

## Climate Pollution Reduction Grants

### Growing Green: A Community-Focused Energy Strategy for a Growing Columbus Region

#### Team Biographies

The **Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC)** is a regional planning agency with over 50 years of experience serving as the trusted convener, catalyst, and regional voice for 15 counties in Central Ohio, including the 10 counties within the Columbus Metropolitan Statistical Area. In addition to bringing communities together to collaborate on best practices and plan for the future growth and sustainability of the region, services also include nonpartisan data analysis, community resources, and long-range planning. MORPC maintains relationships and provides resources to support more than 80 local governments and community partners. As a leader in the Regional Community Energy Strategy, MORPC will leverage its robust relationships with its regional public sector members to recruit interested members to go solar.

- **Brian Filiatraut - Energy & Sustainability Program Manager, MORPC:** Brian has seventeen years of experience in instructional training, project management, leadership, partnership development, and environmental research and analysis. He aims to reduce consumption, streamline processes, and improve quality of life through innovative and sustainable solutions.
- **Brandi Whetstone - Associate Director of Sustainability, MORPC:** Brandi has over 25 years of professional experience including federal and state grant management and administration, in addition to program management, public policy, fundraising, event planning, community engagement, advocacy, research, supervising, and communications. Since 1998, her career has focused on multiple areas of sustainability, including air quality, water quality, materials management, climate, energy, and natural resources.
- **Karina Peggau - Senior Sustainability Planner, MORPC:** Karina has over 5 years of experience working in sustainability, particularly in the fields of climate change, including impacts and adaptation; regional planning, including hazard mitigation and active transportation plan making; and education and outreach. She has a Master's Degree in City and Regional Planning and a Bachelor's in Earth Science, focusing on global systems.

The **Columbus Region Green Fund (CRGF)** is an independent nonprofit organization dedicated to equitably accelerating clean energy infrastructure in Central Ohio. Founded through a collaboration between the Columbus Partnership, the City of Columbus, and Franklin County., CRGF leverages private investments to maximize public investments in clean energy infrastructure, provide gap financing, and remove up-front costs for LIDAC individuals and organizations with the greatest barriers to adopting and benefiting from clean energy.

- **Zach McGuire - Executive Director, Columbus Region Green Fund (CRGF):** Zach has a decade of experience in the clean energy industry across consulting, solar energy, energy efficiency, and finance. As the founder and executive director of the Columbus Region Green Fund, Zach has capitalized on the Columbus Region Green Fund with \$9 million dollars from the City of Columbus and Franklin County while also co-developing a new innovative solar financing program, Impact Solar.
- **Jackie Kemble - Head of Operations, CRGF:** Jackie has a diverse background in operations and technology spanning over a decade in private sector and nonprofit roles. Most recently, she served as the Director of Operations and Technology for Pelotonia, and prior to that she had founded her own cybersecurity firm.

**Sean Grant - Chief Financial Officer, The Columbus Partnership:** As the Chief Financial Officer and Chief Administration Officer for the Columbus Partnership, Sean provides oversight of the organizational budget by supervising all accounting functions, including human resources, annual audits, financial analysis, and budgetary reports and presentations. Sean also develops and presents innovative recommendations that align organizational mission and goals with financial resources and analysis, executing strong financial initiatives. Before joining the Columbus Partnership, Sean held multiple positions in the banking and lending industry, including at Huntington Bank and Fifth Third. Sean also serves as the Treasurer on the Board of Directors of the Columbus Region Green Fund.

**Mark Patton - Executive Vice President, The Columbus Partnership:**

Mark Patton serves as the Chairman of the Columbus Region Green Fund's Board of Directors and is also the Columbus Partnership's EVP. Mark's career spans decades across technology firms and economic development. Prior to his role at the Columbus Partnership, Mark co-developed JobsOhio, the state of Ohio's economic development agency.

