



Addendum
to Path Forward Letter
EPA Advance Program

May 2017

Overview

On February 5, 2015, the Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition (MGCAC) Board voted to submit the Path Forward Letter to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as part of the Ozone and PM 2.5 Advance Program. That letter, along with the accompanying Strategy and Action Plan, detailed the Middle Georgia region's plan for taking voluntary action to improve air quality. The vote to submit passed unanimously, with over 70 percent of the local governments present at the meeting. The overwhelming support of making these commitments has been equaled only in the members' willingness to act on those commitments in the time since the plans adoption.

The purpose of this addendum is to address the actions taken by the Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition to implement the Path Forward since its adoption in early 2015.

In January 2016, the MGCAC amended the original Path Forward to account for actions taken during 2015 to advance the goals of clean air in the region.

This is the second amendment and will detail the actions taken during 2016. Additionally, the individual members have implemented portions of the plan that were the most appropriate for their communities. Through the collaboration of the members and the organization as a whole, the implementation of the Path Forward Letter continues to advance with some innovative and sophisticated actions.

Review of Commitments

The commitments discussed in the Path Forward Letter were grouped into eight goals, which are listed below with specific action items:

Goal 1 – Implementation of Strategies through Private Action

- Provide access to understanding the sources of ozone and the consequences through speakers, literature, and websites.
- Provide a control strategy toolbox that is available to all citizens, businesses, and local governments.
- Develop a “Clean Air Force” that all citizens, businesses, and governments can join by committing to actions that reduce the precursors to ozone.
- Publish newsletters and alerts to the Clean Air Force.
- Publish op-eds in newspapers twice a year on the status of our Path Forward.

Goal 2 – Use Environmentally Sound Practices in our Daily Business

- Each city and county will conduct a review of its operations and maintenance and develop a plan to reduce NOx and ozone producing chemicals.
- Each landfill will be assessed for the potential to capture gas.
- Each city and county in the region will conduct energy audits in all city and county buildings.
- Replace maintenance and operations equipment with high efficiency equipment wherever there is a payback of less than 36 months.
- Review city and county procurement practices for equipment that uses fuels, like lawnmowers, automobiles, and backup energy generators. Provide recommendations to the MGCAC after completion of review.
- With mobile source emissions comprising 22 percent of the NOx emissions in Middle Georgia, there is a need to reduce mobile source emissions through the increased use of alternative fueled vehicles for clean air. The planning officials of each city and county within the MGCAC will, as a group, coordinate with GDOT to support their assessment survey of current commuter behavior in Middle Georgia and develop a survey to gather information for the design of several commuter programs for the region and select, major employers.
- Develop procurement policy that favors contractors who use reduced NOx equipment.
- The MGCAC will provide technical assistance on all the above initiatives and will send a questionnaire to each member to determine how much assistance they will need.
- The MGCAC will provide an overall audit of opportunities in the energy efficiency, lighting, and renewable energy potential.
- Each city and county will provide department heads an energy efficiency target to meet over the next five years.

Goal 3 – Promote and Implement Smart Growth and Sustainable Communities Principles

- MGCAC will offer to help review and update all applicable local and regional planning documents to ensure consistency with smart growth/sustainable communities principles, policies, and best practices. Updates will be performed in accordance with timelines established by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Office of Planning and Environmental Management. Applicable documents include local comprehensive plans and corresponding community work programs, the Middle Georgia Regional Plan and the Middle Georgia Regionally Important Resources Plan.
- Promote and implement the appropriate Smart Growth/Sustainable Communities activities identified in local and regional planning documents; investment in infrastructure improvements, development of alternative transportation facilities, land dedicated for parks, recreation areas and conservation uses, transportation and land use alignment.
- MGCAC will request that all members actively participate in the annual update of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the Middle Georgia Economic Development District ensuring identified strategies are consistent with Smart Growth/Sustainable Communities principles.

