

Community Development in 2022

An extraordinary time in so many ways, 2022 continued with educators working differently and providing programming and assistance in ways we never dreamed of all while remaining true to our mission, vision, and values.

The Ohio State University Extension Community Development is a leader in community development education and a partner in the implementation of strategies to achieve community and organizational goals.

Our educational and applied research efforts are aligned under these four areas of emphasis:

- Economic Development
- Leadership Development
- Organizational Capacity Building
- Community Planning



65,000+
Program
Participants



190+
Community
Partnerships



\$2.7 Million
Extramural
Funding



69,367
Ohioline
Fact Sheet
Pageviews



Hundreds of
Countries
Reached

- 846 educational events held locally, statewide, and nationally – many virtually.
- Community partnerships included state, regional, and local government, departments, schools, and agencies; non-profits; and corporations.
- Extramural funding was provided by federal and state governments, organizations, and institutions; non-profits; and private businesses.
- Economic Impact technical reports created for 24 Extension areas. (88 counties)
- Added 4 fact sheets for a total of 70 CD fact sheets posted to Ohioline.
- 3.12 minutes average time spent on fact sheets.
- Countries reached via Ohioline include Australia, Philippines, India, Canada, and South Africa.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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Critical issues impact:

Economic Vitality



With the Noble county's 1950-era commerce park at capacity, to grow economic development and move from the Appalachian Regional Commission designation of "distressed", the county needed new sites. The Noble County East of I-77 Business Park project was funded in 2022, celebrating the first JobsOhio project in Ohio's 88th county. Not since the 1950s has Noble County had such an announcement, but the belief that the circumstances of a distressed rural county could change with collaboration and partnerships led the way. Coordinated by The Ohio State University Extension - Community Development and with the participation of a variety of partners including JobsOhio, the Noble County Commissioners, and a local developer, the team worked to create a public-private business park project reflective of the realities of a rural Appalachian market. The 60-acre park is located a mile from the I-77 exit 25 near Caldwell, the \$4.8 million dollar project includes the development of six pads and an initial 10,000 Square-foot speculative building and another to follow. Funding includes a JobsOhio OSIP grant, infrastructure funding from the Village of Caldwell and Noble Commissioners, an ODOT Transportation Improvement District grant, ODOT 620 roadwork funds, and engineering grants from the Washington Electric Cooperative and private investment. Business Park construction is underway, and the initial building is on order with light manufacturing, logistics, and energy sectors as potential tenant targets to create and/or retain jobs.

Environmental Quality and Sustainability



While Photovoltaic (PV) solar energy production has a brief history in Ohio, "utility-scale" production is on the rise. As of January 2023, a total of fifty large-scale solar projects representing 9,315 megawatts (MW) of potential electric generation capacity were under review by the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB). The increasing development of utility-scale PV solar consumes massive tracts of land for development. The projects currently under review by the OPSB have an average footprint of 1,852 acres each, yielding a combined total of 92,630 acres of land to support the development. Based on transmission interconnection requests, it is estimated that solar development could impact over 280,000 acres of agricultural land. As a result of the new development trends, farmers across Ohio are now being approached to lease large tracks of ground for solar development. Although solar energy is "green" and "renewable," it is not without conflict. Leasing land for solar energy development raises both positive and negative implications for the land, family, farm, and community. To help landowners, local government (county and township), and local residents, Community Development Faculty developed various resources including technical reports, law bulletins, blog articles, and short videos to assist guide landowners and communities through the development process. The utility-scale solar energy program has been requested by county commissioners, township trustees, and county soil and water representing over forty-five of the 88 Ohio counties reaching thousands of participants.

Broadband Program



Across Ohio, there are places that have easy access to high-speed internet at speeds that allow people to browse the internet, meet with a healthcare provider, run a small business, and learn and work from home. The pandemic made starkly visible a creeping truth about broadband: Access denied is opportunity denied. Even prior to the pandemic, there was a need to renew an emphasis on infrastructure development and create a program understanding the importance of broadband. The pandemic forced a transformation to online webinars that were molded into this program. Up to one million Ohioans do not have access to high-speed internet. To try to make more people aware of this situation, Community Development partnered with BroadbandOhio and others to offer a 12-week course on developing a strategic plan for broadband infrastructure in their county. The first cohort consisted of 11 (of eighty-eight counties) that heard from professionals that shared their knowledge on applying for grants, surveying households, and collaborating with providers. At the end of the program, each county created a strategic plan for their county broadband. The strategic plan that was created can now be used as part of any application process to apply for federal and state dollars.

SCAN ME



Community Development Mission:

We help communities enhance their well-being and create social, economic, and environmental conditions in which they can thrive.

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