

# Your News!

## December 2024



## Updates, News, Events and Highlights..

Sharing the exciting work that sustainability professionals and residents are doing to advocate for a more sustainable Miami Valley.

All Are Invited, Send Us Your Updates!

## SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERS' UPDATES

### CITY OF DAYTON

#### Grant Funding

The City of Dayton Office of Sustainability secured over \$36 million in grant funding during 2023-2024, funding EV charger infrastructure, solar for low-income residents, building energy-efficiency projects, weatherization, and energy efficiency for low-income residents, and 3 additional sustainability staff through Bloomberg Philanthropies.

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#### A Growing Team

The Office of Sustainability grew to a team of four permanent staff during 2024. Sustainability Manager Meg Maloney and Projects Administrator welcomed Sustainability Specialist Matthew Worsham in March and Sustainability Coordinator Tim Pritchard in July. Matthew is currently focused on energy management and efficiency and Tim is working on waste and materials management, city conservation efforts, and community outreach. The staff is looking forward to bringing on 3 additional staff through Bloomberg Philanthropies as well as paid interns through the Hanley Sustainability Institute in 2025.



### Waste Into Renewable Energy

Dayton's Renewable Natural Gas operation at the water reclamation facility is now online. This project captures biogas from the anaerobic digestors onsite and injects it into distribution lines to create a revenue stream of \$800,000 per year, and a 50% carbon footprint reduction of city facilities.

Read more [here](#)

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY

### Bring Your Green BYG Earth Day Event

Bring Your Green and its partners celebrated 2024 Earth Day with the BYG Earth Day event! Students participated in sustainability games, visited exhibits to explore local environmental initiatives and toured SunWatch Indian Village. They also got the scoop on the Bring Your Green School Challenge and the newly released student design projects; From eco-fashion to campus composting, exciting challenges are awaiting our young innovators!

Schools interested in participating can learn more [here](#)



### League of Women Voters Award

Dayton Regional Green was honored with the 2024 Jo Columbro Award from the League of Women Voters of the Greater Dayton Area on May 21st. This award recognizes organizations committed to environmental sustainability.

In keeping with the League's mission to create a more perfect democracy, Dayton Regional Green has chosen to donate the award's monetary component to the Hall Hunger Initiative. This organization is dedicated to ending hunger in the Miami Valley while promoting sustainable farming practices.

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### BYG Walk n Talk at Agraria

Dayton Regional Green, Hanley Sustainability Institute, Agraria and the Hall Hunger Initiative arranged for an incredible Walk and Talk at Agraria with an amazing group on June 6, 2024! ✨

All ages, backgrounds, and occupations came together to share a delicious meal, learn about the dangers of monoculture and industrial farming, and discover the power of eco-diversity in a beautiful hike through nature.

We deepened our connection with each other and the environment and finished with some grounding breaths and regenerative practices, feeling truly centered.

Stay tuned for future Bring Your Green events!



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### Healthy Competition and Employee Engagement?

Did you know that Bring Your Green platform can provide your company with a points-based structure and software to engage your employees through internal team competitions?

Create a team, or several teams, for your company and invite your employees to join and take BYG lifestyle [sustainability challenges](#). We believe that competitive team-building challenges can foster unity, improve engagement and is a great way to bring people together to turn awareness into action and action into impact. Questions?

Contact [Lamees Mubaslat](#)

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### Calling All Educators! Spark the Green Revolution in Your Classroom

Ready to ignite your students' passion for sustainability and empower them with real-world skills?

Join the Bring Your Green Go Greener Design Projects and unleash a Wave of Creativity!

- **Team Up for Action:** Form student teams and let their imaginations flourish.
- **Exciting Projects:** Choose from engaging options like Self-Watering Gardens, innovative Eco-Bricking, or sustainable Eco-Fashion projects – and more!
- **Aligned with Learning:** Our projects seamlessly integrate with educational standards, ensuring meaningful learning.

[Learn more here](#) for this incredible opportunity that includes mini grants to support your students' endeavors, and exciting cash prizes to reward their creativity and hard work.

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**Dayton Convention Center Earns Bring Your Green Certification**

The Dayton Convention Center (DCC) has achieved a significant milestone by earning the Bring Your Green Business Certification. This recognition highlights the DCC's commitment to sustainable practices and environmental responsibility.

By joining a network of businesses and organizations dedicated to reducing their carbon footprint, the DCC is taking proactive steps to conserve energy, minimize waste, and create a more sustainable future.

Checkout their post [here](#)

## MIAMI VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

### Priority Climate Action Plan

In 2023 MVRPC received a Climate Pollution Reduction Planning Grant (CPRPG) to develop the region's first Climate Action Plan. The initial plan document, the Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) adopted in February of 2024, includes the first regional greenhouse gas inventory and a list of projects intended to address the largest sources of emissions in our region: electricity production, transportation emissions, and inefficient buildings. You can learn more about the PCAP on the MVRPC web site [here](#).

