AMENDED AND RESTATED AGREEMENT

ESTABLISHING THE

SOUTHEAST OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL

(DBA SUSTAINABLE OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL)

This AMENDED AND RESTATED AGREEMENT is made and entered into as of October 8, 2014, as amended and restated as of July 20, 2023 ("Agreement"), by and among the political subdivisions identified below.

RECITALS:

WHEREAS, Ohio Revised Code Chapter 167 provides that the governing bodies of two or more political subdivisions may enter into an agreement establishing a regional council of governments for purposes that include promoting cooperative agreements and contracts among members and other governmental agencies and private persons, corporations, or agencies.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the services to be made available to and by the Southeast Ohio Public Energy Council (DBA Sustainable Ohio Public Energy Council), also referred to herein as "SOPEC," it is agreed by and between the Members of SOPEC and any additional political subdivisions that may hereafter become Members as follows:

Section 1. Definitions.

Definitions of terms used in this Agreement and Amended and Restated Bylaws ("Bylaws") are set forth on Exhibit A hereto.

Section 2. Name.

The name of the council of regional governments that comprises all Members shall be the "Southeast Ohio Public Energy Council," which also may do business under one or more trade names, including the Sustainable Ohio Public Energy Council.

Section 3. Members.

Members of SOPEC shall be set forth on Exhibit B hereto, and shall include any other political subdivisions which become members of SOPEC pursuant to Bylaws established pursuant to Section 6 of this Agreement. Each Member shall have one representative to the Assembly, as further set forth in the Bylaws.

Section 4. Purpose: The Aggregation Programs; Additional Programs of the Council.

The purpose of this Agreement is to allow Members to collectively pursue the benefits of the Aggregation Programs and Additional Programs of the Council that the Council may establish. The Council may negotiate and enter into all necessary programs, contracts and take any necessary and incidental actions to effect and carry out the purposes of the Aggregation Programs for the benefit of the Members and their respective electricity and natural gas consumers. The Members will act jointly through the Council to establish and implement the Aggregation Programs and the Board of Directors may establish Additional Programs of the Council, as set forth in the Bylaws.

Section 5. Fiscal Year.

The fiscal year for SOPEC shall be the twelve month period beginning January 1 and ending December 31.

Section 6. Adoption of Bylaws.

Within ninety (90) days of adoption of this Agreement, Members shall meet for the purpose of adopting Bylaws of SOPEC. The Bylaws shall address the purposes of SOPEC, its governance, addition and withdrawal of members, adding new programs, and other governance issues including SOPEC's decision-making process and the designation of its fiscal agent.

Section 7. Withdrawal and Inclusion of Members.

All issues pertaining to the withdrawal of existing Members or inclusion of new Members shall be governed by the Bylaws.

Section 8. Amendments.

This Agreement may be amended subject to the majority vote of the signatory Members to the Agreement, until the adoption of Bylaws pursuant to Section 6 of this Agreement, at which time all amendments to this Agreement will be subject to the provisions set forth in the Bylaws.

Section 9. Term and Termination.

It is the intention of the Members that this Agreement shall continue for an indefinite term, but may be terminated subject to the provisions set forth in the Bylaws.

Section 10. Effective Date.

This Agreement shall take effect initially this 8th day of October, 2014, as amended and restated effective July 20, 2023. This Agreement, as amended, may be signed in separate counterparts on behalf of one, or more than one, of the Members, and may be signed

electronically, without the necessity for any one counterpart to be signed on behalf of all Members.

The Honorable Chris Chmiel,
Athens County Commissioner
Chairman of the Board of Directors

The Honorable Steve Patterson
Mayor of Athens
Vice Chair of the Board of Directors

NEW MEMBER ATTACHMENT FOR AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING THE SOUTHEAST OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL (DBA SUSTAINABLE OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL) ("SOPEC")

Approved by the City of Gahanna Mayor,

this ____ day of _____, 2024

_____
Laurie A. Jadwin
Mayor, City of Gahanna

Approved to Form
this ____ day of _____, 2024

_____
Priya Tamilarasan
City Attorney, City of Gahanna

EXHIBIT A

As used in this Agreement and in the Bylaws the following words shall have the following meanings:

"Additional Program" means any other cooperative program the Council may establish, with approval of the Council's Board of Directors, under an Additional Program Agreement.

