

# 2018 CEDS Annual Report

## Overview

During 2015, Buckeye Hills released a fully rewritten CEDS document for the eight county service region in southeastern Ohio. The revised CEDS provided information generated and gathered from a committee of economic development and community representatives from across the region. The document, accessible online at <http://ceds.buckeyehills.org>, provided content and discussion regarding the background of the region, a SWOT analysis, strategic direction, an action plan, information on disaster resilience, as well as a framework for evaluating progress toward the goals formed by the CEDS committee. This annual report will provide updates for all of those areas, as well as a general discussion of conditions and circumstances encountered in the Buckeye Hills region over the past year, as well as an outlook for the immediate future.

Background information on the creation and refinement of the goals and objectives discussed below is available on the Buckeye Hills CEDS website referenced above.

Other planning documents available from Buckeye Hills include a Comprehensive Long Range Transportation Plan available [here](#); and the Area Agency on Aging 8 Area Plan available [here](#). Buckeye Hills intends to combine the CEDS, the Comprehensive Long Range Transportation Plan, and the Area Agency on Aging 8 Area Plan, in to a single planning document covering the activities of the Buckeye Hills Regional Council by early 2019. This will streamline internal planning processes and encourage greater collaboration by regional partners and entities in the ongoing planning process.

## Regional Developments

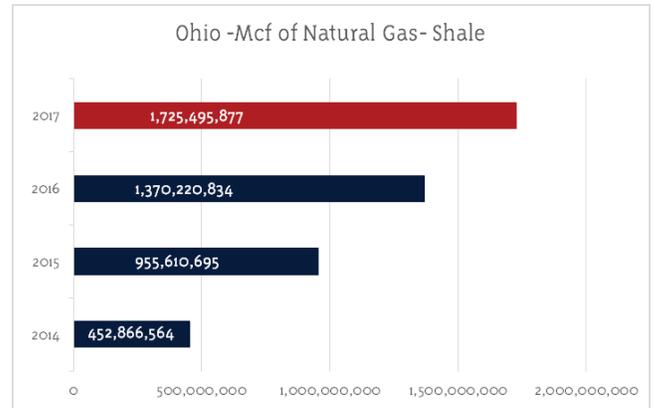
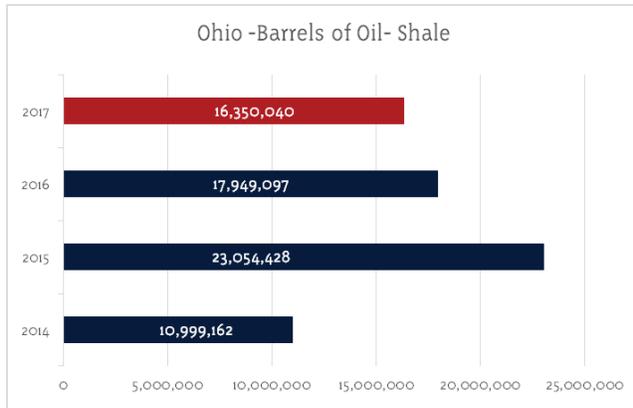
### Oil and Gas

The Buckeye Hills region continues to benefit from the production of oil and gas resources. While exploration and production has largely slowed from the torrid pace of 2007 – 2012, the industry remains healthy, with location quotients in related sectors well over 1 for multiple counties in the region. An examination of five key clusters closely related to the oil and gas industry in the region (machinery, metals, chemicals, wood, and energy) show very strong location quotients, and a regional mix values indicating a local competitive advantage in those industry clusters.

	Location Quotients				Shift Share Analysis			
	2010	2014	2016	% Change	National	Industry	Regional	Total
Machinery	0.11	0.45	0.64	307%	26	-8	529	547
Metals	0.42	1.22	1.44	191%	42	-26	962	978
Chemicals	0.77	2.28	1.58	194%	51	-42	1,664	1,672
Wood	0.87	1.19	1.02	37%	22	0	365	387
Energy	1.03	2.74	3.96	166%	102	107	2,689	2,898

While price volatility in the global energy market continues to suppress widespread development across the Appalachian basin, activity in counties including Monroe and Noble remains brisk.

