

Summit County Council Environmental Ad Hoc Committee

Sustainability Action Inventory: Government

Action Categories

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

Organizations/entities included

Bath Township
City of Akron
City of Fairlawn
City of Munroe Falls
City of Twinsburg
METRO RTA
Project ACORN
Summit County Engineer
Summit County Executive's Office
Summit County Land Bank
Summit Metro Parks
Summit ReWorks
Summit Soil and Water Conservation District
Surface Water Management District:

- All 9 townships (Bath, Boston, Copley, Coventry, Northfield Center, Richfield, Sagamore Hills, Springfield, Twinsburg)
- City of Reminderville
- Village of Lakemore

Clean Water

- Bath Township
 - Rain barrel workshops
 - Friends of Yellow Creek
 - Riparian setbacks
- City of Twinsburg
 - Stormwater MS4 Program

- Increased riparian setback and wetlands in our new zoning code
- County of Summit
 - Riparian Setback Regulations Chapter 937
- Summit County Engineer
 - Stormwater detention
 - Stormwater quantity and quality design requirements for development projects
- Summit Metro Parks
 - Land acquisition with focus on wetlands and riparian areas
 - Stormwater management at all parking lots and facilities
 - Education programming that focuses on water quality and recreation
 - Ecological restoration with focus on restoring streams and wetlands
- Summit Soil and Water Conservation District
 - Raingarden and Rain Barrel Programs
 - General Public and School Education Programs
 - Macroinvertebrate Stream Sampling
 - Construction Site Regulations Focusing on Water Quality
 - Administrator of the Riparian Setback Regulations Chapter 937
 - Stormwater and Green Infrastructure Workshops for Professionals
 - Agricultural, Forestry, Natural Resource and Soil Health Programs
- Surface Water Management District
 - Illicit Discharge Program
 - Public Education activities on healthy stormwater habits, including in-person workshops, brochures, and other educational materials
 - Requirements for controlling sediment and other pollutants on construction sites greater or equal to 1 acre
 - Grading permit program for managing earth disturbances related to pond construction, commercial developments, home sites, etc.
 - Public involvements activities, e.g. stream cleanups, native plant management, invasive species removal, and volunteer water quality monitoring
 - Stormwater management on new developments, re-development projects
 - Flood mitigation projects, infrastructure improvements, natural area preservation
 - Implementing best management practices at community facilities to minimize pollutants from municipal activities (maintenance garages, road salt, storage, pesticides/herbicides), and employee training

Air Quality

- Summit County Engineer
 - Conservation easements
 - Open space requirements for subdivisions
- Summit Metro Parks
 - Land acquisition
 - Management of forest resources
- Surface Water Management District
 - Promoting native plants
 - Reduced mowing and emissions

Land Conservation/Soil Quality

- Bath Township
 - Wetland protection
 - Creek restoration
 - Ohio Scenic Byway establishment
 - City parks and preservation
- City of Akron
 - Akron City Meadows initiative
- County of Summit
 - Riparian Setback Ordinances Chapter 937
- Summit County Engineer
 - Conservation easements
 - Open space requirements for subdivisions
- Summit Metro Parks
 - Land quality priority protection planning
 - Land acquisition and management program, currently own/manage 15,000 acres of natural area
 - Endangered fish propagation and reintroduction project
- Summit Soil and Water Conservation District
 - Soil Testing and Soil Healthy Programs
 - Virgin and Undisturbed Soil Protection
 - Stream and Wetland Protection
- Surface Water Management District
 - Flood mitigation projects
 - Natural area preservation

Organization opportunity: Summit County Land Bank

Biodiversity

- Bath Township
 - Living Tree memorial program
 - Native plant planting projects
- City of Akron
 - Native plant landscapes around Akron community centers and city parks
- City of Twinsburg
 - Wastewater Department maintains 3 rain gardens including native plants
- Summit County Engineer
 - Conservation easements
 - Open space requirements for subdivisions
- Summit Metro Parks
 - Wild Back Yards
 - Endangered species management including propagation and restoration
 - Land acquisition and management targeting high quality resources
- Summit Soil and Water Conservation District
 - Stream and Wetland Protection
 - Turf Reduction and Native Plants
- Surface Water Management District
 - Residential program to encourage native plants in backyards
 - Idlebrook Bankfull Wetland
 - Flood mitigation projects
 - Natural area preservation
 - Stream restoration