"Additional Program Agreement" means any agreement among some or all Members, and such non-members as may be permitted to participate, establishing an Additional Program in accordance with Section 9 of the Bylaws.

"Additional Program Costs" means, with respect to any Additional Program of the Council, all costs incurred by the Council or the Fiscal Agent of the Council, in connection with the activities and operations of that Additional Program, as defined in the corresponding Additional Program Agreement; provided, however, that no Member shall be assessed Additional Program Costs if the Member is not participating in such Additional Program.

"Advisory Committee" means any committee established by the Board of Directors pursuant to the Bylaws to advise the Board of Directors or the Fiscal Agent with respect to the management and operation of any Program. The Board of Directors shall define the duties of each Advisory Committee.

"Aggregation Costs" means all costs incurred by the Council or by the Fiscal Agent in connection with the activities and operation of the Council for the Aggregation Programs; provided, however, that no Member shall be assessed Aggregation Costs unless such assessment is imposed on all Members and unanimously approved by all impacted Members at a meeting of the Assembly.

"Aggregation Fund" means the fund established and maintained by the Fiscal Agent of the Council as a separate fund pursuant to Section 10 of the Bylaws, into which the Fiscal Agent shall deposit any and all moneys contributed by the Members for Aggregation Costs of the Council, if any.

"Aggregation Programs" means the cooperative programs for the benefit of the Members acting as governmental aggregators to arrange for the purchase of electricity by electric customers and natural gas by natural gas customers in the political subdivisions that join the Southeast Ohio Public Energy Council (DBA Sustainable Ohio Public Energy Council), pursuant to the terms of Ohio Revised Code Sections 4928.20 and 4929.26, and this Agreement.

"Agreement" means this agreement, as the same may be amended, modified, or supplemented in accordance with Section 8 hereof.

"Assembly" means the legislative body of the Council established pursuant to, and having those powers and duties enumerated in, the Bylaws.

"Bylaws" means the regulations adopted by the Council pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 167.04 and this Agreement, as the same may be amended, modified, or supplemented in accordance with Section 13 thereof.

"Council" means the Southeast Ohio Public Energy Council (DBA Sustainable Ohio Public Energy Council) established by this Agreement.

"Fiscal Agent" means the person or organization designated by the Members of the Council to receive, deposit, invest, and disburse funds contributed by the Members or otherwise received by the Council, for the operation of the Council and its Programs, in accordance with this Agreement, the Bylaws and any applicable Program Agreement. The Council may serve as its own Fiscal Agent.

"Fiscal Year" means the twelve (12) month period beginning January 1 and ending December 31.

"Member" means any municipal corporation, county, township, or any other political subdivision under the laws of the State of Ohio which pursuant to duly adopted legislation, has caused this Agreement to be executed in its name, which Member shall be listed on Exhibit B hereof, including any additional municipal corporation, county, township, or any other political subdivision under the laws of the state of Ohio which has caused this Agreement to be executed in accordance therewith, and has not withdrawn from the Council pursuant to this Agreement or the Bylaws.

"Program" means an Aggregation Program or any Additional Program.

