

MEMORANDUM

To: Thom Sheridan, City Manager
From: Greg Hannan, Community Development Director
CC: Emily Fernandez, Management Analyst
Date: May 11, 2023
Subject: Baseline Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory

What is a Greenhouse Gas Emissions inventory:

A greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory defines the amount of greenhouse gas emissions produced in a defined geographic area. Emissions for a community-wide inventory include: residential energy, commercial energy, industrial energy, transportation, solid waste, and water and wastewater treatment. The inventory identifies where various energy sources are being consumed and helps project future energy demand. The emissions levels documented create a baseline to track future reduction in use. The inventory can also list some areas for greatest opportunity towards reduction. Future consideration of climate action planning could set goals and targets related to reductions in GHG emissions.

The consideration of the GHG inventory was discussed as part of the recent League of Women Voters Climate Planning workshops and the presentation of a generalized regional inventory prepared by the NY Times. The proposed scope would provide a more accurate, detailed community specific inventory. The use of GHG inventories and climate planning is growing in private industry which may further support the city's business attraction efforts for sustainability focused companies.

Typical Scope:

- Baseline GHG Inventory for the community as a whole (not just municipal operations)
- Consultant obtains information from city staff, local utility providers, and accesses available information through census and other databases
- Inventories are done per an industry standard to be applicable across communities and consultants.
- The work is primarily a data collection effort rather than a community engagement process as policies and action steps are not established in the inventory.
- Traditional scope could be expanded to have consultant participate in an informational session with the community and to also have the inventory provide high level feedback on the most cost effective opportunities to consider for GHG reductions.

Peer Communities contacted:

City of Kent – Julie Morris, Sustainability Coordinator

- Pursued a staff led effort to complete GHG Inventory without consultant using ICLEI Clearpath software – very time consuming and completed over an extended time period
- Contracted with Keramida for Climate Action Plan and to expand upon the staff prepared GHG Inventory

City of Bexley – Elizabeth Elman, Sustainability coordinator

- Used the non-profit organization Power for a Clean Future Ohio to complete GHG Inventory
- Project was done at no cost as it was funded by the organization

City of Oberlin – Linda Arbogast, Sustainability Coordinator

- Contracted with ICLEI for baseline inventory and inventory update
- Noted NOACA also contracted with ICLEI for five county GHG Inventory

Firms to consider:

Keramida – Contact: Nick McCreary, Senior Sustainability Manager

- Cost Range: \$15-\$20K
- Timeline: 2-3 month project (based on speed of data collection assistance from the city staff and local utility providers)
- Location: Indianapolis and available for council-community meeting via zoom or could coordinate for in person
- Local clients: City of Kent

ICLEI - Contact: Angie Fyfe, Executive Director

- Cost Range: Approximately \$5,000
- Timeline: 4-6 months (based on speed of data collection assistance from the city staff and local utility providers)
- Location: Multi-national company with consultants located in Colorado, available for zoom based Council-Community meeting
- Local Clients: City of Oberlin, NOACA

Power A Clean Future Ohio (PCFO) - Joe Florida, Executive Director

- Cost Range: No Cost – Work is completed by the non-profit at no cost to partner communities
- Timeline: two months (based on speed of data collection assistance from the city staff and local utility providers)
- Location: Columbus - available for council-community meeting via zoom or could coordinate for in person
- Local Clients: Bexley, Athens, Dayton
- Non-Partisan coalition of 40+ partner communities. Partners Community requires a Council resolution acknowledging intent to work towards advancing carbon emission and sustainability goals.