



"A CEDS Is The Result Of A Regionally-Owned Planning Process Designed To Build Capacity And Guide The Economic Prosperity And Resiliency Of An Area Or Region."

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The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is a strategy-driven plan for economic development. It is a regionally-owned planning process designed to build capacity and guide the economic prosperity and resiliency in the region. The CEDS provides a vehicle for individuals, local officials, private industry, and others to have meaningful conversation about efforts that best serve economic development in our region. As the regional (Athens, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry, Washington) EDA designated Economic Development District (EDD) it is Buckeye Hills responsibility to complete the CEDS and update it every 5 years.

In January 2015, the proposed final rule which provided many changes and updates to the guiding legislation of the EDA became effective. Part of the new regulation concerns the CEDS documents completed by planning partners across the U.S. A CEDS Content Guideline was produced as a reference for producing updated and compliant documents.

[EDA CEDS Content Guidelines – January 2015](#)

[CEDS Guidelines Webinar Recording](#)

The CEDS must include the sections listed below. A brief description of each tab:

- *Background:* A summary background of the economic conditions of the region
- *SWOT:* An in-depth analysis of the regional strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats.
- *Strategic Direction/Action Plan:* A direction built on the findings of the SWOT and incorporation of other regional plans. The action plan identifies stakeholders responsible for implementation, timetables, and opportunities for integration on other local, state, or federal funds.
- *Disaster Resilience:* A look into regional preparedness and ability to avoid, withstand, and recover from natural disasters, and economic shifts
- *Indicators:* A collection of data from the region used to explain current economic conditions.
- *Evaluation Framework:* Performance measures used to evaluate Buckeye Hills implementation of the CEDS and impact on the region.

For additional information regarding the CEDS document, content guidelines, requirements, preparation, and other topics, please visit <http://eda.gov/ceds/>.

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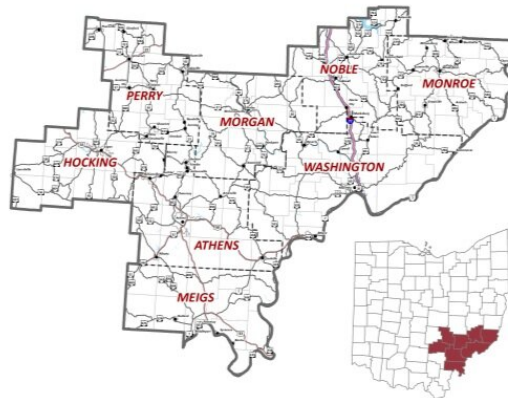
BACKGROUND

"A Summary Of The Economic Development Conditions In The Region"

The purpose of this section is to provide an abbreviated explanation of the current conditions in the region. Information in this section is supported by current and relevant data that gives context to the items described in the document. The key question to consider when reading this section is 'what have we done?'

Summary Background - June 2015

REGIONAL OVERVIEW



Buckeye Hills Regional Council is a council of governments formed in 1968 to provide administrative assistance to local governments in southeastern Ohio. This region encompasses 8 counties, 120 townships, and 57 municipalities. All eight counties in the region are part of the area acknowledged as Appalachian Ohio, which includes 32 counties in total, from Ashtabula County in the northeast, to Clermont County in the southwest.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

The Buckeye Hills region in southeastern Ohio is predominantly rural in nature, with large areas of the district covered by rolling hills and vegetation. The region is bordered by the Ohio River, which when coupled with relatively low elevations, causes many areas to be prone to regular flooding conditions. The table on the side illustrates the types of land cover present in the region according to Ohio Department of Natural Resources information.

The region is steeped in United States and Appalachian history, as it is home to the first permanent settlement in the

ODNR Land Cover		
Land Cover	Acres	% of Total
Agriculture/Open Urban	643,232	27.13%
Barren	7,847	0.33%
Nonforested Wetlands	5,697	0.24%
Open Water	19,278	0.81%
Shrub/Scrub	57,332	2.42%
Urban	26,813	1.13%
Wooded	1,610,317	67.93%
Total	2,370,517	100.00%

Northwest Territory (Marietta) and the first legislated public university as part of the Northwest Ordinance (Ohio University).

The rural nature of the region has lent itself to a historically strong economic sectors of mining, natural resource extraction, and manufacturing. More recently, counties in the region have become fast growing locations for oil and gas exploration and extraction from the Marcellus and Utica Shale formations that span the eastern counties of the district.

POPULATION

The population of the Buckeye Hills region as of the most recent U.S. Decennial Census (2010), was 260,084. Population growth in the region has been flat between 2000 and 2013, and is projected to remain flat or slightly declining until 2040.