EXHIBIT B

Current List of SOPEC Member Communities & Political Subdivisions

Athens County
Athens County
City of Athens
Village of Albany
Village of Amesville
Village of Buchtel
Village of Chauncey
Village of Jacksonville
Village of Trimble

Columbiana County
Unity Township

Cuyahoga County
City of Cleveland

Franklin County
City of Upper Arlington
Village of Marble Cliff

Gallia County
City of Gallipolis
Village of Rio Grande

Greene County
Village of Yellow Springs

Hocking County
City of Logan

Meigs County
Village of Racine

Montgomery County
City of Dayton
City of Riverside

Morgan County
Village of Chesterhill

Muskingum County
Village of New Concord
Village of Norwich

Perry County
Village of Glenford
Village of Hemlock
Village of New Straitsville
Village of Shawnee
Village of Somerset

Pike County
Village of Piketon

Washington County
City of Belpre
Village of Lowell

Political Subdivisions
Athens-Hocking Solid Waste District
Dayton Metro Library
Five Rivers MetroParks
Hocking Conservancy District
MetroParks of Butler County
Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District
Syracuse Racine Regional Sewer District

AMENDED AND RESTATED BYLAWS

GOVERNING THE

SOUTHEAST OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL

(DBA SUSTAINABLE OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL)

WHEREAS, certain municipal corporations, counties, townships, and other political subdivisions under the laws of the State of Ohio (each, a "Member") entered into an Agreement Establishing the Southeast Ohio Public Energy Council, also referred to herein as "SOPEC", which also may do business under one or more trade names, including the Sustainable Ohio Public Energy Council, (the "Agreement") pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Chapter 167, for the purpose of carrying out the Aggregation Programs pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Sections 4928.20 and 4929.26, and any Additional Programs which the Members or Board of Directors of the Council may approve, from time to time, and which are authorized under the laws of the State; and

WHEREAS, Ohio Revised Code Section 167.04 requires and the Agreement provides that the Council shall adopt Bylaws designating the officers of the Council and the method of selection thereof, creating a governing board to act for the Council, appointing a fiscal officer, and providing for the conduct of the Council's business; and

WHEREAS, each Member has by duly adopted legislation authorized its representative to approve these Bylaws, and the representatives of the Members have met for the purpose of adopting and amending these Bylaws in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 167.40 of the Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, the following provisions shall constitute the Bylaws of the Council:

Section 1. Definitions.

Any capitalized word or phrase used in these Bylaws and not otherwise defined herein, shall have the meaning given in Exhibit A of the Agreement as the Agreement may, from time to time, be amended, modified, or supplemented in accordance with Section 13 hereof.

Section 2. Inclusion of Members.

Any municipal corporation, county, township, or any other political subdivision under the laws of the State of Ohio may apply to become a Member of the Council by submitting an application in writing to the Board of Directors, accompanied by duly adopted legislation authorizing inclusion in the Council, execution of this Agreement and approval of the Bylaws. The Board of Directors shall review the application and by duly adopted resolution, the applicant municipal corporation, county, township, or other political subdivision under the laws of the State of Ohio shall be included in the Council and deemed a Member hereunder if its inclusion is

approved by the affirmative vote of at a least majority of the Board and the applicant municipal corporation, county, township, or other political subdivision under the laws of the State of Ohio executes the Agreement. The applicant shall thereafter be a Member and, if then applicable, may be assessed its portion of the Aggregation Costs, only if unanimously approved by all impacted Members at a meeting of the Assembly per Exhibit A of the Agreement, by the same method and using the same formula as any other Member, in accordance with the Agreement and Bylaws.

Section 3. Withdrawal of a Member.

(A) Any Member wishing to withdraw from membership in the Council shall notify the Council in the manner described in Section 3(C) hereof and such withdrawal shall, except as otherwise provided in this Section 3, cause such Member's membership in the Council to be terminated. Such termination shall not be effective until the end of the applicable opt-out period as to any electricity or natural gas aggregation program of the Council under which service is being provided to customers in the Member's community.

(B) Any Member wishing to withdraw from participation in any Program of the Council shall notify the Council at least ninety (90) days before the end of the applicable opt-out period for the Council's electricity or natural gas program in the manner described in Section 3(C) hereof. A withdrawal from participation in a Council Program is not a withdrawal from Membership as long as the Member continues to participate in at least one Council Program.