**Sustainable Columbus** is a branch within the City of Columbus Department of Public Utilities that focuses on promoting and advancing sustainability initiatives throughout the Columbus community. Sustainable Columbus will be responsible for engaging public sector participants within the City of Columbus, as well as connecting with water and wastewater treatment plants within the scope of the Department of Utilities. Sustainable Columbus will be instrumental in launching ReCES along the West Broad Street Corridor.

- **Erin Beck - Assistant Director of Sustainability, Department of Public Utilities, City of Columbus:** With over a decade of experience in Columbus area politics and government, Erin has built strong relationships, coalitions, and connections with the community, stakeholders, and a wide variety of organizations across the public, private, and non-profit sectors. Erin has a strong track record of developing and implementing successful public policy initiatives around health, women's issues/DEI, workforce, and sustainability.

**IMPACT Community Action (IMPACTCA)** is a non-profit community action organization that specializes in providing resources and services to move people from crisis to self-sufficiency. The organization accomplishes these tasks by empowering residents through housing stability and crisis assistance, job training and certification, financial wellness services, climate justice, and home energy efficiency programs. IMPACTCA's "Empowered!" workforce development program creates paid pathways for young adults to explore careers in the clean energy sector. CPRG funds will support the workforce development program to ensure young adults, particularly women, and residents from low-income and disadvantaged communities, are successfully employed in the solar industry.

- **Beth Urban, Chief Operating Officer, IMPACT Community Action:** Beth has over 25 years of experience in non-profit organizations. She joined IMPACT as the Chief Operating Officer in 2017. Prior to this, she was Director of Education at the Homeless Families Foundation. She previously served as the interim CEO at Communities in School of Central Ohio and the Executive Director at the American Community Gardening Association. Beth holds a B.S. in Psychology and Social Work from Defiance College and an M.S. degree in City and Regional Planning from The Ohio State University
- **Katie Devlin, Director, Climate Justice Initiatives, IMPACT Community Action:** Katie is currently the Director of Climate Justice Initiatives at IMPACT Community Action. With a diverse background in program management and community engagement, Katie is a dedicated nonprofit leader with a proven track record in driving impactful initiatives at the intersection of workforce development and climate justice. Her previous experience includes roles with Habitat

for Humanity and AmeriCorps. Katie attended Ohio University, completing her Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Social Work and Master's of Public Administration graduate degree.

The **Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA)** is the regional public transit provider for greater Columbus and Central Ohio. With a service area of 1.2 million residents, COTA provides nearly 19 million passenger trips annually throughout Franklin County and portions of Delaware, Fairfield, Licking and Union Counties. COTA is responsible for the vehicle component of this package.

- **Andy Biesterveld, Chief Engineer, Central Ohio Transit Authority:** Andy Biesterveld is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Ohio serving as Chief Engineer & Mechanical Officer at COTA. He joined COTA in 2018 as Director of Capital Projects. Andy oversees a diverse team at COTA responsible for Vehicle Maintenance, Vehicle Engineering, Facilities Maintenance, Engineering Design, and Construction. Andy's nearly 20 years of engineering and project management experience include all aspects of design, construction, and facility and maintenance management of industrial and commercial buildings, infrastructure, and equipment.

The **Columbus Division of Power (DoP)** is a full-service, publicly owned electrical utility that provides power to industry, business, and residential customers in the central core of the city; DoP provides street lighting to the entire city. DoP will provide project management for the LED street lighting improvements, procure engineering services via a public request for proposals, and procure a construction contractor via a public construction bid. The Department of Public Utilities Fiscal Office will provide financial and grant management support for the project.

- **Jodi Stefanik, Engineer III, City of Columbus Division of Power:** Jodi Stefanik, P.E., is an engineer with the City of Columbus, Division of Power and will serve as the street lighting project manager. Ms. Stefanik has worked for the City of Columbus for 16 years and is a licensed professional engineer in the state of Ohio.