

General Information

I. Introduction

The Clean Ohio Conservation Fund is part of the Clean Ohio Fund originally proposed by Governor Bob Taft in his 2000 State of the State address. Clean Ohio is a \$400 million bond program instituted to preserve natural areas and farmland, protect streams, create outdoor recreational activities, and revitalize urban areas by cleaning up Brownfield sites. Over the next four years, \$150 million in grants will be awarded to eligible conservation projects, including the purchase of open spaces and the costs associated with making them accessible to the general public; and for the protection of stream corridors, providing wildlife habitat and reducing erosion.

Projects will be funded through the Ohio Public Works Commission with monies allocated to each of the 19 Public Works Districts. Each district's Integrating Committee appoints an 11 member Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC) to assist in the selection of Clean Ohio Conservation Fund projects. The members of the NRAC are selected from organizations with expertise in conservation, natural resource protection, parks and recreation, and environmental protection. Each council is responsible for developing the necessary criteria for rating projects and deciding how to allocate funds within the district.

Those who may apply for funds include local governments, park and joint recreational districts, conservancy districts, soil and water conservation districts, and non-profit organizations. Applicants must provide a 25% local match, which may consist of contributions of money by any person, any local or political subdivision, or the federal government, or of contributions in-kind by such entities through the purchase or donation of equipment, land, easements, interest in land, labor, or materials necessary to complete the project (Section 164.27, ORC).

This Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Guidelines have been created by the Buckeye Hills Regional Council District 18 NRAC Liaison to aid applicants in completing the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Application.

II. Full Application Submittal and Deadline

Applicants must submit twelve (**12**) **copies** of their Clean Ohio Conservation Fund application to the District 18 NRAC Liaison by 4:00 p.m. Friday, September 29, 2023 **AND** submit their application via the **OPWC WorksWise Portal**. The delivery address for the full application is:

**Buckeye Hills Regional Council
1400 Pike Street
Marietta, Ohio 45750**

** One photocopy should be kept by the applicant for future reference.*

The following materials are to assist the applicant in preparing a Clean Ohio Conservation fund application. Available supplies of most items are available upon request from Buckeye Hills or on the Buckeye Hills website at www.buckeyehills.org.

Application Guidelines and Supporting Documentation

Guidelines for preparing your application are available for your use in completing the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund application.

Evaluation Criteria

Examples of Attachments

Glossary

Subdivision Codes

Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Application Forms

The application forms can be found at <http://www.pwc.state.oh.us/Documents/PWC0002.pdf>.

You MUST go to the above link to get the most up to date application. You are also required to complete your application on the computer. Once you have completed the application, save, and print the application.

OPWC Workwise Portal

If you have not yet requested your log in information for the OPWC WorksWise Portal, requesting this information can be found at <https://www.pwc.ohio.gov/WorksWise>

IV. Assistance for Applicants

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Michelle Hyer, District 18 NRAC Liaison at mhyer@buckeyehills.org or contact any NRAC committee member in your county.

Assembling the Application

Submission requirement: OPWC WorksWise Portal **AND**
 Twelve (12) copies of applicant's full application should be submitted to the District 18 NRAC Liaison; secured with a binder clip and **arranged in the following order:**

Application	Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Application Forms Pages 1-6 (in order)
Required Attachments For all Projects	
Scoring Methodology: Must be completed by applicant and submitted with application.	
Table of Contents: Must include page numbers	
Attachment A	Project Emphasis: Provide the project specifics. Indicate precisely what the project emphasizes as defined by Section 164.22 (A) (B) of the Ohio Revised Code.
Attachment B	Authorization by the Governing Body of the Applicant: A certified copy of the legislation by the governing body of the applicant authorizing the designated office to submit this application and execute contracts.
Attachment C	Chief Financial Officer's Certification of Funds: A statement from the applicant's chief financial officer certifying that all local share funds required for the project will be available on or before the dates listed in the Project Schedule section.
Attachment D	Formal Detailed Estimate of the Project's Costs: An estimate of project cost provided by an civil engineer, landscape architect, or other professional. For land acquisition, an appraisal by a ODOT prequalified appraiser who is credentialed in value analysis must be submitted to OPWC prior to closing.
Attachment E	Cooperation Statement: An agreement, which identifies the fiscal and administrative responsibilities of each participant.
Attachment F	Resolution of Support: Refer to section 164.23 (B) (1) of the Ohio Revised Code for guidance. (Included in Exhibit 3)
Attachment G	OPWC Deed Restrictions: Your copy must include all the wording in the Example provided. (included in Exhibit 3)
Attachment H	Restricted Appraisal Report: Must be completed by an ODOT prequalified appraiser.
Additional Attachments to be Included If Needed For Your Project	
Attachment I	Participation by State Agencies: Identify any state agencies that will provide assistance to this particular project.
Attachment J	Coordination of project among local political subdivisions if the project involves more than one subdivision or district.
Attachment K	Supporting documentation such as additional project description, photographs, and/or other information to assist NRAC in ranking your project.
Attachment K	Proof of notification that residents have been notified that they could be displaced
Attachment M	Additional information for any buildings present (see Changes and/or Highlights of the scoring methodology)