

SUMMIT COUNTY COUNCIL



ENVIRONMENTAL AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT

MAY 19, 2025



Members



Government:

Jeff Wilhite, Summit County Council District 4
Christine Higham, Summit County Council District 6
Bethany McKenney, Summit County Council District 7

Heidi Swindell, Summit County Engineer's Office

County Executive Shapiro's Office:

Holly Miller, Department of Community and Economic Development
Michael Vinay, Department of Sanitary Sewer Services
Rachel Madigan, Department of Administration and Public Information

Marcie Kress, Summit ReWorks

Brian Prunty, Summit Soil and Water Conservation District

Tom Smith, City of Akron Water Treatment Facility

Non-profit organizations:

John Garofalo, Akron Community Foundation

Bridget Ambrisco, Akron Parks Collaborative

Carlos Rivera, Akron Zoo

Jacqui Ricchiuti, Keep Akron Beautiful

Mike Johnson, Summit Metro Parks

Business:

Ben Baker, Summit E-Cycle

Ross Widenor, Widenor Consulting LLC



Mission



To seek a County-wide inventory of environmental activities and practices currently in place and submit the inventory to the public upon its completion

To communicate and educate the community on what the activities are

To identify any gaps and needs that may exist and develop recommendations to address them



Survey + Results

Collected Monday, March 25 through
Friday, April 11, 2025

Pre-liminary data from committee
members shared as submittal
guidance

Social media, outreach to local partners,
media advisory

***Does your organization's work involve
environmental sustainability or resilience?***

***Does your organization have any
environmental initiatives?***

Tell us about it!

Your business, non-profit, or governmental agency
can be included in our countywide inventory of
sustainable environmental actions!

Share your story of what we're *already* doing
in Summit County to help us identify gaps & opportunities
to better protect our environment.

Take our survey:
tinyurl.com/AdHocSurvey2025



Summit County Council
Environmental Ad Hoc Committee

Learn more: <https://council.summitoh.net/pages/Enviro-Survey.html>



Survey + Results

- Clean Water
- Air Quality
- Land Conservation & Soil Quality
- Biodiversity
- Food & Farming
- Access to Nature (People Activities)
- Climate Change
- Clean Energy
- Materials Management

Clean Water



Stormwater, rain gardens, etc.



Air Quality



Forest resources, policy advocacy, etc.



Land Conservation & Soil Quality



Wet land protection, riparian setback ordinances, etc.



Biodiversity



Food forestry, native plants, etc.



Food & Farming



Zoning, community gardens, etc.



Access to Nature (People Activities)



Public parks, cleanups, etc.



Climate Change



CO2 goals, EV charging, etc.



Clean Energy



Energy audits, electrification, etc.



Materials Management



Recycling, composting, etc.





Public Sector Inventory

Clean Water



Stormwater, rain gardens, etc.



Air Quality



Forest resources, policy advocacy, etc.



Land Conservation & Soil Quality



Wet land protection, riparian setback ordinances, etc.



Biodiversity



Food forestry, native plants, etc.



Food & Farming



Zoning, community gardens, etc.



Access to Nature (People Activities)



Public parks, cleanups, etc.



Climate Change



CO2 reduction goals, EV charging, etc.



Clean Energy



Energy audits, electrification, etc.



Materials Management



Recycling, composting, etc.





Nonprofit Inventory

Clean Water

Stormwater, rain gardens, etc.



Air Quality

Forest resources, policy advocacy, etc.



Land Conservation & Soil Quality

Wet land protection, riparian setback ordinances, etc.



Biodiversity

Food forestry, native plants, etc.



Food & Farming

Zoning, community gardens, etc.



Access to Nature (People Activities)

Public parks, cleanups, etc.



Climate Change

CO2 reduction goals, EV charging, etc.



Clean Energy

Energy audits, electrification, etc.




Materials Management

Recycling, composting, etc.







Business Inventory

Clean Water 


Stormwater, rain gardens, etc.

BRIDGESTONE

Air Quality 

Forest resources, policy advocacy, etc.

Land Conservation & Soil Quality 

Wet land protection, riparian setback ordinances, etc.

Biodiversity 


Food forestry, native plants, etc.


BRIDGESTONE

Food & Farming 

Zoning, community gardens, etc.

Access to Nature (People Activities) 


Public parks, cleanups, etc.




Climate Change 

CO2 reduction goals, EV charging, etc.

  **BRIDGESTONE**

Clean Energy 

Energy audits, electrification, etc.

BRIDGESTONE  

Materials Management 

Recycling, composting, etc.



Impacts & Insights



- Responses mainly from already-engaged partners, especially Summit of Sustainability Alliance (SoSA) members
- Opportunity for more outreach, especially with local business community
- Opportunity to learn about economic input & impact



Next Steps

- Promote the sustainability efforts collected in the survey
 - Existing platforms: Social media
 - New, creative opportunities?
- Build upon and invest human capital in existing collaborative effort of the Summit of Sustainability Alliance
 - Quarterly site visits in the community
 - Monthly/bimonthly team meetings





THANK YOU!

SUMMIT COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL AD HOC COMMITTEE