According to recent information published by the Ohio State University<sup>1</sup>, Ohio is the 6<sup>th</sup> largest natural gas producing state in the nation, and the 14<sup>th</sup> leading producer of crude oil<sup>2</sup>. The graphs below illustrate natural gas and oil production in Ohio since 2014<sup>3</sup>.



Remaining largely unchanged since last year, Southeastern Ohio continues to struggle with the availability of natural gas capacity via existing distribution systems. Since last year Buckeye Hills has held multiple discussions with partners including Dominion Gas and the Southeastern Ohio Port Authority to help better understand this challenge. Resulting from these conversations is a recommendation for small, incremental developments where commercial levels of natural gas needs are present and can be delivered only as needed. This avoids the potential of allocating precious pipeline supply for activities that may be speculative in nature. This approach poses a major hurdle to areas of the Buckeye Hills region that are working to capitalize on current investment opportunities. Conversations around this topic are continuing on all sides as a long-term solution is sought.

Overall as discussed in previous years, oil and shale gas remains a competitive advantage for eastern and southeastern Ohio and remains the greatest economic opportunity for the region.

## Housing

Housing has been a growing concern among Buckeye Hills member communities and regional partners over the past year. Housing and demographic changes continue to play a deciding role in the economic future of the Buckeye Hills region. The region has seen an overall population decline in the last decade which has affected housing quality, supply, and availability. According to the U.S. Census bureau and Ohio Housing Finance Agency, from 2010-2016 the Buckeye Hills eight county region has seen an average population loss of around 2.5% per county<sup>4</sup>. The declining population is also aging, with an average age of approximately 42. Noble and Monroe counties have two of the

<sup>1</sup> Bowen, N., Romich, E., and Civittolo, D., "Building Sustainable Communities in Ohio's Shale Region - Leveraging Manufacturing Clusters and Local Assets with Strategic Planning: 2015 Eastern Ohio 25 County Regional Report". Columbus: Ohio State University. (Community and Energy Series Technical Report 16-01, 2016) [Editor-Review]

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Energy Information Administration. Ohio Natural Gas Gross Withdrawals (3/30/2018)

<sup>3</sup> Ohio DNR – Utica Shale Fourth Quarter Production Totals <http://oilandgas.ohiodnr.gov/division-updates/post/ohios-utica-shale-fourth-quarter-production-totals-released>.

<sup>4</sup> Ohio Housing Finance Agency: Ohio Housing Needs Assessment <https://ohiohome.org/news/documents/2018-HousingNeedsAssessment.pdf>

highest median ages in the state. The aging and declining population is likely tied to a lack of new residential housing developments and a decrease in average home property values. As of 2016, median home property values in the Buckeye Hills region were approximately \$97,000 compared to a state average of approximately \$130,000. With continued oil and gas development opportunities still available to the region, Buckeye Hills remains hopeful this trend will reverse.

Affordable Housing is also greatly affecting the region, specifically Athens County. With a major 4-year university, Ohio University, being located in Athens, there is a large demand for off campus student housing. Athens County has the highest rate of renter households in the whole Appalachian Ohio region. The student housing market has artificially inflated the value of residential housing stock, reduces the availability of single family rental properties, and has led to growth in multi-tenant student housing that has left a number of homes in disrepair or abandoned. The City of Athens and Ohio University convened an Affordable Housing Task Force to address this problem. Through the task force, the City of Athens and Ohio University are seeking creative, real-world solutions to their housing challenges. Buckeye Hills is committed to being proactive in the region as housing issues are identified and addressed.