Food and Farming

- City of Twinsburg
 - In newly adopted zoning code (1989) we rezoned 17 parcels of land to public facilities (PF) to add additional protection and safeguards for wetlands and open space
 - Increased ability in new zoning code for small residential farm plots (chickens, bee hives, etc.)
- Summit Metro Parks
 - Community garden space
 - Educational programs
- Summit Soil and Water Conservation District
 - H2Ohio
 - Agricultural Pollution Abatement
 - Conservation Planning
 - Local Work Group and Federal Conservation Program Scoring and Ranking

Opportunity: urban farming designation (beekeeping, etc.)

Access to Nature (People Activities)

- City of Twinsburg
 - Maintain trail quality and open spaces as second largest landowner of public space
 - Developing additional multimodal connections to access Liberty Park and other public open spaces
- Summit Metro Parks
 - 16 natural area parks
 - 3 nature centers
 - 150 miles of hiking trails, sections of the Towpath Trail, Hike and Bike Trail, and Freedom Trail
 - Volunteer programs including Citizen Science monitoring and management
- Summit Soil and Water Conservation District
 - Volunteer Stream Sampling Program
 - Stream and River Cleanups
 - Volunteer Planting Programs
- Surface Water Management District
 - Public involvement activities, e.g. stream cleanups, native plant management, invasive species removal, and volunteer water quality monitoring

Climate Change

- City of Munroe Falls
 - 40% CO2 reduction by 2035
- Summit County Executive's Office
 - Pursuing Charging Smart Certification
 - Completed fleet analysis
 - Completed GHG inventory
 - Lighting/building efficiency projects
 - "Go Paperless" efforts
 - Power A Clean Future Ohio community
- METRO RTA
 - CNG/EV buses
 - Expansion plan
- Summit Metro Parks
 - Forest acquisition and management
 - Tree planting
- Multiple communities partnering with Power A Clean Future Ohio
 - Summit County, Akron, Green, Munroe Falls, Cuyahoga Falls, Stow

Clean Energy

- City of Fairlawn
 - Electrification with Command Consulting
- City of Twinsburg
 - 2025 energy audit of City facilities
 - Offering larger and/or longer Community Reinvestment Area Tax Abatement for new construction that is LEED certified, has solar panels, drought resistant plantings, etc.
- Summit County Engineer
 - Restoration and replacement of vehicles/equipment to be a more efficient, eco-friendly fleet
- Summit Metro Parks
 - Mowing reduction
 - Electric vehicles and equipment added
 - LEED Certification and Building Practices
- Summit Soil & Water Conservation District
 - Microgrids/EVs

Materials Management

- Bath Township
 - Organics recycling trailer
 - Annual electronics recycling event
- City of Twinsburg
 - Continue to make recycling a habit with all city operations, events, and facilities and increase efforts annually
 - Continue to educate City staff and residents on waste management best practices
- Summit County Executive's Office
 - Implementation of DocuSign to reduce paper use (especially contracts – previously required 3 copies)
 - Implementation of Ohio Public Defender's online attorney fee application reimbursement process, reducing paper & energy use from transit
- Summit Metro Parks
 - Recycling
- ReWorks
 - Recycling programs: household hazardous waste, scrap tires, recycling days (glass, string lights, campaign signs, TVs, cooking oil, Styrofoam, etc.)
 - Inventory of solid waste facilities in Summit County: 3 solid waste transfer facilities, 1 material recovery facility
 - Direct to Ohio EPA website with the most up-to-date list of registered and licensed Class II, III, and IV Compost Facilities in Ohio by county.
 - Local Materials Management – updated at least annually by ReWorks team, list of companies in Summit County or near Summit County that offer materials management services
 - Residential Recycling Infrastructure: (as of 2023) 25 Summit County communities offer curbside single stream recycling programs, 5 communities offer both curbside and drop off single stream recycling programs, 1 community offers single stream recycling drop off

Opportunities: Large-scale compost/biodigester solutions (especially food scraps)