Projected Region Population 2015-2040							
	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	Pct. Chg. '15-'40
Ohio	11,549,120	11,574,870	11,598,670	11,615,100	11,635,110	11,679,010	1.12%
BH-HVRDD	258,650	258,250	256,860	254,890	256,630	250,240	-3.25%
Athens	64,180	64,700	64,500	63,960	63,100	61,960	-3.46%
Hocking	29,540	29,480	29,150	28,620	28,220	27,870	-5.65%
Meigs	23,610	23,630	23,300	23,170	22,670	22,340	-5.38%
Monroe	14,420	14,160	13,900	13,590	13,290	13,120	-9.02%
Morgan	14,880	14,770	14,600	14,360	14,100	13,820	-7.12%
Noble	14,760	14,900	15,080	15,280	15,480	15,700	6.37%
Perry	36,850	37,610	38,710	39,690	40,770	41,710	13.19%
Washington	60,410	59,000	57,620	56,220	59,000	53,720	-11.07%

Perry county is projected to have the most significant population growth between 2015 and 2040, generally due to the northern portion of the county being within the driving shed of the Columbus Ohio metro area.

WOKRFORCE

In comparison to other regions in the state, and as a percentage (.07%) of the overall state workforce, the workforce of the Buckeye Hills region is small.

The regional labor force has seen some moderate fluctuations between 2010 and 2014, and is projected to remain relatively flat through 2040. Employment reached a five year low in 2014. The lower rates could be attributed to the sharp increase in oil and gas exploration and extraction activities, as well as the overall economic recovery taking place in the U.S. following the recession of 2008 – 2011.

Regional Civilian Labor Force						
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Ohio 2014
Civilian Labor Force	121,800	119,200	115,800	114,900	113,900	155,921,800
Employment	108,300	108,200	106,100	104,900	106,400	146,304,600
Unemployment	13,500	13,600	9,900	10,300	7,500	9,616,400
Unemployment Rate	11.1%	11.4%	8.5%	9.0%	7.6%	6.2%

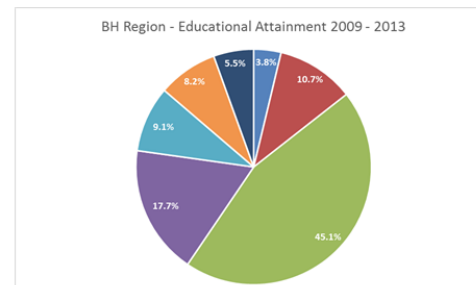
The table to the right represents individuals from age 15 to 69 as depicted in population projections produced by the State of Ohio. This age cohort was chosen as the potential employable population for the Buckeye Hills region based on the fact that many individuals seek employment directly out of High School.

Traditionally the sectors which employ the most workers in the Buckeye Hills region have been manufacturing, retail trade, health care, accommodation services, as well as local government.

Future Employable Population				
	2020	2030	2040	Proj. Change
BH-HVRDD	185,660	184,590	181,810	-3,850
Athens	50,860	49,420	50,310	-550
Hocking	20,510	19,230	18,220	-2,290
Meigs	16,470	15,620	14,990	-1,480
Monroe	9,290	8,300	8,010	-1,280
Morgan	9,980	9,340	9,060	-920
Noble	10,870	10,430	10,550	-320
Perry	26,350	26,040	27,120	770
Washington	41,330	37,620	35,980	-5,350

EDUCATION

The region has a wealth of educational resources, including all or parts of 28 school districts, and seven colleges. Between 2009 and 2013, the Buckeye Hills region has exceeded the state and federal rates of high school graduates, and individuals with associate's degrees; but lags behind in bachelors and advanced degrees.



HOUSING

Housing in the Buckeye Hills region has recently become a concern as oil and gas activities have brought new residents (both temporary and permanent) to the region. Similar natural resource booms in other parts of the country have led to housing hardships for existing low to moderate income residents, as they are forced out of existing housing by higher paying tenants.

Between 2009 and 2013 the region experienced an 86% occupancy rate of available housing units.

Regional Housing Information 2009 - 2013					
	Housing Units	Occupied	Owner Occ.	Renter Occ.	Vacant
Athens	26,279	22,181	12,561	9,620	4,098
Hocking	13,349	11,478	8,747	2,731	1,871
Meigs	11,093	9,560	7,596	1,964	1,533
Monroe	7,523	6,111	4,830	1,281	1,412
Morgan	7,862	6,204	4,794	1,410	1,658
Noble	6,030	4,883	3,919	964	1,147
Perry	15,129	13,793	9,721	4,072	1,336
Washington	28,217	25,029	18,843	6,186	3,188
Region	115,482	99,239	71,011	28,228	16,243

TRANSPORTATION

The Buckeye Hills region has multiple modes of transportation actively contributing to the regional economy, including highway, rail, maritime, and limited public transportation. The district contains over 8,900 total miles of roads, 182 miles of rail, 147 miles of Ohio River frontage, six transit agencies, as well as other transportation assets that benefit the region.