## Site Development

From 2014-2016, Buckeye Hills was a partner in EDA's national Make it in America Challenge program, with a goal of updating and adding commercial and development sites to the State of Ohio's Jobs Ohio Site Selection tool<sup>5</sup>. This task was undertaken to address the tremendous competitive disadvantage Appalachian Ohio faced purely based on the number of sites available for project lead consideration. Prior to the project, Southeast Ohio faced a deficit of sites available for consideration by a margin in some cases of 10 to 1.

Through this program, Southeast Ohio was able to double their number of active commercial and developable properties listed. Community economic development leaders, realtors, and Buckeye Hills worked together to update, add, delete, and submit sites to the inventory. Southeast Ohio now has an updated site inventory, including one of the only nine Site Ohio Authenticated<sup>6</sup> sites in the state located in Hocking County. Buckeye Hills also created an interactive web mapping application called the APEG Southeast Ohio Property Inventory<sup>7</sup>. This tool allows for users to find and map a number of different items including parcel information, demographic layers such as labor force and unemployment, floodplain data, and drive time information.

In the time since this project has concluded, a new challenge has been identified by local economic development professionals; an acute lack of shovel ready sites and move in ready facilities. While sites meeting general criteria for size, access, and proximity generally exist in the region, nearly all of them lack utility infrastructure, or move in ready buildings. The creation or reevaluation of funding programs that allow for targeted speculative investment could be a major asset in this situation. Conversations regarding these types of funding mechanisms are currently ongoing, and

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<sup>5</sup> Jobs Ohio Site Selection tool: <http://ohio.zoomprospector.com/>

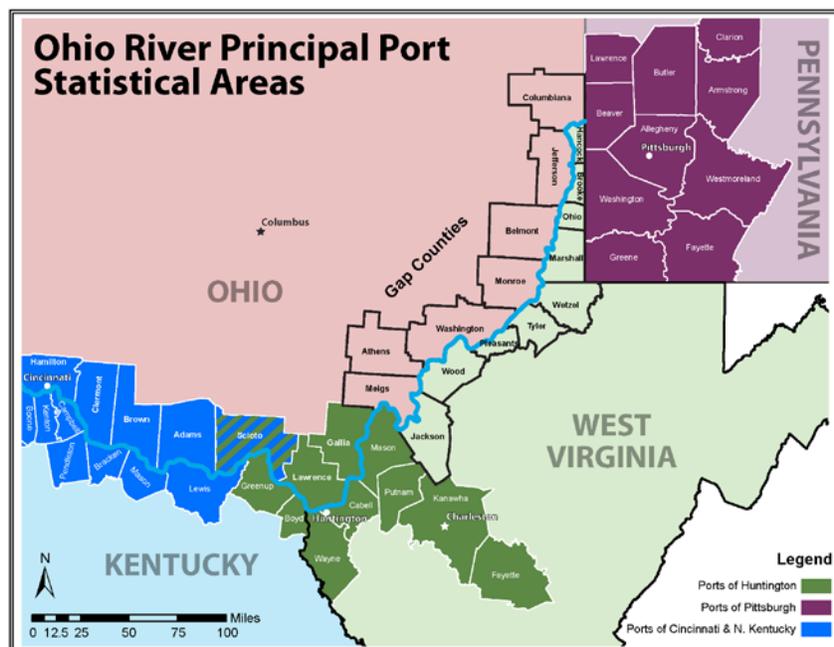
<sup>6</sup> The Site Ohio authentication process identifies sites in Ohio ready for development day one. All sites are construction ready with utilities to the park boundaries including water, sewer, electricity, natural gas and fiber. Each site undergoes a usability audit to ensure the site is intuitively positioned for optimal access, allowing businesses to hit the ground running and get to market faster.

<sup>7</sup> APEG Southeast Ohio Property Inventory: <http://bhgis.org/apeg/propertyinventory/#/>

Buckeye Hills will continue to advocate for these resources to be available to our local governments and economic development professionals.