(C) Any notification of withdrawal of a Member from Membership in the Council or from participation in a Council Program must:

(i) be given in writing to the Council at least ninety (90) days before the end of the applicable opt out period for the Council's electricity and natural gas programs; and

(ii) include a certified copy of duly adopted legislation of the governing body of the withdrawing Member authorizing such withdrawal.

(D) After withdrawal from membership in the Council, the withdrawing Member may not become a Member again until it has fully complied with the procedures contained in Section 2 hereof.

Section 4. Assembly.

The Assembly shall be the legislative body of the Council. The Assembly shall be composed of the representatives of the Members. Each Member shall have one representative to the Assembly, who: (i) in the case of municipal corporations, shall be the mayor or manager or

an appointee of such officer; or (ii) in the case of counties, townships, or any other political subdivisions under the laws of the State of Ohio, shall be a person of its governing board or an officer chosen by such governing board. All representatives to the Assembly shall serve without compensation.

An Assembly representative may designate another Assembly representative as a proxy at any meeting by delivering (which may be done electronically) to the Chairman of the Council a written designation of that proxy.

(A) **Officers.** The officers of the Board of Directors shall be the officers of the Council and its Assembly and shall consist of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Treasurer, who each shall be selected pursuant to Section 5 hereof. The Chairman (and in the Chairman's absence, the Vice-Chairman) shall preside at Assembly meetings. If for any reason the offices of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman are vacant, the person serving as Executive Director, if any, shall preside as temporary Chairman until a Chairman is elected by the Board of Directors. If the Council does not have an Executive Director and the offices of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman are vacant, the person serving as Fiscal Agent or their designee shall preside as temporary Chairman until a Chairman is elected by the Board of Directors.

(B) **Resolutions.** A majority of all representatives to the Assembly (including proxies delivered to the Chairman) shall constitute a quorum to transact business except as otherwise provided in the Agreement or these Bylaws. Each representative (including the Chairman and Vice-Chairman) shall have one vote; provided, however, that when a matter is to be voted upon which is of concern to only one or more but not all Programs of the Council, only representatives of participating Members of those Programs shall be entitled to vote on that matter and only those representatives shall be counted for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present. All legislative action of the Assembly shall be by resolutions entered on its records. Except as otherwise provided in the Agreement, the affirmative vote of at least a majority of all of the representatives to the Assembly eligible to vote on a matter (not counting vacancies) shall be required for the enactment of every resolution. Unless otherwise specifically stated in the resolution, all resolutions shall be effective immediately upon enactment, subject to any authorizations or certifications required by the Ohio Revised Code to be made by the Fiscal Agent or the Members.

(C) **Meetings.** The Assembly shall meet on a day of each November designated by the Board of Directors and at such other times as may be required by the Chairman or as may be requested, in writing to the Executive Director, by any two (2) or more Directors. Written notice of each meeting shall be served by the Executive Director upon each Assembly representative not less than twenty-four (24) hours preceding the time for the meeting, and shall state the date, time, and place of the meeting and subject or subjects to be considered at the meeting. The requirements of and procedures for notice may be waived in writing by each

representative and any representative shall be deemed conclusively to have waived such notice with respect to a meeting by their attendance at that meeting. At the request of the Chairman and with the approval of a majority of the Directors, the annual meeting of the Assembly may be rescheduled to such other dates as may be so approved by the Board of Directors; provided, however, that actions required by this Agreement to be taken by the Assembly at its annual meeting are taken by the Assembly within thirty (30) days of the scheduled annual meeting date in November.

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(F), the Assembly shall by rule, establish a reasonable method whereby any person may determine the time, place, and purpose of its meetings. All meetings of the Assembly shall be open to the public, subject to the exceptions in Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G). The Assembly may, but need not, adopt other rules.

(D) Powers and Duties of Assembly.

(1) At its annual meeting, the Assembly shall review the annual report of the Council, including but not limited to, the financial status of the Council's operation, operation of the Aggregation Programs, and any Additional Program being considered.