Goal 4 – Develop a Toolkit of Reduction Strategies

- Develop a website that will identify actions that can be taken by businesses and citizens.
- Provide a request form that businesses and citizens can use to seek speakers.
- Make available pamphlets and a sign for business windows that says, “I am a member of the MGCAC Clean Air Force.”
- Design clean air talking points that can help frame discussions about clean air and explain to community members, businesses, and residents the goals and importance of the program. The talking points can also be used when structuring and facilitating outreach to the media.
- Draft a letter inviting businesses to participate and support the MGCAC.
- Create a sample insert card for municipal mailings that can be added to weekly, monthly, or other patterned municipal mailings to encourage recipients to take part in MGCAC. The card is self-addressed to MGCAC, where interested parties will be guided on how to begin their participation.
- Create an archive of drop-in articles that can be added, at local discretion, to municipal websites, newsletters, and other communication mediums to encourage community members to adopt MGCAC strategies.
- Write sample press releases.
- Write sample ordinances.
- Write case studies.
- Adopt recognition letters, certificate templates, and award plaques to recognize and honor those that participate in and adopt MGCAC strategies.
- Write sample resolutions that businesses can adopt

Goal 5 – Obtain Resources to Take Action

- Develop Public-Private Partnerships. Many new instruments have been made available to cities and counties since the MGCAC was initiated. There are many private companies that will use their capital to undertake energy efficiency projects, which is recovered through efficiency retrofits.
- Leverage resources within the MGCAC. Finding a balance in the ability and expertise of MGCAC members and partners, with the resources available, to implement the actions with the greatest potential for emissions reduction is one certain challenge for decision makers.
- Develop a sponsorship category within the membership of the MGCAC. The education and information provided through the Clean Air Coalition is enormously useful to private organizations. Over the last 10 years, many companies have attended the MGCAC meetings regularly and have benefited from discussions and presentations.
- Seek federal and state grants. Although federal and state grants have become more competitive with fewer resources available, there are still important and targeted grants that can have an impact. MGCAC should seek out those that have a high likelihood of success, have a good return on investment of time, and will make a positive contribution to air quality.
- MGCAC will invite five corporate sponsors to be members of the MGCAC.

Goal 6 – Develop a Signature Project

- Partner with the business community and pursue development of at least one major renewable energy project that will decrease demand of conventional power.

Goal 7 – Develop Public-Private Partnerships to Achieve Goals

- Partner with companies to assist the members of the MGCAC in analyzing opportunities to increase efficiencies in operations at no cost to the city or county.
- Develop toolkits for elected officials that will show methods and return on investments in clean technologies.
- Reach out to private industry and their associations to determine new public/private partnerships that can reach public goals.
- Devote a MGCAC meeting to private companies, briefing them on ways they can help achieve the clean air goals of the region.
- Brief each city and county elected board on opportunities, return on investment, and the impacts of such investment.
- Devote a MGCAC meeting to case studies of fleet conversions to natural gas with a complete analysis of the costs and return on investment.
- Host a small business day to brief local businesses on the work of the MGCAC and the opportunities for small business to increase efficiencies and support clean air initiatives in Middle Georgia.
- Develop a branded MGCAC sign to place in storefronts about vehicle idling.

- Working with private businesses and school boards in the region, develop a plan for funding conversion of school buses to cleaner fuels.

Goal 8 – Monitor the Effectiveness of Actions

No strategy is successful without knowledge of what is working, what needs to be modified, and identification of actions necessary to achieve targeted goals. Monitoring and assessment will be ongoing and continuous, with documents such as this addendum being developed on a regular basis to communicate successes and lessons learned to EPA, our elected officials, and the general public.

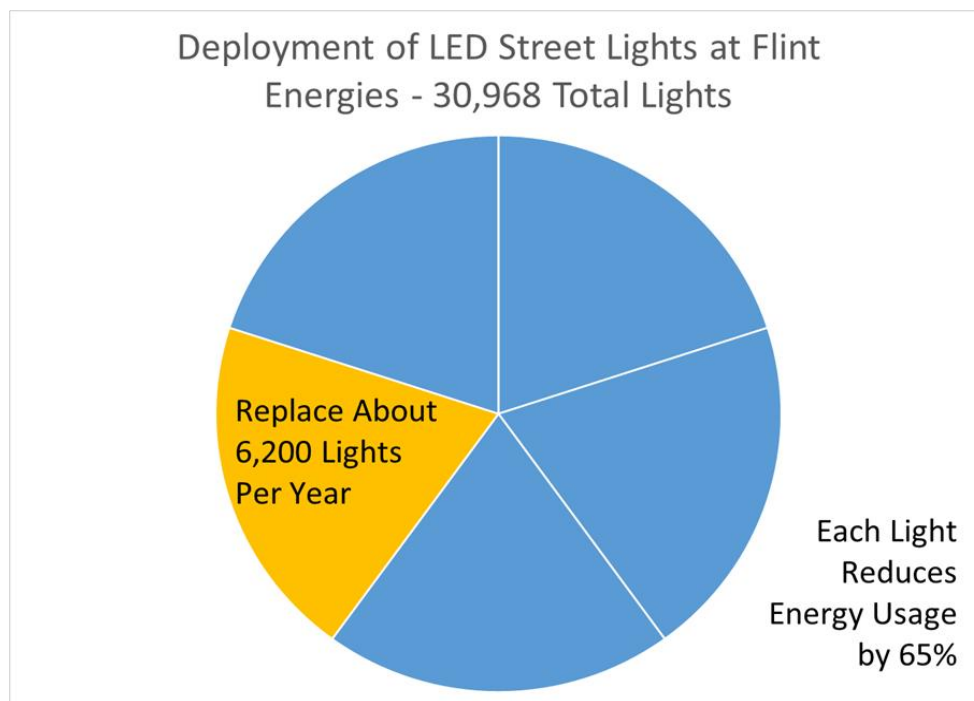
MGCAC Actions on Path Forward Letter and Strategy Document