## Transportation

During early 2017, the Ohio Department of Transportation requested that the Buckeye Hills Regional Council take a leading role in convening a group of maritime focused businesses from the Ohio River valley to discuss the creation of a statistical port district as part of their RTPO activities. The initial meeting was held in February 2017, with approximately 40 parties in attendance. At this meeting, representatives from ODOT, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the United States Coast Guard, and private businesses involved in shipping and logistics on the Ohio River discussed the benefits of such a designation, and the effort necessary to obtain it. Following this meeting it was decided that the port district designation, which provides local data collection on maritime cargo, commodities, tonnages, origins/destinations, and other pertinent information was crucial to economic development and planning efforts in the region. The effort has been ongoing since this time and has expanded to include regional planning commissions and transportation planning organizations in both Ohio and West Virginia, as well as counties and communities on both sides of the river. As of this report, Buckeye Hills is continuing discussions with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding the allocation of planning funding necessary to complete the studies required for designation. Buckeye Hills anticipates to be underway with the required study activities by fall 2018.



## Education/Workforce

During the summer of 2017, Buckeye Hills Regional Council and its EDD partners became deeply involved in traditional workforce development programming and activities in Appalachian Ohio. The Ohio General Assembly re-appropriated traditional funding made available to EDDs for infrastructure and similar projects, to other organizations while making available new funding derived from upfront casino license fees. This funding is stipulated by the Ohio Constitution for use limited to direct job

training and workforce development activities. The result of this change was that each Appalachian Ohio EDD had \$1 million in state funding to allocate to eligible workforce development activities. Initial meetings in November 2017 with local companies, workforce development agencies, and other local officials highlighted the need for funding focused on five areas; incumbent worker training, new worker training, retraining, apprenticeships/fellowships/internships, and related career pathway/educational activities. In December 2017, Buckeye Hills initiated the first round of a new regional job training program and received 42 applications, for over \$4.4 million in requests. Buckeye Hills was able to recommend 9 of those projects for funding. Final agreements for that funding is currently being developed. The second round of applications closed on April 10, 2018, with 16 more workforce projects seeking funding.

Buckeye Hills was also the recipient of a \$1.2 million ARC POWER project for an effort entitled, the 'Innovation Gateway Network of Appalachian Ohio.' This project is a partnership between Buckeye Hills, Hocking College, Building Bridges to Careers (BB2C) and the Village of Somerset (Perry County). The purpose of this project is to provide resources to Appalachian communities that will help hard to reach/ hard to employ individuals access educational and professional resources intended to assist them in ascending the education and/or career ladder. These services are made available at the aforementioned 'Innovation Gateway' facilities, which also include fully equipped maker spaces, business incubation services, co working options, technology centers, and other related resources. These locations are key community hubs for residents at all levels to learn and build employable skills, while simultaneously having access to wrap-around social support services available as well. This project is building on the work Buckeye Hills has been participating in with local educational institutions to more fully develop career pathway options for residents of all ages. Successfully diversifying the regional economy and retaining young workers is more likely to be achieved by demonstrating the availability of career opportunities that currently exist in the eight county region.

## Broadband

Broadband continues to be a key topic of concern among Buckeye Hills members and communities. As discussed in previous Annual Reports, Connect Ohio was a key resource in the effort to spread information about service availability, adoption, and larger technology adoption. Unfortunately funding for Connect Ohio was not renewed by the Ohio General Assembly in late 2016, leaving the office largely dormant. This poses significant challenges to Ohio broadband deployment and development efforts, as there is no updated service mapping, technology adoption, price surveying, or other key indicators that are necessary to make a strong case for private investment and public partnership.

Despite this setback there have been several developments of interest in the Broadband arena. In early 2018 Buckeye Hills reseeded its Broadband Committee to help facilitate the development of a project focused on targeting U.S. Route 33 from Groveport (Franklin County) to Belpre (Washington County) as a new high tech corridor. An ad-hoc group led by partners from the Athens County Economic Development Council, Ohio University, and Buckeye Hills are currently developing a funding proposal as part of the ARC POWER program, seeking technical assistance funds to further develop the concept.