Work continues now on the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP), which must be completed no later than December 1, 2025. The CCAP will include a more detailed model of energy use and emissions for the region, projections of climate pollution emissions to 2050, and scenarios outlining low-carbon pathways for reducing emissions. For more information on mitigation planning at MVRPC, contact Matt Lindsay, Manager of Environmental Planning at [mlindsay@mvrpc.org](mailto:mlindsay@mvrpc.org).

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### 2025 Work Starts Now!

MVRPC, in partnership with their member organizations, is in process of developing an interactive tool that will aid the understanding of how extreme weather impacts communities and how protecting assets from future natural hazards leads to a more resilient region. This tool will complement MVRPC's planning efforts to reduce the impacts of climate pollution by promoting a more sustainable region through preparedness for extreme weather events. The interactive tool will be published in January 2025 and can be accessed through MVRPC's website. For questions regarding this work contact Elizabeth Baxter, Resiliency Planning Manager, [ebaxter@mvrpc.org](mailto:ebaxter@mvrpc.org).

## MIAMI CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

### The Drought of 2024: How the Buried Valley Aquifer Supports Ohio's Resilience

Southwest Ohio faced severe drought this year, with dry conditions lingering from mid-June through October. As the heat intensified in September, parts of Ohio, especially southeastern Ohio, slipped into extreme drought. For Ohio's agricultural sector, the timing couldn't have been worse—many farmers saw decreased yields, and the USDA classified 22 counties as natural disaster zones. Ponds and wells went dry, and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources urged residents to conserve water. While the September remnants of Hurricane Helene brought a brief reprieve, the drought underscored Ohio's vulnerability to water shortages.

A [recent blog post on the Miami Conservancy District website](#) explains how the agency tracks water – as precipitation, surface water, and groundwater – and some of the key takeaways from this year's research during the drought.

## HANLEY SUSTAINABILITY INSTITUTE

### HSI Presents 10-Year Impact Report

It has been ten years the University of Dayton's Hanley Sustainability Institute (HSI) was founded in thanks to a major gift from George ('77) and Amanda Hanley. This past summer, a writing team led by HSI's Sarah Richard prepared the 2014 - 2024 Hanley Sustainability Institute Impact Report: A Decade of Progress in Sustainability Education and Research. This huge undertaking was made possible by Sarah's leadership and the graphic design expertise of Kathy Kargl in UD's Department of Art and Design.

The impact report spans 2014 to 2024 and celebrates both the innovation made possible through deep collaborations, and well as HSI's accomplishments during the initial ten years of its history.

## 2014 – 2024 Hanley Sustainability Institute Impact Report



### SINCLAIR COMMUNITY COLLEGE

#### Sinclair Sustainability and Energy Management Program

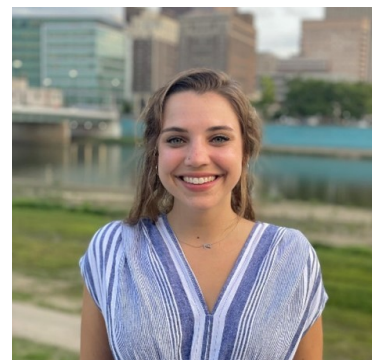
Did you know? Sinclair has a Sustainability and Energy Management program! The college offers an associate's degree and several certification programs and anyone is welcome to enroll.

For more information, visit the [Sustainability and Energy Management program website](#) and visit the Sinclair YouTube channel for a [video about the program](#)



#### Take a Spring Course with Meg!

Sinclair Sustainability and Energy Management welcomes Meg Maloney, City of Dayton Sustainability Manager, as an instructor for a course this spring semester. She will be teaching EGV 1101 Alternate and Renewable Energy Sources. [Visit the registration site](#) to learn how to participate or the [admissions page](#) to begin first-time enrollment



### ALTAFIBER

#### Dayton Office Zero Emissions Building!

altafiber is pleased to announce its Dayton office, located downtown at 230 Webster Street, is officially a zero emissions building. This accomplishment follows the building's [LEED Silver certification](#) in 2023 for its energy and water efficiency, indoor environmental quality and sustainable building practices.

“The LEED certification spoke to the green practices we used in the Dayton office’s design and construction,” said Sustainability Director and Dayton employee, Nadja Turek. “Now, a year later, the building’s ‘zero emissions’ status speaks to its ongoing operation as an efficient building that produces as much clean energy as it uses.” According to the [U.S. Department of Energy definition](#), a building becomes **zero emissions**, when it meets three critical requirements: 1) the building must be highly efficient, 2) emit no greenhouse gases, and 3) produce more clean energy than it consumes over the course of a year.

After a full year of tracking utility bills, the building’s energy-efficient systems, including an energy recovery ventilator and smart thermostats, earned a 95 out of 100 Energy Star score, outperforming 95% of office buildings nationwide. The solar panels installed on the building’s roof produced over 87,000 kWh of clean electricity—105% of the building’s total energy consumption for the year.

In October 2024, we were able to finalize a full year of data to call this building officially zero emissions. The altafiber employees in Dayton are proud to be powered by sunshine and work in a green building!