(For further information visit the the transportation section of this site – rtpo.buckeyehills.org, or contact Transportation Planning Coordinator Karen Pawloski.)

INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure assets in the region have always been a challenge for economic development activities. The region has challenging geography making some areas difficult to extend primary utilities in to including water, sewer, gas, and telecommunications. Regional organizations continue to work in coordination with local governments to identify and prioritize infrastructure needs for the district.

Most recently, efforts have been made to bolster broadband availability in the region. As of November 2014, the region has an 84.02% average of availability of non-mobile broadband service to households. This is 14.81% below the estimated state average (98.83%).

The Buckeye Hills region also lacks complete mobile telephone coverage, which is a hindrance to economic development activities.

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SWOT

"An In-Depth Analysis of Regional Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats"

One of the key activities undertaken by the CEDS committee is to assist in the completion of an updated SWOT analysis of the eight county region. This analysis should answer the question 'where are we now?'

Buckeye Hills staff has assembled baseline information to guide committee discussions. This information was gathered from relevant data sources, recent planning activities, and past CEDS documents. This is not an official document or part of the product, it is simply intended to provide context to committee discussions. For complete details click the SWOT Analysis document below.

[Buckeye Hills CEDS SWOT Background – March 2015](#)

[SWOT Analysis – August 2015](#)

Some highlights from the SWOT analysis are as follows:

STRENGTHS

Post Secondary Institutions – The Buckeye Hills region is home to four institutions of higher education, and one branch campus of an institution located outside of the region. Together these institutions are a crucial resource to the region providing many benefits; quality post-secondary education for local students, centers of innovation, workforce training partners, and high value employers that provide excellent wages and benefits for workers. According to the most recent Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) information available from Stats America, this cluster employs 4,825 workers and generates over \$232 million in wages. These values represent over 7% of all workers and 9.4% of all wages generated by all industries in the region.

35

Patents Obtained By Ohio University 2009 - 2013

To illustrate how important these bodies are to the capacity for innovation in the region, Ohio University secured 35 patents between 2009 and 2013, more than any other organization in the region during that time. Proctor and Gamble was second during this period with 29. (Clustermapping.us)

WEAKNESSES

41%

Economic Diversification – According to 2013 information provided by Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, there were 51,941 private sector jobs recorded in the eight county region.

Of those jobs, nearly 66% were in the following five categories; manufacturing, construction, retail trade, health care, and accommodation/food services. In two counties, Athens and

Of All Private Sector Jobs in Athens County are Retail or Food Service and Accomodation

A prime example of this was the closure of the Ormet Aluminum during late 2013. As the primary employer and largest tax contributor, when this company decided to close, nearly all residents and businesses in the county felt the impact. 700 workers were laid off in this event, which was nearly 20% of the private sector workforce in Monroe County. Much of that impact is still lingering today. In order for the Buckeye Hills region to grow and thrive, efforts must be made to diversify the portfolio of industry present in the district in order to avoid major downturns and negative consequences of any potential closures or reductions in force.

Hocking, these sectors make up over 70% of the private sector jobs recorded in 2013. Traditionally the counties in the region have been heavily invested in one of these primary industries as the main source of employment and wages for citizens. This leaves these areas vulnerable to shifts in market and employment conditions which are not under local control. When these events take place, local labor markets are generally devastated.

1 in 5

**Monroe County Workers
Affected by Ormet Closure**

OPPORTUNITIES

Growing Chemical Industry – The Buckeye Hills region is home to a historically strong chemical and metal manufacturing cluster. Members of the CEDS committee, and local economic development professionals feel that the chemical industry is uniquely positioned to benefit from developments in the ethane/ethylene supply chain being developed as a result of shale gas exploration activities in the area. The Buckeye Hills region is home to companies that can provide feed stock materials to ethylene and ethane processing facilities, as well as industries that can utilize the processed materials to make derivative, value added products. A recently funded Ethane Cracker Supply Chain Study completed in partnership between Buckeye Hills and the Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Council in Parkersburg West Virginia illustrated industry sectors participating in the supply chain that are already present in the region, as well as primary targets for attraction to the region. This information will allow community leaders to specifically target opportunities for development that have the highest chance for success based on the research that has been completed.