During April 2018, the Ohio House of Representatives passed HB 378, which established a \$50 million grant fund to extend broadband services to underserved residential areas of Ohio. In a move to address the fact that broadband networks and service providers are generally private businesses,

those parties are eligible to apply for this funding along with local governments and nonprofit organizations. Buckeye Hills provided written proponent testimony for earlier versions of this bill, and has been working with representative from Connect Ohio, Connected Nation, and the Ohio General Assembly on details of the proposed program. A companion bill has been introduced in the Ohio Senate with optimism that it may pass prior to 2018 summer recess.

Following up on a project reported in the 2017 Annual Report; the Buckeye Hills Broadband Adoption project was successfully submitted to the Appalachian Regional Commission for funding consideration as part of the POWER program in 2017. While this application was competitive, necessary matching funds were unable to be secured in a timely manner.

## Labor Force

Employment and unemployment continue to be a challenge for the Buckeye Hills region. Although county unemployment averages were down in 2017 as compared to prior years, three of the five highest unemployment rates in Ohio continue to be found in the Buckeye Hills region. Monroe County led the state with an 8.5 percent unemployment rate (down from 10.9 percent), followed by Meigs County at 8.1 percent, and Noble County in fifth at 7.2 percent. The remainder of the region ranged between 6.8 and 5.4 percent.

Taking an alternative view of this condition, according to recent statistics from QCEW, the Buckeye Hills region grew by just over 8,000 total jobs between 2010 and 2016. Which is far fewer in comparison to partner organizations OMEGA and Eastgate, which grew by over 13,000 and 11,000 respectively. While the overall number was low, the percentage of change in the region was 8%, far greater than the aforementioned OMEGA and Eastgate. These factors indicate that growth is happening in sectors outside the machinery, metals, chemicals, wood, and energy sectors, which are traditional drivers for the region. The conclusion here is that the Buckeye Hills regional economy appears to be diversifying away from dependence on the traditional sectors mentioned earlier. While those industries continue to be strong, other industries are growing at a similar pace. Buckeye Hills will continue to work with research partners at the Ohio State University to monitor the continued impacts of oil and gas on these employment considerations, while also continuing to focus on existing programs that are focused on increasing employment opportunities for residents of the eight county region.

## Resilience

Buckeye Hills continues to monitor the factors regarding the susceptibility to physical disaster for communities in the eight county region. A general township level analysis of physical hazards is available for the entire region at <http://ceds.buckeyehills.org/disaster-resilience/physical-disaster/>. This analysis is based on the identification of three major physical threats; flooding, wildfire, and strong seasonal storms.

In the event of a physical disaster, Buckeye Hills would play a role as a local resource that could offer our building and parking area for equipment and vehicle staging if necessary. Buckeye Hills would also play a role in working with first responders to identify and evacuate at-risk senior residents that are clients of the PASSPORT Medicaid waiver program. Partnerships to facilitate this search and rescue activity are already in place. Buckeye Hills would also play the role of a convening party, data/mapping analyst and a resource locator for physical disaster recovery activities.

In regard to economic disasters, Buckeye Hills works regularly to ensure that communities in the region are making best efforts to diversify local economies against these threats. Historically the Buckeye Hills region has been dominated by several large employers providing significant levels of employment and tax base for local communities. As global markets have evolved, several of these entities have ceased to exist, causing temporary disruptions in the local labor force. Buckeye Hills regularly works with state and federal agencies to provide funding and assistance to projects that will provide new jobs and opportunities for residents of the region, as well as establishing and reinvesting in critical infrastructure. This crucial pre-disaster role of identifying resources and funding opportunities for projects and activities in the region is part of the daily charge for staff. Buckeye Hills also works to be abreast of new program opportunities that might provide additional resources to activities already underway in the region.

Unfortunately, our region has had extended experience with both physical and economic disasters, and many local parties are accustomed to working with these eventualities and making the preparations necessary for a successful recovery.

