of higher performing vehicles, use of alternative power sources, and/or retrofitting existing vehicles.

2. Growing a Strong, Green Economy

Environmentally-friendly businesses are one of the fastest growing sectors of the economy. Recycling, for instance, is a \$22 billion dollar business in Ohio. We need to collaborate to make sure that Central Ohio develops a larger market share of these emerging businesses. We agree to work together, and with SWACO, to attract and retain green businesses. We also need to celebrate and reward our existing businesses that adopt sustainable practices.

3. Collaborating to Purchase Green Products

Purchasing products that are environmentally friendly, including those that have recycled content, can preserve natural resources, reduce waste going into the landfill, and nurture the green marketplace. We will review purchasing codes to implement green procurement practices. In addition, we will work together and explore ways to leverage our combined purchasing power and create a green regional procurement network that provides us with greater savings on more environmentally and socially responsible products.

4. Adopting Sustainable Land Use Policies

The way our communities grow can have a significant impact on the environment. We agree to examine our codes and policies to determine how we can: create walkable, bikeable communities; promote infill; protect natural resources such as trees; protect our rivers through stormwater controls; and create more green neighborhood infrastructure, such as green roofs, bio-swales and rain gardens.

5. Building Green Facilities and Reducing Energy Consumption

Buildings account for one-third of the energy and two-thirds of the electricity consumed in this country. We will explore creating high performing buildings that are more energy efficient, conserve water, and use environmentally friendly products. We may also, where appropriate, conduct energy audits of existing buildings. We will look for other opportunities to reduce our energy consumption, such as making our streetlights and traffic lights higher efficiency.

6. Reducing Waste

Reducing the waste that is going to our landfill is of vital economic interest to every jurisdiction and tax-payer in Central Ohio. It is estimated that 66% of the waste going to the landfill consists of recyclable materials, and we need to reduce that waste stream to prolong the life of our landfill. We agree that we will lead by example in our own operations by establishing recycling programs. We will also support adoption of an ordinance requiring that demolition projects recycle at least 25% of the material generated. Reducing waste by reducing unnecessary packaging will also further the life of the landfill. We will encourage reducing packaging in our purchasing and in our local industries.

7. Educating and Engaging Our Communities

Our responsibility is to not only for our own operations, but also to lead by example to encourage greater environmental stewardship by residents and local businesses. We will reach out to our stakeholders and citizens to teach the value and practice of sustainable living. We will also make periodic reports to our community about our efforts.

8. Reducing Emissions and Climate Protection

The science supporting climate change caused by human activities is well established. We agree to perform a baseline emission inventory of greenhouse gases and then develop an action plan to address those emissions. We further agree to engage the Mid Ohio Regional Planning Commission on regional solutions.

9. Preserving Green Space and Creating Greenways

Abundant parkland and a strong, accessible system of greenways and fitness paths are necessary components of a healthy, "green" community. We will support regional efforts to conserve streams, wetlands, forests and the other important natural resources of Central Ohio and increase the amount of parks and recreation areas for our residents. We will work together to create an interconnected system of greenways and bike trails that provide opportunities for alternative transportation, outdoor recreation, and healthy living.

10. Mass Transportation

We agree to explore ways to improve and promote alternative transportation in Central Ohio; including exploration of mass transit, promotion and exploration of incentives for our employees to take the bus, bike, vanpool or carpool to work.

<http://getgreencolumbus.com/PDFs/GreenPact.pdf>

Bexley, Columbus, Dublin, Gahanna, Grandview Heights, Grove City, New Albany, Powell,
Upper Arlington, Westerville, and Worthington signed this pact October 4, 2007.