Ethylene Supply Chain - Industries With Strong Presence in the BHHVRDD Region		
NAICS	Industry	2014 Jobs
325211	Plastics Material and Resin Manufacturing	779
326199	All Other Plastics Product Manufacturing	150
213112	Support Activities for Oil and Gas Operations	382
484121	General Freight Trucking, Long Distance, Truckload	554
211111	Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Extraction	272
493110	General Warehousing and Storage	136
213111	Drilling Oil and Gas Wells	351
484110	General Freight Trucking, Local	270
484220	Specialized Freight (except Used Goods) Trucking, Local	228
484230	Specialized Freight (except Used Goods) Trucking, Long Distance	260
Total Jobs - Current		3382

Ethylene Supply Chain - Primary Targets for Attraction		
NAICS	Industry Segment	Industry
32511	Chemical Manufacturing	Petrochemical Manufacturing
32519	Chemical Manufacturing	Organic Chemical Manufacturing
32521	Chemical Manufacturing	Plastics & Resin Manufacturing
32552	Chemical Manufacturing	Adhesive Manufacturing
42469	Chemical Manufacturing	Chemical Wholesaling
32611	Plastics Manufacturing	Plastic Film, Sheet & Bag Manufacturing
32612	Plastics Manufacturing	Plastic Pipe & Parts Manufacturing
32613	Plastics Manufacturing	Laminated Plastic Manufacturing
32616	Plastics Manufacturing	Plastic Bottle Manufacturing
32619	Plastics Manufacturing	Miscellaneous Plastics Products
42461	Plastics Manufacturing	Plastics Wholesaling

At least two major ethylene/ethane processing facilities are being planned for location in the Buckeye Hills region, or very close to the borders. These facilities, should they come to fruition, could create thousands of construction jobs, hundreds of permanent jobs, as well as support other businesses and retail operations that will start as a result. These facilities represent a major opportunity for the region, the likes of which have not been seen for decades.

THREATS

Aging and Deteriorating Infrastructure – As described earlier, installing and maintaining infrastructure of all types in rural Ohio is typically more expensive due to geographic challenges that must be addressed. However the rural nature of the communities in the area make the dependence on that infrastructure high. This infrastructure is the lifeblood of economic and community development for the region. Without it, southeast Ohio could not compete with neighboring regions, the state, or the nation

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ACTION PLAN

"How Are We Going To Get There?"

Objective – Buckeye Hills staff will annually fulfill a minimum of 100 data requests fielded from local officials, community representatives, stakeholders, and local citizens, free of charge.

The action plan distills the vision, goals and objectives into concrete, specific actions to achieve the aspirations of the region's stakeholders. Building on the well-defined strategic direction, the action plan should explicitly describe how the region will work together to achieve its goals and measurable objectives, including activity ownership, timetables, and committed resources.

The Strategic Direction provided information about five prioritized goal areas that CEDS committee members and other stakeholders felt were of significance to the advancement of the regional economy. In this section we will discuss the selected objectives and actions related to each of those goal areas.

ENSURE THAT THE WORKFORCE OF THE BUCKEYE HILLS REGION HAS ALL THE SKILLS NECESSARY TO PARTICIPATE AND SUCCEED IN THE 21ST CENTURY WORKFORCE.

Objective – Buckeye Hills staff will participate in a minimum of five (5) outreach activities with local educational institutions or workforce organizations, within the next five years, to communicate the importance of timeliness, professionalism, and reliability as key qualities of a productive member of the workforce.

Objective – Buckeye Hills RTPO staff will select three (3) areas within the district for multimodal transportation system analysis by December 2015. Buckeye Hills will complete the multimodal analysis activities by June 2017.

Objective – Buckeye Hills will serve as an information resource between workforce organizations (WIB/WIA/One Stops) and local development professionals, providing at least six (6) points of contact annually detailing available programs, current needs, and new opportunities.

PROVIDE THE RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES OF SOUTHEASTERN OHIO WITH UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE THAT WILL SATISFY CURRENT DEMANDS, AND SCALE TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE FUTURE.

Objective – Buckeye Hills staff will complete and disseminate at least one (1) Local Government Innovation Fund study by winter 2016, outlining the potential scenarios for the utilization of low power and no power water treatment systems in communities of less than 250 residents.

Objective – Buckeye Hills RTPO staff will complete one (1) prioritized Transportation Improvement Plan project listing for the region to be submitted to ODOT by June 2017.

Objective – Buckeye Hills staff will hold at least one (1) informational/ training session per year in each county, providing current information regarding available public infrastructure financing and program guidelines.