## DAYTON ENERGY COLLABORATIVE

The Dayton Energy Collaborative (DEC) collaborates with organizations and residents to make Dayton homes energy-efficient, resilient, and healthy. DEC leads the Dayton Home Repair Network (DHRN), facilitating collaboration and streamlining processes among partner organizations.

The DHRN provides home repair, weatherization, and energy efficiency services to low-income Montgomery County households. Formed in 2022, the network leverages shared resources to better meet individual needs.

In 2024, DEC received over 600 inquiries and the DHRN served over 300 households. DEC will continue to strengthen partnerships and expand collaborative efforts in 2025.

For inquiries, reach out to DEC: Main Line: 937-369-0654 Website:

<https://daytonenergycollaborative.org/>

## PARTNERS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

### Fall Awards Celebrate Excellence in Environmental Leadership

The Partners for the Environment proudly announced recipients of its 2024 Awards on September 18 during the annual Fall Awards Dinner, celebrating organizations and individuals that have demonstrated leadership and dedication to environmental stewardship:

- **Partner of the Year Award:** Presented to Agraria’s “Regenerative Pathways to Equity and Conservation for BIPOC Farmers” project, recognizing its transformative impact in supporting underserved BIPOC farmers. Led by the Agraria Center for Regenerative Practice, this initiative has created a comprehensive resource hub and launched the Regenerative Farmer Fellowship, empowering farmers with the skills and tools to implement sustainable practices.
- **Individual of the Year Award:** Presented to Michelle Comer, West Regional Preserve Manager for the Ohio Division of Natural Areas & Preserves. Michelle

was recognized for her leadership in managing natural preserves and her commitment to invasive species control and public education.

- **Community of the Year Award**: Presented to Matthew Tepper (Old North Dayton Neighborhood Association) and Jerry Bowling III (McCook Field Neighborhood Association) for their work in transforming their communities from disinvested areas into thriving, environmentally sustainable neighborhoods.



## THE FOOD BANK

Are you an educator? Have you considered starting a school garden or a compost site? These initiatives can educate, engage, and inspire the next generation to build sustainable communities.

Creating a school garden allows students to actively participate in growing their food. They can learn about various plants, their growth cycles, and the importance of planting seasonally. This hands-on experience connects them with nature and fosters a greater appreciation for where their food comes from.

Implementing a composting program cultivates awareness about food waste and its environmental impact. Students can learn the science behind decomposition, the benefits of recycling organic materials, and how compost enriches soil. The compost produced can also be used to grow. This deeper understanding can prompt discussions on sustainability and responsible consumption, which are vital lessons for tomorrow's leaders.

Creating circular food systems in schools empowers students to develop sustainable practices and foster a sense of community. Working together on these projects promotes teamwork, responsibility, and a shared goal of nurturing their environment and well-being.



For more information, explore these resources:

K-6 Garden-Based Curriculum: [Earth Genius Curriculum - ONE COOL EARTH](#)

A Step by Step Guide to Implementing In-School Composting with Lunch Out of

Landfills: [In-School Composting Step by Step Guide.docx - Google Docs](#)  
School Composting Resources: [School Composting Resources - Google Docs](#)  
Free Ohio State University Extension growing through the school year course for teachers: [Growing Teachers Throughout the Seasons - College of FAES](#)

Contact Audrey Heiser, Garden Education and Outreach Coordinator, with questions: [aheiser@thefoodbankdayton.org](mailto:aheiser@thefoodbankdayton.org)

## WASTE FREE DAYTON

In its fifth year, and just three years after attaining nonprofit status, WFD achieved significant milestones:

**Litter Cleanups:** Eighteen cleanups were organized, ranging from large-scale events like the Earth Month Living City Project Cleanup to smaller initiatives such as plogging with Up and Running. Collectively, over 55,000 pounds of litter and debris were removed.

**Compost Stations:** With the support of the Greater Dayton Conservation Fund, LexisNexis Cares Employee Grant Fund, and individual donors, two compost drop-off stations were established at Pink Moon Goods and 2nd Street Market. Over 200 individuals registered to use these stations.

**Special Events & Other Initiatives:**

- 4th Plastic-Free July Campaign
- 2nd Sustainable September Campaign
- Managed a waste station at the Wagner Subaru Outdoor Experience (3rd straight year)
- Partnered with Green Oakwood to make the annual Ice Cream Social a low waste event
- Monthly tabling at 2nd Street Market; tabled at the Little Miami Watershed River Fest, Taste of Old North Dayton, and Nourishing Montgomery County event
- Participated in movie screening of Running Up For Air, with Patagonia and Up and Running
- Started Meatless Monday posts in September

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Five Rivers MetroParks December EcoTalks

December 18  
6 - 7:30 pm  
Cox Arboretum  
[See More](#)

### BYG Sustainability Luncheon

January 9, 2025  
11:30 am - 1 pm  
Sinclair Conference Center  
[See More and Register](#)

And that's a wrap! From all of us here, stay green and remember to send us your updates!

All Are Invited, Send Us Your Updates!