

2011 Proposed Green Pact Revisions

Greener Fleets

Motor vehicles account for a significant percentage of overall air pollution. We agree to take responsible steps to reduce our contribution to this problem through a variety of measures, which may include: anti-idling policies, purchase of high fuel-efficiency vehicles, use of alternative fuels and power sources, and/or retrofitting existing vehicles.

Growing a Strong, Green Economy

The demand for environmentally-friendly goods and services is one of the fastest growing sectors of the U.S. economy, and is playing a significant role in our region today. We agree to work together to attract, retain and promote these green businesses so that our regional economy will continue to expand. We also agree to work with businesses to promote sustainable practices and encourage others to move in a more sustainable direction.

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.

Adopting Sustainable Land Use Policies

The ways our communities grow and redevelop have significant impacts on the environment. We agree to examine our local codes and policies to determine how we can: create walkable, bikeable communities; promote infill and transit oriented development; protect our natural resources and critical habitats; and create more sustainable infrastructure, such as green roofs, bio-swales and rain gardens.

Building Green Facilities and Reducing Energy Consumption

We will explore creating high performing buildings that are more energy efficient, conserve water, and use environmentally friendly products. We will look for other opportunities to reduce our energy consumption, such as performing energy audits, installing high efficiency heating and cooling systems, converting traffic and street lights to more efficient bulbs, installing skylights, and examining the potential for alternative energy.

Reducing Waste

Reducing the waste that is going to our landfill is of vital economic interest to every jurisdiction and taxpayer in central Ohio. We agree that we will lead by example in our own operations by establishing recycling and reuse programs. We will encourage reduced packaging and recycled content in our purchasing and supply chain, and explore other sustainable materials management options.

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.

Reducing Emissions and Climate Protection

We agree to examine our emissions and existing carbon footprints and look for proven ways to reduce them, such as energy-efficiency improvements, alternative energy solutions and a maintained and expanded tree canopy featuring the use of native species.

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.

Promoting Mass Transportation

A connected and well integrated transportation system is a vital part of our long-term sustainability. We agree to explore ways to improve and promote a variety of mobility options in Central Ohio by working together to create more efficient ways to navigate the region. This includes exploration of mass transit options, smart traffic technology, creating vanpool or carpooling groups, and encouraging safe biking and walking.