WORK COLLABORATIVELY TO CONTINUE DIVERSIFYING THE REGIONAL ECONOMY TO LESSEN THE IMPACT OF ANY EXTERNAL THREATS TO THE TRADITIONAL ECONOMIC BASE.

Objective – Buckeye Hills staff will participate in the completion of one (1) study which will analyze the impacts of shale gas exploration in eastern and southeastern Ohio. This study will provide additional cluster analysis for future CEDS documents and will be completed by winter 2016.

SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESIDENTS TO CAPITALIZE ON MEANINGFUL CAREER OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THE BUCKEYE HILLS REGION.

Objective – Buckeye Hills staff will participate in a minimum of one (1) professional pathway outreach activity with a local educational institution per year, for each of the five years in the CEDS update cycle. A minimum of five (5) activities will be completed by April 2020.

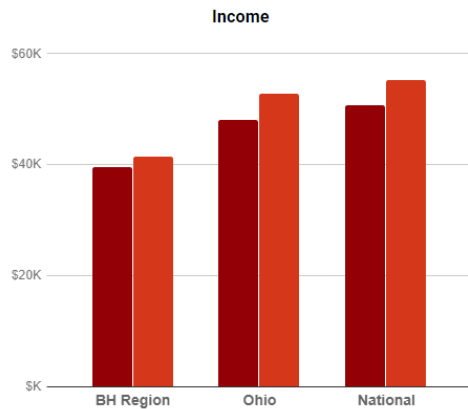
SERVE AS A RESOURCE AND A FACILITATOR TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES ADDRESSING QUALITY OF LIFE CHALLENGES FOR RESIDENTS.

Objective – Buckeye Hills staff will prepare and publish one (1) public data compendium containing regionally important data for use by local communities as they research solutions to pertinent issues. The first edition of this compendium will be released by winter 2015.

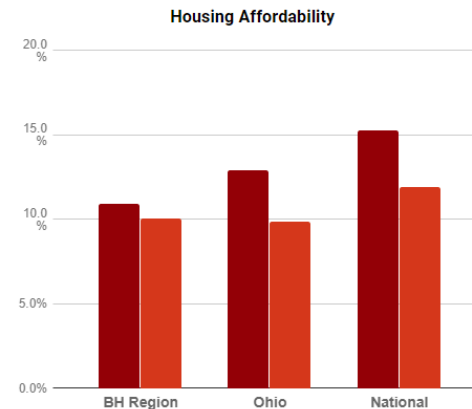
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INDICATORS

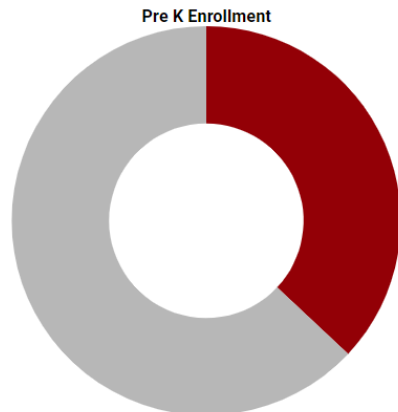
Below are a selection of economic and demographic indicators that have been identified by Buckeye Hills staff and the CEDS committee as important to understanding the regional economy of the area. Information here will be updated as data becomes available. To suggest an indicator or other data set for inclusion, please contact us.



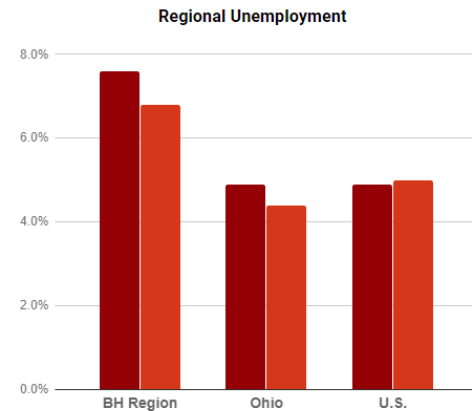
Median Household Income – This measure illustrates the total average income of all individuals in a household. For more information see table DP03, 5 Year Estimates in the American Community Survey.



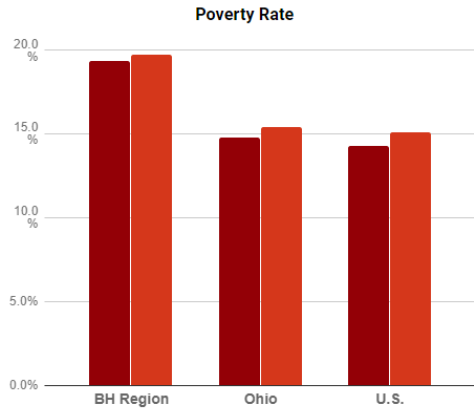
Housing Affordability – This indicates what percentage of households spend 30% of their income or more on housing costs. For more information see table DP04, 5 Year Estimates in the American Community Survey.