## Goal Areas and Action Plan Progress

During 2015, Buckeye Hills collaborated with local leaders and industry partners to craft an economic action plan for the region. This plan included goals and objectives centered around five core topics for the region; **workforce, infrastructure, economic diversification, education, and community challenges**.

Sections below will detail the progress made over the past year toward each of the objectives developed to further the stated goals of the region. This document represents the second Annual Report issued based on the 2015 revised document.

### **Ensure that the workforce of the Buckeye Hills region has all the skills necessary to participate and succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

Status: **Achieved**

During the past year, Buckeye Hills staff has completed **two (2)** (project period total - **eight (8)**) educational outreach activities with local educational institutions; three visits to Marietta College, and one visit to Washington State Community College. During these visits, Buckeye Hills staff not only shared expertise on topics of interest (GIS, data research, analysis techniques, regional planning perspectives, economic development issues, Appalachian Challenges, etc.) but also discussed the importance of soft skills to maximize employability.

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.

Status: **Achieved**

During December 2015, Buckeye Hills selected three communities for further multimodal transportation system analysis as part of the RTPo work plan for 2016/2017. The communities selected were **the City of Logan (Hocking County), the Village of Middleport (Meigs County), and the Village of Woodsfield (Monroe County)**. The purpose of this additional analysis is to identify impediments to multimodal travel (specifically pedestrian and bike access) and recommend potential solutions to identified barriers and gaps. Following the completion of these analyses, it was determined that a more robust data collection effort would be required to make funding recommendations based on these observations.

Work on these items was completed in June 2017. This concept may be revisited in future RTPo work plans.

**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.

**Status:** **On Target/ In Process**

Over the past year, Buckeye Hills staff has attended **six (6)** (project period total – **fourteen (14)**) workforce related meetings, two as part of the MOVRC – Opt In program, one with Ohio Development Services Agency, one with OMEGA and WIOA representatives, one WIOA Area 15 board meeting, and one workforce partner meeting held at Buckeye Hills. While remaining active in the MOVRC Opt In group meetings and annual summit, Buckeye Hills staff also remains involved in the IT sector subgroup; providing insight on IT and technical related issues and employment opportunities in the mid-Ohio valley. Buckeye Hills staff also serves on the Building Bridges to Careers (BB2C) board; an organization focused on developing career pathway strategies and programming for Washington County students. Buckeye Hills also serves as a curriculum and workforce advisor to both the Washington State Career Center Geoscience Program, and the Washington County Career Center Business and Information Technologies program (adult technical training). These efforts are in addition to the dozens of individual meetings and contacts during the course of the year where issues, opportunities, and programming have been discussed with interested local parties. Buckeye Hills staff will continue to seek out new opportunities to interact with partners impacting workforce issues, and will continue to maximize opportunities to share information with partners across the region.

**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.

**Status:** **Achieved**

This project was a partnership with staff from Rural Action in Athens Ohio. As of March 2017, this report is complete and available to the public on the Rural Action website. The report can be accessed at: <http://ruralaction.org/wwtreport/>.

**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.

Status: **Achieved**

The Buckeye Hills RTIP document covering fiscal years 2018-2021 was completed in April 2017, and approved by the Executive Committee by resolution on May 1, 2017. The RTIP project listing and all related information can be found on the Buckeye Hills RTPO website at: <http://rtpo.buckeyehills.org/rtip/>. The RTIP is now a regular part of the RTPO work plan, and will be updated every two years.

**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.

Status: **On Target/ In Process**

During spring 2017 Executive Director Misty Casto met with each board of county commissioners to share with them a customized statement of return on investment for projects and programs administered by Buckeye Hills in each county during the previous year. This also presents an opportunity for Buckeye Hills staff to learn about upcoming projects or other concerns that local leaders may have. Buckeye Hills also hosts two semi-annual general policy council meetings where updates on programs and projects are presented to a large forum of local partners.