(2) At its annual meeting, the Assembly shall consider, upon submission by the Board of Directors, and thereafter modify, if necessary, and approve the annual appropriations of the Council for the next Fiscal Year based upon the estimate of Aggregation Costs and any Additional Program Costs determined. The Board of Directors shall have the authority to revise the appropriations between Assembly meetings.

(3) At its annual meeting, the Assembly shall select the Directors for the Board of Directors for the next Fiscal Year in accordance with Section 5 hereof.

(4) The following matters shall be submitted to the Assembly and are subject to final approval by the Assembly: the annual appropriations of the Council for each Fiscal Year; selection of the Board of Directors; assessment of Aggregation Costs to Members, only if unanimously approved by all impacted Members at a meeting of the Assembly per Exhibit A of the Agreement; and such other matters of the Board of Directors or the Assembly may, from time to time, determine to be matters requiring approval by the Assembly.

Section 5. Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors shall be the policy making body of the Council.

(A) **Composition.** The Board of Directors shall be composed of at least five (5) Directors which shall include the five (5) Members in the Council featuring the largest populations as measured at the most recent decennial U.S. Census. The Board of Directors also shall be composed of up to one additional Director representing each region of the Council, as designated by the Board, up to, and not to exceed five (5) regions, of Members in the Council, who shall be an Assembly representative and shall be elected by the Assembly representatives of each respective region at the annual meeting of the Assembly, provided that the affirmative vote of at least a majority of the representatives to the Assembly of each such region shall be required to elect any Director of such region. In the event a Member in the Council is one of the five (5) largest populations in the Council and is also the only Member in its region, there shall be no second Director position filled for such region. In the event that each region is represented and one or more Director positions remain to be filled, those Director positions shall be filled by representatives receiving an affirmative vote of at least a majority of the Assembly. In addition, there shall be up to five (5) Directors at-large, elected by the affirmative vote of at least a majority of the representatives to the Assembly. No Member in the Council shall have more than one (1) Director representative.

In no event shall there be more than fifteen (15) Directors.

The Fiscal Agent of the Council may attend all meetings of the Board of Directors but shall not have a vote.

(B) **Terms of Office.** Assembly representatives elected to serve on the Board of Directors at the first organizational meeting shall serve the following terms of office: Half, or as close as possible to half, of the Directors shall each serve a two-year term and the other half, or as close as possible to half, shall each serve a one-year term. Thereafter, any Assembly representative elected to serve on the Board of Directors shall serve a two (2) year term of office. If the number of Directors is increased (not to exceed six (6) regions in total) as a result of an increase in the number of regions represented by the membership in the Council, then the terms of those additional Directors shall be set by the Board so that half, or as close as possible to half, of the Directors shall be elected every year. There shall be no limit to the number of terms to which a person may be elected or appointed. All Directors (exclusive of ex-officio members) shall serve without compensation.

In the event that a vacancy occurs on the Board of Directors, the remaining Directors shall meet and appoint an Assembly representative to fill the vacancy until the next meeting of the Assembly at which elections of Directors are held.

(C) **Meetings.** The Board of Directors shall hold regular meetings not less than once per calendar quarter at such times as may be determined by the Board or the Chairman, unless such quarterly Board of Directors meetings are replaced by

meetings of the Assembly. Special meetings shall be held at such other times as may be requested by the Chairman. Written notice of each meeting shall be served by the Executive Director upon each Director not less than twenty-four (24) hours preceding the time for the meeting, and shall state the date, time, and place of the meeting and subject to be considered at the meeting. The requirements of and procedures for notice may be waived in writing by each Director and any Director shall be deemed conclusively to have waived such notice with respect to a meeting by their attendance at that meeting. An organizational meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held after the Agreement Establishing SOPEC is approved by the first three (3) member organizations.

(D) **Attendance.** Directors are expected to attend Board meetings. Any Director who is absent from three (3) Board meetings without excuse or without providing their proxy during a twelve-month period is subject to removal from the Board. The remaining Directors shall meet and appoint a person to fill the vacated seat until the next meeting of the General Assembly at which elections of Directors are held.