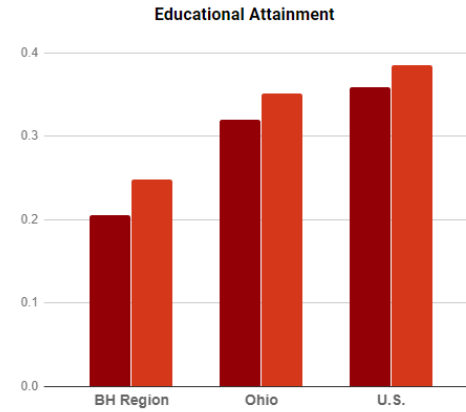
Pre K Enrollment – This describes the percentage of children ages 3 and 4 enrolled in pre-kindergarten schools. For more information see table S1401, 5 Year Estimates in the American Community Survey.



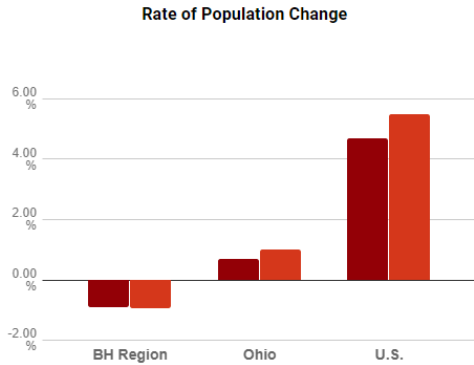
Regional Unemployment – This chart illustrates the regional unemployment as reported by the Ohio LMI website.



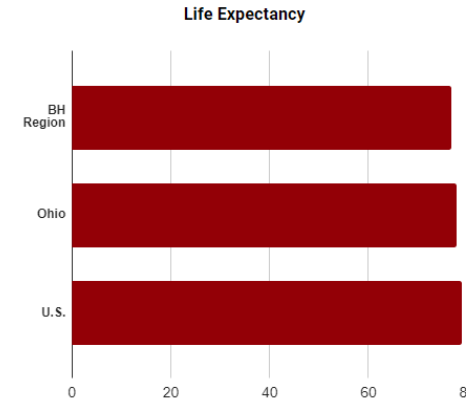
Poverty Rate – This indicates the percentage of people in poverty over the past 12 months, for those whom poverty status is determined. For more information see table DP03, 5 Year Estimates in the American Community Survey.



Educational Attainment – This indicates the percentage of residents with an Associates Degree or higher. For more information see table S1501, 5 Year Estimates in the American Community Survey.



Rate of Population Change - This table illustrates the percentage change of population since the 2010 Decennial Census. For more information see Census table PEPANNRES.



Life Expectancy – This table illustrates the expected life span at birth of residents in the region. For more information visit <http://www.measureofamerica.org/maps>.

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STRATEGIC DIRECTION

"Where Do We Want To Go?"

The strategic direction portion of the CEDS document should be the logical responses to the internal and external factors identified during the SWOT analysis. This section should address the regions assets and limitations as they pertain to capacity building within the region. The strategic direction should include a clearly defined vision with prioritized goals and measurable objectives.

Strategic Direction - August 2015

As a result of planning meetings held during spring and summer 2015, as well as conversations with local governments, community officials, and other stakeholders, a list of prioritized regional goal areas was developed for the region. The goal areas and objectives listed in the Action Plan are as follows:

WORKFORCE

INFRASTRUCTURE

ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

EDUCATION

COMMUNITY CHALLENGES

Members felt that issues in these areas presented the greatest challenge to the region, and require specific attention in order to mitigate potential negative impacts to the region. Further information about each can be found below.

WORKFORCE

Amid the many conversations held during the CEDS revision process with committee members, local officials, and other interested parties, it was clear that workforce issues were a vital concern. Of particular concern were three specific issues, addressing the need for soft skills, addressing transportation challenges, and creating an information network between workforce organizations and other regional parties.

INFRASTRUCTURE

In the rural eight county region, infrastructure continues to be a primary focus to ensure local communities are able to capitalize on economic development opportunities. Discussion during the planning process focused on the realization that new infrastructure development is being prioritized at a lower level by local parties than the maintenance and update of existing infrastructure. This seems to be true across all utilities, but especially true for critical water and waste water assets. Many of these systems are rapidly aging and deteriorating, providing challenges to system owners and municipalities to insure these systems remain functional and providing benefits to the region.