Historically Buckeye Hills has hosted small informal informational meetings in each county to inform local leaders and partners of program opportunities and initiatives taking place in the region; as well as to hear about local interests and concerns that Buckeye Hills may be able to assist with. Buckeye Hills is still anticipating the 'county caucus' effort as of this report. Buckeye Hills has placed a focus on streamlining multiple planning efforts at the agency to better serve constituents and members, and to encourage more active participation.

**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.

Status: **Achieved**

Buckeye Hills participated in an EDA funded shale impact study, in partnership with the Ohio State University, the Ohio Mid-eastern Governments Association, the Eastgate Regional Council of Governments, and the Northeast Ohio Four County Regional Planning and Development Organization. The effort was focused on helping communities in southeastern and eastern Ohio anticipate, prepare, maximize, and recover from impacts of oil and shale gas exploration activities. The final reports and resulting CEDS documentation were released in summer 2016. The final report including maps, graphs, and other research completed by the partner agencies is available on the [Ohio State University Website](#).

This partnership continues to pay dividends for the 25 county study area of eastern Ohio, as Ohio State University has continued to provide data research and analysis related to this topic to the participating EDD partners. Further information and materials resulting from this effort can be found on the [Energize Ohio website](#).

**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.

Status: **Achieved**

Over the past year, Buckeye Hills staff has made **nine (9)** (project period total – **twenty one (21)**) professional pathway outreach visits with local students. Staff conducted 2 visits with 7<sup>th</sup> grade students at Marietta Middle School, two visits with 3<sup>rd</sup> graders at Putnam Elementary School (Marietta), four visits to Fort Frye High School, and one visit to Warren Local Middle School. During these visits Buckeye Hills staff discusses career opportunities in local communities and organizations, while also sharing personal stories of how they came to be interested and employed in their current field of expertise.

**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.

Status: **Missed/ In Process**

This item was completed and deployed during summer 2016. Buckeye Hills completed an agency rebranding effort in 2017, which included a new agency website. Staff continues to work to incorporate this tool in to the new site, and to ensure that it meets the changing data needs of our partners. The site can be accessed at: <http://buckeyehills.org/development/data-compendium/>. To bolster this effort, interactive charts showing pertinent data indicators for consideration during the planning process taking place in the region have been added to the CEDS website. The indicators can be accessed at: <http://ceds.buckeyehills.org/indicators/>. Indicator information on the CEDS website has been updated with the most current data available. Past information was also preserved for the purposes of comparison, based on feedback from CEDS committee members.

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.

Status: **On Target/ In Process**

Buckeye Hills is a state data center partner recognized by the U.S. Census Bureau. In the 2016 CEDS Annual Report, for the period July 2014 to July 2015 115 data requests were reported. To simplify reporting of these requests, a running total since April 30, 2015 will be reported in this and future annual reports. To date approximately **308** requests have been filled for requesting parties. The goal as described in the objective is to fulfill 500 requests during the five year CEDS period.

Overall the number of simple data requests has been declining (population, income, etc.) due to the successful implementation of easily accessible online resources, but the complexity of the data requests received, along with the time necessary to complete them has been increasing. GIS

mapping and related spatial data remains the most frequently requested information. Buckeye Hills will continue to fill as many data requests from communities and partners in the region as possible.

## CEDS Evaluation Framework

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	Achieved	On-Target	Missed	In Process
Complete 1 LGIF Study by Winter 2016.				
Complete 1 TIP Listing by June 2017				
Hold 1 Funding Information Session per County Annually.				
Diversification	Achieved	On-Target	Missed	In Process
Complete 1 Shale Gas Analysis Study by Winter 2016.				
Career	Achieved	On-Target	Missed	In Process
Complete 5 Career Pathway Activities by April 2020.				
Community	Achieved	On-Target	Missed	In Process
Publish 1 Data Compendium by Winter 2015.				
Complete 100 Data Requests Annually.				

The Evaluation Framework table (above) has been updated to provide a quick snapshot of progress toward the stated goals and objectives from the CEDS Action Plan. As of April 2018, **six objectives have been achieved, three were on target, and one was missed.**

The regional indicators for the region remain to be generally on target and in progress.