(E) **Officers.** At its first meeting in each Fiscal Year, the Board of Directors shall convene and organize. The Chairman of the Board shall be elected to serve a one-year term by the Board of Directors from its Directors by majority vote of all its Directors. The Chairman whose term has expired shall preside as temporary Chairman until the Chairman is elected. In the absence of the prior Chairman, the prior Vice-Chairman shall be elected to serve a one (1) year term by the Board of Directors by a majority vote of its Directors.

(1) **Chairman.** The Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors and the Assembly. The Chairman's duties shall also include, but not be limited to: preparing agendas for each meeting of the Board of Directors and arranging for distribution of such agendas so that each Director receives an agenda at least seven (7) days in advance of each regularly scheduled Board meeting and as soon as practical before any specially scheduled Board meeting; and presenting an annual report to the Assembly at its annual meeting, or distribution of such report to the Members, concerning the activities and operations of the Council. In the event of a tie on matters subject to a vote of the Board of Directors, the Chairman shall cast the tie-breaking vote.

(2) **Vice-Chairman.** In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman shall preside at meetings of the Board of Directors and the Assembly. The Vice-Chairman shall succeed to the office of the Chairman, should that office be vacated before the end of a term, and shall assist the Chairman in the discharge of their duties.

(3) **Treasurer.** The Treasurer shall oversee the financial operations of the Council and shall oversee the Council's Fiscal Agent and Fiscal Officer in connection therewith.

(4) **Executive Director.** The Executive Director or their designee shall provide written notice to all Directors on the Board of Directors of all meetings of the Board in accordance with paragraph (C) of this Section. Minutes of all meetings of the Board shall be kept by the Executive Director or their designee and distributed to each Director within thirty (30) days following each Board meeting. The Executive Director or their designee shall provide Assembly Members with written notice of all Assembly meetings in accordance with Section 4 hereof. The Executive Director shall perform such other duties as the Chairman may request. If no Executive Director is hired, the above assignments will be performed by the Fiscal Agent. If the Board of Directors decides to hire a chief executive officer for the Council, then this person will be titled the Executive Director. The Board of Directors shall provide a job description for this position.

(5) **Fiscal Agent.** The Board of Directors shall provide for the employment of a Fiscal Agent either by:

(a) contracting with a Member; or

(b) hiring a person to perform the duties of the Fiscal Agent, who shall be the Fiscal Officer. Separate Fiscal Agents may be hired to handle specific Programs or assigned to the Fiscal Officer if such employee is hired. The Fiscal Agent shall receive and disburse all funds of the Council, prepare all necessary fiscal reports for the Board of Directors and the Assembly, and undertake all other financial transactions necessary to the work of the Council; or

(c) designating the Council as its own Fiscal Agent.

The Fiscal Agent of the Council shall obtain and keep in force a fidelity bond, in an amount determined by the Board of Directors and with a surety company approved by the Board of Directors, or, in lieu of a separate fidelity bond, the Board of Directors may direct the Fiscal Agent to continue and keep in force any existing fidelity bond the Fiscal Agent may have which the Board of Directors determines to be adequate. In either case, the Council shall be named as an insured on such bond and the amount thereof shall not be reduced without prior written consent of the Board of Directors.

The Fiscal Agent and the Executive Director may be held by the same person or by two different persons.

(F) **Powers and Duties of the Board of Directors.** The Board of Directors shall have the authority to:

(1) Consider and approve any purchases of equipment, facilities, or services for the Council, and employment of personnel by the Council; provided that the cost thereof is within the Aggregation Costs approved by the Assembly;

(a) Make recommendations to the Assembly concerning any matter relating to the Council and its Programs, including but not limited to:

(i) amendments to or modifications of the Agreement and Bylaws;

(ii) appropriations of the Council; and

(iii) disqualification of Members.