Several comments were also received about telecommunications infrastructure, and the practice of installing conduit or other telecommunication infrastructure in open trenches as projects are taking place. Buckeye Hills staff was not aware of this taking place in the region due to additional costs and contracting challenges during construction. When further information was sought about this topic from a local engineering firm, concerns were raised about damaging the telecommunications infrastructure during periods of repair or maintenance, which adds additional liability to those companies completing the work.

ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

During committee meetings, issues of economic diversification were discussed, and several points were widely agreed upon. Primarily, that rural communities – including those in the Buckeye Hills region, still largely depend on one or a few major employers as the economic anchor of the area. Along the same lines, many local economies coalesce around a single product or natural resource (polymers, metals, natural gas, etc.). These realities do pose a higher risk of disaster to those economies if any disruptions in those supply chains or markets does occur.

EDUCATION

Among the members of the committee, there was a perception that the Buckeye Hills region has a competitive advantage over other locations in the state in the area of educational assets (public schools, post-secondary institutions, and trade/training facilities). These facilities play an important role in ensuring that industries in the region are able to meet the demands of a changing workforce. The committee felt it was important that these institutions were continually included in the information network between local officials, economic development professionals, and workforce representatives.

It was also expressed that it is becoming increasingly important to educate students about pathways to careers, especially those careers that are projected to have employment shortfalls in the Buckeye Hills region. Many of these careers do not require a four year degree, but do require a worker that has certified trade skills that can be obtained at community colleges, career centers, or local specialized training programs.

COMMUNITY CHALLENGES

Members of the committee identified several community based issues related to economic development that are proving to be challenges for local officials and stakeholders. Based on these discussions and other interactions with local officials, housing is a growing concern for stakeholders in the region. Specifically the availability and affordability of housing. Concerns were voiced regarding some communities being very heavily populated with student housing, and fewer options for young professionals and families. Concerns also continue to grow regarding the affordability of rental housing across the region as oil and gas activities continue to grow. Some communities are reporting an increase in rental costs, as well as increased home prices for those looking to purchase. The concern is that as these costs rise, residents who need low cost housing will be unable to obtain it, causing a potential short term homeless situation. Members felt this particular issue was difficult to address, due to the lack of resources available to local governments to provide assistance, and the general lack of political motivation to become involved in housing projects.

Members also identified access to health care as a continuing concern, but did recognize that good progress on this had been made in at least two counties in the region during the past two years. New health care facilities have been established in Belpre Ohio (Washington County), and near Pomeroy Ohio (Meigs County), providing much needed services for residents of the area.

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DISASTER RESILIENCE

A successful economic plan document should address disaster recovery, both physical disasters and economic disasters, as a key topic of consideration when considering the economic future of the region.

The summary document linked below includes discussion and overall information about both physical and economic disasters in the Buckeye Hills region.

[Disaster Resilience Summary - August 2015](#)

[Disaster Resilience Maps - August 2015](#)

Physical Disaster – Basic analysis of the region and the record of historical events show that the eight county district is especially susceptible to flooding, wildfire, and strong storms. Since strong storms can occur at any location regardless of physical features or orientation, we will not be focusing on those. Both flooding and wildfire have physical attributes and qualities that directly affect the likelihood of occurrence, we will be examining those events.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT PHYSICAL DISASTER RESILIENCE IN BHRC](#)

Economic Disaster – Analysis of current and historic employment and industry data help us to understand the types of economic disasters that have befallen the Buckeye Hills region in the past, and how we may avoid or recover from similar events in the future.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT ECONOMIC DISASTER RESILIENCE IN BHRC](#)

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PHYSICAL DISASTER

"The Ability Of A Region To Prevent, Plan For, And Recover From A Major Physical Disaster That Would Cause Harm To The Regional Economy Is Essential."

The Buckeye Hills region of eastern and southeastern Ohio is primarily susceptible to three forms of physical disaster:

FLOODING

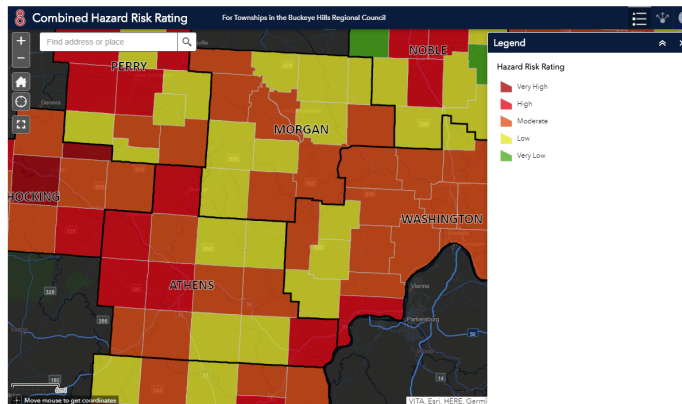
WILDFIRE

STRONG SEASON STORMS (DERECHO)

In order to help better communicate the physical disaster risks that exist for the eight county region, Buckeye Hills has compiled a Combined Physical Disaster Hazard Risk assessment. The assessment was completed by combining several pieces of publicly available data for each township in the region in order to generate a risk factor on a scale from 1 to 5. The factors considered were COHR Wildfire Risk Rating, FEMA floodplain locations, and the presence of high value public locations (police, fire, EMS, schools) within floodplain areas. The result can be viewed in the map below.