Organizational Action

The Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition and its member governments have taken many actions to honor commitments and implement the Path Forward Letter and Strategy Document since adoption in February 2015.

Implementation of Strategies Through Private Action

Flint Energies EMC, a provider of power for some of MGCAC member counties and cities continues to, at the request of the cities and counties, retrofit street lights to LED. This results in at least a 65 percent reduction in power demand for streetlights.



Oglethorpe Power and Southern Company

Oglethorpe Power has switched much of its generation from coal to natural gas. This is in large part due to the economics of natural gas, but the effect is a further reduction in NOx emissions from Plant Scherer.

Jones County: Georgia Power has conducted energy audits at the Jones County Courthouse, Jones County Civic Center, Sheriff's Office Training Facility, and Jail Facility. Additional audits are being planned. After all audits are complete, a strategy for retrofits will be developed.

The ***Macon Telegraph*** has been a good partner in our efforts. They continue to publish both ozone alerts and the actions of the MGCAC.

The MGCAC has added a new and influential member. In 2016, **Philips North America** joined the MGCAC, a testament to the national attention the organization has captured.

Organizationally, the MGCAC initiated sponsorship of a scholarship at **Mercer University**. The Ned Sanders Scholarship Fund was founded in the summer of 2015. In 2016, the scholarship was awarded to Andrew Kelly, a student studying environmental engineering at Mercer. The fund is named in honor of Mr. Ned Sanders, former Chairman of the Houston County Board of Commissioners who has served multiple tenures as Chairman of the MGCAC. To commemorate his tenure as Chairman and his accomplishments and dedication to the MGCAC, other members of the Coalition honored him with the scholarship fund. Donations from individual elected officials and representatives of other member organizations provided a robust base for the fund, and a very generous \$5,000 donation from the Central Georgia Branch of the U.S. Green Building Council will provide funding for the scholarship for many years.



From left to right: Daylon Martin, Chairman of the MGCAC; Wade Shaw, Mercer University, Dean, School of Engineering; Ned Sanders; Andrew Kelley, recipient of the scholarship; and Andre Butler, Mercer University, Associate Professor of Environmental and Mechanical Engineering.

Use Environmentally Sound Practices in Our Daily Businesses

Individual Member Actions

Macon-Bibb County

The consolidated government of Macon-Bibb County has undertaken a number of significant projects to advance the goals of the Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition and Path Forward Letter. In 2016 Macon-Bibb began implementing Phase I conversion of all Macon-Bibb owned street lights to LED consolidated. The Board of Commissioners adopted a Green Policies approach to Macon-Bibb operations, procurement, and construction of county-owned properties. They also approved the first Solar Energy Purchasing Agreement in Georgia. This agreement has launched the design and manufacturing for solar canopies at City Hall.

The Macon Transit Authority (MTA) has transitioned 95 percent of its fleet to clean diesel and is currently reviewing options for an electric bus. The commitment to cleaner transportation option is now built into the very business of the MTA. The last 10 buses purchased have been clean diesel buses. The MTA is also committed to the transition to electric buses and is seeking funding to purchase them. This year, MTA senior managers visited Los Angeles to tour a manufacturing plant of one of the electric bus companies and to also visit the facilities of one of the systems there that operate a fleet of electric buses. The manufacturer loaned MTA a bus for a week to test its performance on the Macon Mall route; the MTA is very pleased with the results. MTA has two cut-a-way style clean diesel buses and a contract pending that will allow them to purchase an additional six full-sized clean diesel Ford Transits with particulate traps.

City of Warner Robins. The City of Warner Robins has a very robust plan to implement the Path Forward Letter. They are currently working with Schneider Electric Buildings Americas, Inc. to perform Investment Grade Energy Audits for all city-owned buildings and will act upon appropriate findings in order to reduce energy consumption. The city has requested Georgia Power convert all streetlights to LED. Two natural gas Ford F-150s have been purchased as part of a pilot program to utilize existing natural gas infrastructure.

The existing City Hall building is being retrofitted with energy-efficient lighting and EnergyStar certified appliances.

Promote and Implement Smart Growth and Sustainable Communities Principles

Development of a Green Corridor. MGCAC is creating a Green Corridor in the Middle Georgia region. This corridor is intended to reduce mobile emissions by partnering on a major solar project and incentivizing the use of various forms of renewable energy along the corridor. It also promotes widespread utilization of LED lights and more cost-efficient and environmentally friendly strategies for landscape management and vegetation control.

The Georgia Senate passed Resolution 1038 to create the Joint Alternative Fuels Infrastructure and Vehicles Study Committee. The MGCAC was the first to testify on behalf of the work of the committee for transitioning to cleaner fuels. MGCAC also testified that green infrastructure needed to be built now to meet the future of the alternative fuel vehicles.

MGCAC and United States Green Building Council (USGBC) are working with Georgia Power and Georgia Department of Transportation to create this program. Initial efforts are focusing on areas served by Georgia Power. Our goal is to have Level 2 EV stations strategically placed in the Middle Georgia area, with priority given to sites that offer commercial opportunities (e.g. stores, restaurants) for travelers to charge their vehicles.

The boundaries of the Green Corridor would start at the Southern boundary of Monroe County at Forsyth (I-75, Exit 187) and extend South to Mercer University Drive (I-75, Exit 163) and East to Jeffersonville Road (I-16, Exit 24). It would include, by volunteering, any city, county, or business adjacent to I-75 and I-16. Ideally, EV stations would be placed at each of the sites listed above.

For the initial phase of planning, additional recommended locations for EV stations are Zebulon Road (I-475, Exit 9); Martin Luther King Boulevard (I-16, Exit 2); Bass Road (I-75, Exit 172); and Hartley Bridge Road (I-75, Exit 155)

Charging Stations

The types of chargers recommended would be Level 2 pedestal type (240v), with one or two charging ports per unit. Charger locations will have public access to one or two designated parking spaces, access to 240v dedicated power and bollards for protection, and a well-lit or monitored location for security concerns. The installation of these chargers, throughout the region, would be initiated and financed partly through a MGCAC fund to enhance awareness to each city/county in the region.

The members of the MGCAC have voted to help fund and enhance awareness to each city/county in the region. Apps such as PlugShare can alert travelers in advance to the location and availability of EV charging stations, particularly with a view to identify nearby commercial establishments.

The Mayor and City Council have approved a charging station on the square of the historic town of **Forsyth**. The types of chargers recommended would be Level 2 pedestal type (240v), with one or two charging ports per unit.

Obtain Resources to Take Action

The MGCAC sought and obtained federal funding for reducing Ozone and PM 2.5 at Brosnan Yard in Macon-Bibb County. A significant project was the partnership with Norfolk Southern, Georgia Environmental Protection Division, and Georgia DOT to purchase and use a “Mother Slug” in the Yard to produce needed power rather than a diesel locomotive. Coupling a Slug to the Mother locomotive allows the Mother locomotive’s excess electrical power to drive the Slug’s traction motors essentially for free, using only the power from the Mother. This provides significant fuel savings compared to using two diesel locomotives, as well as producing less exhaust emissions. Mother-Slug sets have been proven to reduce fuel consumption by more than one-third, compared to a pair of conventional locomotives, while benefiting the environment by discharging fewer emissions. The Mother Slug was delivered to Brosnan Yard earlier this year.

Conclusion

The work for clean air in Middle Georgia is extraordinary. It is an example of how to work together for a common goal. The work and the organization is regional and cuts across both private and public sectors. The positive cumulative effects of many actions have led to better air quality throughout the region. We also note the positive effect of EPA actions in our regions. The charts below show how far we have come by working together.