(2) Direct the Fiscal Agent concerning any disbursements from the Aggregation Fund;

(3) By affirmative vote of a majority of Directors and upon certification to the Board by the Fiscal Agent that the proposal is within the limits of the Council's resources, amend the budget and appropriations of the Council;

(4) Approve the inclusion of additional Members into the Council;

(5) Enter into any and all necessary and incidental contracts to facilitate the aggregation of the retail electric and natural gas loads within the jurisdiction(s) of the Members;

(6) Approve and authorize any new Program of the Council and the terms and conditions of any Program Agreement, including eligibility of any Member or non-member to participate in any such Program, and costs thereof, if any, under any such Program Agreement;

(7) Enter into any and all necessary and incidental contracts to carry out all Programs of the Council; and

(8) Establish one or more standing or Advisory Committees of the Board of Directors.

Section 6. Advisory Committees.

One or more Advisory Committees may be appointed by the Board of Directors to assist the Board of Directors in the management of any Program of the Council. The members of an Advisory Committee shall be appointed by and shall serve at the pleasure of the Board of Directors. Each Advisory Committee shall perform the duties directed by the Board of Directors.

Each Advisory Committee shall elect from its membership a Chairman and Vice-Chairman, who shall each serve for a term of one (1) year or such shorter period of time as the Advisory Committee may be in existence. The Chairman shall preside at all Committee meetings and prepare the agenda for each meeting following consultation with the Executive Director or Board of Directors. In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman shall preside at Committee meetings. The Vice-Chairman shall succeed to the office of the Chairman, should it be vacated before the end of a term, and shall assist the Chairman in the discharge of the Chairman's duties.

Each Advisory Committee shall make recommendations to the Board of Directors concerning any matter referred to it by the Board of Directors.

Section 7. Employees and Consultants.

The Board of Directors may employ the Fiscal Agent and the Executive Director for the Council. In addition, the Board of Directors may employ other persons and may contract for the services of independent contractors, consultants, legal counsel, or experts as the Board of Directors deems necessary or appropriate for the proper operation and administration of the Council and its Programs. Any staff employed by the Council shall be determined by the Board of Directors to have the educational background and work experience necessary to discharge the duties assigned to that person by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall establish the salaries, benefits, and work and disciplinary rules for the Council's staff, and shall direct the hiring and discharge of that staff. The Board of Directors of the Council may designate the Executive Director to be responsible for the supervision of the Council's staff. The salaries and independent contractors, consultants, legal counsel, or experts shall be paid either as Aggregation Costs or Additional Program Costs from their respective accounts as determined by the Board of Directors.

Section 8. Equipment and Facilities.

The Council may purchase, lease, or otherwise provide supplies, materials, equipment, and facilities as it deems necessary and appropriate to carry out the Programs of the Council. The Council shall comply, to the extent applicable, with the provisions of the Ohio Revised Code with respect to the procedures for bidding and letting of contracts for the acquisition, repair, or improvement of its facilities, equipment, and supplies. The Fiscal Agent of the Council shall, at the direction of and on behalf of the Board of Directors, enter into all contracts or leases for supplies, materials, equipment, or facilities of the Council.

Section 9. The Aggregation Programs: Additional Programs of the Council.

The Members will act jointly through the Council to establish and implement the Aggregation Programs pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Sections 4928.20 and 4929.26. Each applicable Member has adopted legislation, and approval by the electors of each Member has been or will be obtained, authorizing the Aggregation Program(s). Upon certification of the Members or the Council by the PUCO, as may be applicable, the Council, on behalf of the Members, may affect the aggregation of the retail electric and natural gas loads located within the jurisdictions of the Members. The Council may negotiate and enter into all necessary contracts and take any other necessary and incidental actions to effect and carry out the purposes of the Aggregation Programs for the benefit of the Members and their respective electricity and natural gas consumers.

The Board of Directors shall oversee and manage the operation of the Aggregation Programs and may adopt policies and procedures supplementing the general terms of this Agreement and the Bylaws.

The Board of Directors shall develop a plan of operation and governance for the Aggregation Programs pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Sections 4928.20 and 4929.26 to be adopted by each applicable Member.