[Disaster Resilience Summary](#)

[Disaster Resilience Summary – Maps](#)



HAZARD MITIGATION PLANS

- [Athens County Emergency Operations Plan \(2013\)](#)
- [Hocking County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan \(2005\)](#)
- [Meigs County](#)
- [Monroe County](#)
- [Morgan County](#)
- [Noble County](#)
- [Perry County Hazard Mitigation Plan 2 3 \(2011\)](#)
- [Washington County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan \(2016\)](#)

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ECONOMIC DISASTER

"The Ability Of A Region To Prevent, Withstand, And Quickly Recover From Major Disruptions To It's Economic Base."

Economic development professionals are instrumental in building the ability for a region to withstand major disruptions to the economy. These partners are vital in helping to provide assistance in research and preparation, post incident coordination, information dissemination, and technical assistance with recovery funding efforts.

Resilience activities fall in to two categories: **'Steady-State'** and **'Responsive.'**

Examples of **'Steady State'** activities would be:

- Engaging in inclusive comprehensive planning efforts in your region;
- Undertaking efforts to diversify or broaden the economic base in your region;
- Developing and implementing business retention and expansion programs;
- Equipping the local workforce with skill sets that make it feasible to shift between jobs or industries if traditional employment bases are interrupted;
- Utilizing GIS mapping resources to track local data and information;
- Ensuring that telecommunications networks have adequate redundancy.

Examples of **'Responsive'** activities would be:

- Participating in pre-disaster planning activities to identify roles, responsibilities, key parties, and critical activities;
- Participating in on going communications to identify, monitor, and update needs of the business community;
- Establishing and utilizing capacities to rapidly communicate with key state, local, regional, and federal officials to communicate identified needs and assess impacts;
- Establish and publicize mechanisms that accommodate leadership succession to assist with short, intermediate, and long term needs.

Information on response activities and planning practices can be found in the Disaster Resilience Summary found [found here.](#)

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EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

"How Are We Doing And What Can We Do Better?"

The performance framework is the mechanism we will utilize to determine how we are progressing toward the established regional goals. This will be a measure of the objectives identified in the Strategic Direction, and the actions detailed in the Action Plan. Traditional measures of progress include jobs created, jobs retained, private investment leveraged, and other similar measures. These measures can include any number of attainable outcomes, such as broadband adoption, increase of skilled workers, increase in wages, the growth of innovation, etc.

The general evaluation framework for the 2015 CEDS is shown below. Updates to the progress will be posted as they occur. Traditional annual measures of regional jobs created and retained, as well as private investment will also be listed here after being reported to EDA via the annual **GPRA** form.

(Note: Information about these objectives originated in the Action Plan section of the CEDS.)

UPDATE:

The 2019 Annual Report has been released for review. The document includes the status of goals and objectives outlined below. For additional information on these topics, please review the [Annual Report](#) document.

CEDS Evaluation Framework				
Indicators of Regional Progress				
	Achieved	On-Target	Missed	In Process
Decrease Regional Unemployment by 2% by 2020.				
Increase Regional Employment 2% by 2020.				
Increase Regional Broadband Adoption 2% Annually by 2020.				
10% of BH Region has Bachelor Degree by 2020.				
Action Plan Evaluation Framework				
Workforce	Achieved	On-Target	Missed	In Process
Complete 5 Educational Outreach Activities in 5 Years.				
Complete 3 Multi Modal Analyses by June 2017.				
Collaborate with Workforce Organizations 6 Times Annually.				
Infrastructure				
Complete 1 LGIF Study by Winter 2016.				
Complete 1 TIP Listing by June 2017				
Hold 1 Funding Information Session per County Annually.				
Diversification				
Complete 1 Shale Gas Analysis Study by Winter 2016.				
Career				
Complete 5 Career Pathway Activities by April 2020.				
Community				
Publish 1 Data Compendium by Winter 2015.				
Complete 100 Data Requests Annually.				

2017 Scorecard

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