

Path to Zero

Upper Arlington's Sustainability Agenda

Our roadmap to zero-waste, zero-pollution, and zero-emissions by 2050



What Guides Us



A Regional Framework

The Green Team Sustainability Agenda follows MORPC's regional sustainability framework, updated in 2025 to align with the MORPC 2025–2028 plan. Our local work plugs directly into Central Ohio's shared goals.



Measurable Goals

The Green Team Agenda sets measurable goals designed to meet the environmental targets adopted by City Council — so progress can be tracked, reported, and improved year over year.



CITY COUNCIL'S COMMITMENT

**“Committed to implementing sustainable,
environmentally appropriate practices... with the goal
of achieving zero-waste, zero-pollution, and zero-
emissions by 2050.”**

— *Upper Arlington City Council*

Our Five Goals



1

Improve Air Quality &
Reduce Climate Impacts



2

Protect & Restore
Natural Resources



3

Advance Healthy,
Connected
& Safe Communities



4

Advance Sustainable &
Equitable Economic
Growth



5

Build Climate-Ready,
Resilient Communities



Cleaner Fleet & Infrastructure

GOAL 1 • AIR QUALITY & CLIMATE CHANGE

- 14 hybrid and 2 fully electric vehicles now in the city fleet
- Named a 1-Star Ohio Green Fleet Community by Clean Fuels Ohio
- 4 DC fast-charging stations at MSC and PSC, plus 8 at Kingsdale Garage
- Anti-idling policy adopted in 2023
- City code now requires EV charging capacity at larger parking lots



16

Hybrid & electric vehicles in service

12

Public DC fast-charging ports citywide



Powering UA with Clean Energy

GOAL 1 • AIR QUALITY & CLIMATE CHANGE

100%

Renewable energy for
City operations

\$2.5M

Saved community-wide
via SOPEC since 2023

~\$24K

Annual savings from
Bob Crane rooftop solar

104

Residential solar permits
filed in 2024–2025

- 100% renewable electricity for City operations under the Shell Energy contract — \$0.05926/kWh, 2025–2028
- Bob Crane Community Center rooftop solar installed in 2024: roughly \$600K invested, about \$24K saved annually, under a 10-year payback
- Joined SOPEC electric aggregation in 2023, saving the community \$2.5 million
- One of the few Central Ohio cities allowing front-facing residential solar
- First Gold-certified SolSmart community in Ohio
- Residential solar permit fees waived for 2025



Cleaner Air, Cleaner Equipment

GOAL 1 • AIR QUALITY & CLIMATE CHANGE



Air Quality Monitoring

Two monitors installed in fall 2024, feeding live data to the Purple Air network.



Electric Parks Equipment

Electric mowers, weed eaters, and blowers now in use across Parks operations.



Autonomous Mower Pilot

Expanded to Thompson Park and Northwest Kiwanis Park.



Anti-Idling Policy

In effect fleet-wide, cutting unnecessary emissions from City vehicles.



Reducing Energy Consumption

GOAL 1 • AIR QUALITY & CLIMATE CHANGE

Project in place converting all city-owned streetlights & traffic signals to LED

Traffic & pedestrian signals converted to LED



Residential streetlights converted to LED



Arterial streetlight LED conversion



EECBG grant funded the Northwest Boulevard lighting project in 2025.



Protecting Our Water

GOAL 2 • PROTECT & RESTORE NATURAL RESOURCES

- 2025–2026 Stormwater Master Planning is underway
- Rain gardens and bioswales installed at Sunny 95 Park, NW Kiwanis, Tremont Road, Kingsdale, and UA Schools/Library
- Top 5 finisher in the Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation
- Annual waterway cleanup each October during Storm Water Awareness Week



Green infrastructure at work

Rain gardens and bioswales slow and filter stormwater before it reaches the Scioto River — reducing flooding, erosion, and pollutant loads at once.



Conserving Water

GOAL 2 • PROTECT & RESTORE NATURAL RESOURCES



Rain Barrel Rebates

Offered with Franklin Soil & Water, helping residents capture and reuse rainfall at home.



Efficient Fixtures

Low-flow fixtures and water bottle filling stations installed across City facilities.



Waterline Prioritization

Plan update scheduled for 2026 to target replacements where they reduce loss and risk most.



Trees & Green Space

GOAL 2 • PROTECT & RESTORE NATURAL RESOURCES



35+

Consecutive years as a Tree City USA —
every year since 1990

Urban Forestry Master Plan

A new plan is scheduled for 2027 to guide planting, maintenance, and canopy targets citywide.

Tree Canopy Assessment

Updated in 2025 — the first refresh since 2015 — giving us current data on canopy coverage and gaps.



Waste Diversion Wins

GOAL 2 • PROTECT & RESTORE NATURAL RESOURCES

52%

Average waste diversion
rate, 2023–2025

178M+

Pounds diverted from
landfills since 2017

2.54M

Pounds of food waste
collected since 2019

549,470

Pounds of pumpkins
collected since 2020



74% set-out rate for the curbside food waste program — participation keeps climbing.

Plus year-round battery, e-waste, holiday light, and election sign recycling programs for residents.



Getting Around Safely

GOAL 3 • HEALTHY, CONNECTED & SAFE COMMUNITIES



158

Miles of sidewalks and shared-use paths
across Upper Arlington

- Complete Streets policy adopted in 2014, embedding safe multimodal design into every project
- Safety projects completed on Fishinger Road, Redding Road, and in Wakefield Forest
- New shared mobility partnership with Veo launched in 2025, replacing CoGo



Access & Affordability

GOAL 3 • HEALTHY, CONNECTED & SAFE COMMUNITIES



Expanding Park & Trail Access

New shared-use paths along Fishinger Road, Lane Avenue, and Riverside Drive.



PACE for Businesses

Energy-efficient upgrades financed through property tax assessment; residential PACE in development.



Income-Qualified Energy Programs

Promoting MORPC efficiency programs that lower utility bills for qualifying households.



Local Food Access

The Farmers Market and Edible Landscape Guidelines expand access to fresh, local food.



Preparing for Extreme Weather

GOAL 5 • CLIMATE-READY, RESILIENT COMMUNITIES



TextMyGov Alerting

New resident alerting system
launching in 2026.



EOC Training

Emergency Operations Center
training for severe weather
events in 2026.



Cooling & Warming Centers

Regional partnership to identify
and publicize centers in extreme
temperatures.



Backup Power

Generators in place for
emergency responders and
service crews.



Resilient Infrastructure

GOAL 5 • CLIMATE-READY, RESILIENT COMMUNITIES



Recycled Materials in Roadways

Recycled asphalt and cement stabilization reduce the raw material needed for street projects.



Sustainable Sewer Solutions

Pipe relining rehabilitates sewers in place — far less material waste than trenching and replacement.



Floodplain Management

Ongoing management protects property and keeps natural drainage systems functioning.



Leading by Example: Internal Initiatives

Sustainability starts inside our own buildings and operations.



Motion-Sensor Lighting

Installed at Police Headquarters and the City Administration building.



Touchless Water Fixtures

Added at the Municipal Services Center in 2024.



Bottle Filling Stations

Now available at seven or more City facilities.



Electronic Waste, Battery and Toner Recycling

Collection in place at all City Buildings



What's Next: Ideas Under Consideration

PENDING FUNDING



- 1 Compostable container promotion program for local businesses
- 2 Residential home energy audit grants and rebate program
- 3 Energy usage tracking software for City facilities
- 4 Zero-waste event consulting and SWACO grant opportunities
- 5 Compostable bags at dog waste stations — pilot at Fancyburg Park



Questions?

“Together, we're building a cleaner, more resilient Upper Arlington.”

Green Team / Sustainability Staff

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