The Council may establish, in addition to the Aggregation Programs, such other Additional Programs as the Board of Directors may approve. Each Additional Program shall be established by an Additional Program Agreement among the Members or non-members of the Council whose governing bodies have determined to participate in the Additional Program and have approved an Additional Program Agreement. Each Additional Program Agreement shall be reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors prior to execution by any Member or non-member.

Each Additional Program Agreement shall include but not be limited to provisions that:

(A) Direct the Board of Directors concerning the management of the Additional Program and define matters which must be submitted to the participating Members for decision;

(B) Establish procedures for budgeting Additional Program Costs and apportioning Additional Program Costs among the participating Members and non-members;

(C) Establish one or more funds into which all monetary contributions for Additional Program Costs shall be deposited;

(D) Determine the method and timing of inclusion of additional participating Members and non-members;

(E) If determined to be necessary or desirable, appoint a Fiscal Agent for the Additional Program different from the Fiscal Agent for the Council; and

(F) Determine the disposition, upon termination of the Additional Program, of any supplies, equipment, facilities, or moneys held in connection with the operation of the Additional Program.

Section 10. Conduct of Meetings.

All meetings provided for in these Bylaws shall be conducted in accordance with the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Revised unless otherwise directed by these Bylaws or by resolution of the Assembly, the Board of Directors, or any Advisory Committee with respect to the meetings of each of those bodies. The Chairman of each of those bodies shall be the parliamentary procedure officer and their decisions with respect to matters of parliamentary procedure shall be final. If permitted by Ohio law, all meetings provided for in these Bylaws may be conducted electronically.

Section 11. Amendment to Agreement or Bylaws.

The Agreement may be modified, amended, or supplemented in any respect not prohibited by law upon the approval of the modification, amendment, or supplement by the representatives of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the Members; and the amendment, modification, or supplement shall thereupon become binding upon all Members.

These Bylaws may be modified, amended, or supplemented in any respect upon approval of the modification, amendment or supplement by at least two-thirds (2/3) of the Members' representatives, and the approved amendment, modification, or supplement shall only thereupon become binding upon all Members.

Section 12. Termination of the Agreement.

In the event that the governing bodies of eighty percent (80%) of the Members, by duly adopted legislation, determine that the Agreement shall be terminated, the Board of Directors shall meet within thirty (30) days following its receipt of certified copies of the legislation. At that meeting, the Board of Directors shall determine the date upon which the Agreement and the activities and operations of the Council shall terminate and make recommendations to the Assembly with respect to any matter which must be resolved in connection with the termination of the Council and which is not addressed by the Agreement, the Bylaws, or any Program Agreement.

Upon termination of the Agreement, any Additional Program Agreement shall automatically terminate. After payment of all known obligations of the Council in connection with each Additional Program, any surplus remaining in any Additional Program fund shall be distributed among the participating Members in the manner provided in the Additional Program Agreement. After payment of all known obligations of the Council, any surplus remaining in the Aggregation Fund shall be distributed among the Members participating in the Aggregation

Programs proportionally based on the number of electric and natural gas accounts enrolled in the Aggregation Programs prior to the date upon which the Board of Directors determines that the Agreement and activities and operations of the Council shall terminate in accordance with this Section 12.

No Member shall be required, by or under the Agreement or the Bylaws herein, by an amendment or otherwise, to pay any sum upon termination hereof, unless it shall have expressly agreed thereto.

Section 13. Initial Operation of the Council.

In the first Fiscal Year of the Council's operation, actions required by these Bylaws to be taken at the annual meeting of the Assembly or the first meeting of the Board of Directors shall be taken as soon as practical upon the establishment of the Council.

ADOPTED this 27th day of October, 2014.
AMENDED January 22, 2015.
AMENDED January 23, 2018.
AMENDED June 27, 2018.
AMENDED February 18, 2021.
AMENDED November 17, 2022.
AMENDED July 20, 2023.

SOUTHEAST OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL
(DBA SUSTAINABLE OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL)