



Ohio Environmental Council

Emerging Insights from Ohio

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Ohio Environmental Council CEO



About the OEC

Working together for a healthy Ohio.

For more than 55 years, the Ohio Environmental Council has advocated for a healthier environment for all who call Ohio home.



Water



Democracy



Energy



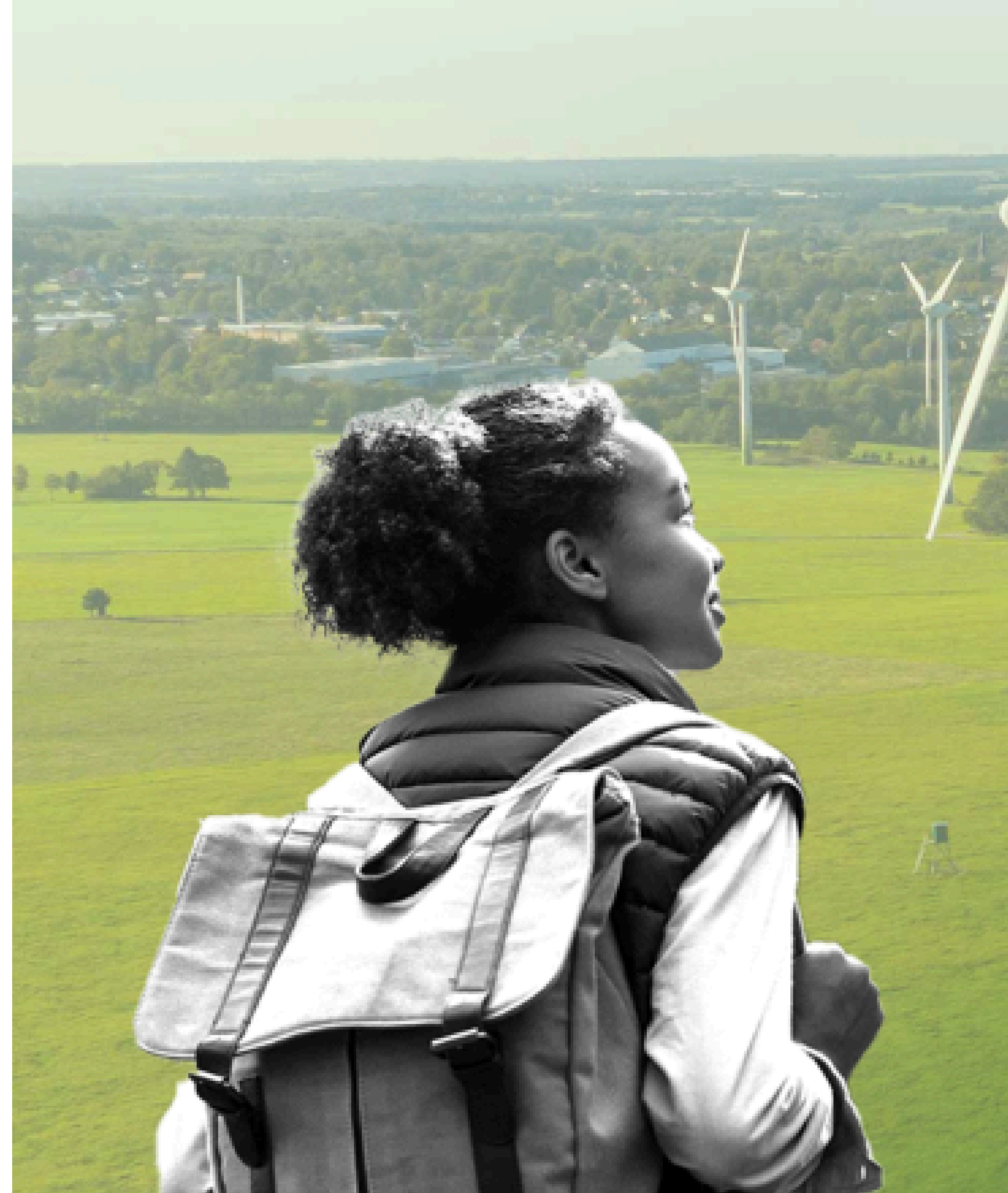
Lands



Law Center



Field

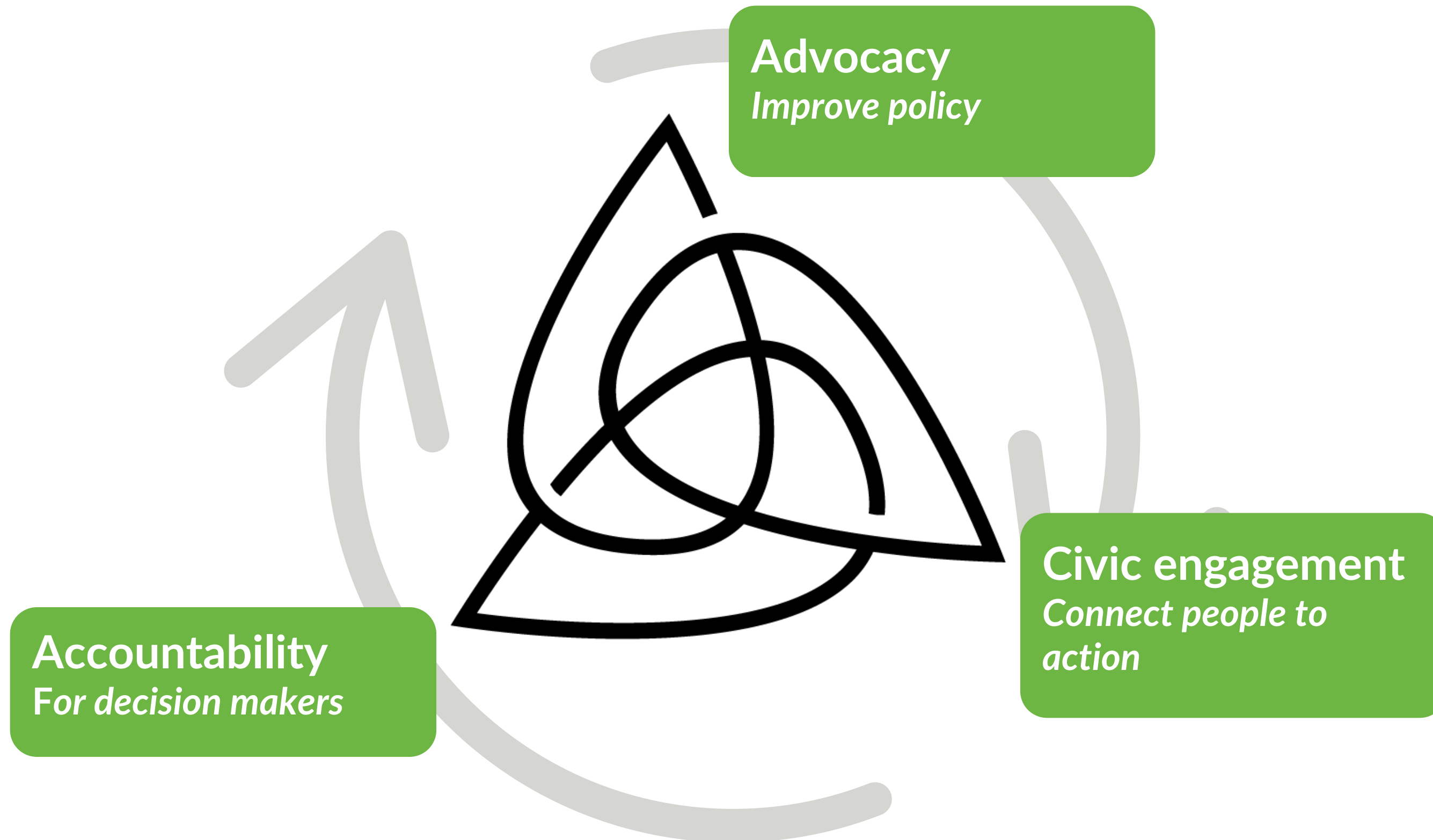


Our Mission

To protect the environment and health of all Ohio communities through legal and policy advocacy, decision-maker accountability, and civic engagement.



HOW WE WORK



OUR REACH

29 Staff members statewide

5 Regions with an on-the-ground presence

4 Policy focus areas

3 Levels of engagement: local, state, federal





202 current projects statewide

Columbus just passed a \$1.9Bn infrastructure bond which includes \$500M for water, sewer, and energy infrastructure buildout

At least one local jurisdiction, Jerome Township, has passed a moratorium on new data center projects



Key Question:
How do we balance economic
growth with community input
and resource constraints?



Experience with Non-Disclosure Agreements

Key Question: What about NDAs?

Some cities and water providers have signed them. This is a barrier to accurate forecasting and planning.

With the right support from economic development agencies, communities can be empowered not to sign these agreements—but they all have to work together for a unified approach



Emerging Approaches for Communities

Developing a local government cohort model



Make information accessible and actionable



Mobilize communities to act together



Balance competing demands for jobs, tax revenue, and protection of land, water, and energy resources

Resource: Playbook

Large-Scale Development Trends and Environmental Implications in Central Ohio examines how **rapid economic expansion** is impacting our air, land, and water. This in-depth analysis is now paired with a *Playbook for Communities Facing Large-Scale Development in Ohio*—a step-by-step guide that **doesn't require us to choose between progress and preservation.**



Community Benefit Agreements

What is a CBA?

A legally binding contract between developers and community coalitions that ensures mutual benefits.

Community-led and enforceable

Tailored to specific projects

Designed for mutual gain



Zoning Standards

- Land Use: Preserve natural areas, manage stormwater, reduce heat islands
- Materials: Encourage reuse and reduce construction waste
- Energy: Promote renewables and reduce emissions
- Water: Improve efficiency and innovative treatment
- Air Quality: Ensure healthy indoor environments with low-emission materials



THANK YOU!

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