



# Energize Ohio Newsletter



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**JULY 23, 2012 (7-8 PM)**

Wind Energy  
Development  
Xenia, OH

**JULY 24, 2012**

Renewable Energy  
Workshop  
Community Development  
Society Annual Conference  
Cincinnati, Ohio

**JULY 24, 2012 (7-9 PM)**

Pipeline Easement &  
Right-of-Way Agreements  
Secrest Senior Center  
201 High Street,  
Senecaville Ohio 43780  
(Must Register By July 20th @  
740-489-5300)  
\$5.00 fee

## New OSU Extension Signature Program

### **Energize Ohio- Building Ohio's Energy Future**

Welcome to the first Energize Ohio Signature Program Newsletter. This newsletter will be published quarterly to inform OSU Extension Educators and Administration on upcoming events, program impacts, and ongoing program development efforts. Continuing communication will both promote the signature program and foster new partnership opportunities.

#### **Energy is a Critical Ohio Issue.**

According to the U.S. Department of Energy 2011 EIA Annual Energy Outlook Report, U.S. electricity production will need to increase by nearly 30 percent by 2030 to meet growing demand. There are a number of factors, such as increasing population, environmental concerns, and the desire to minimize dependency on foreign resources, that are influencing energy policy development, industry regulation, and market investment. New policy and technology has positioned renewable energy and shale gas development to play a pivotal role in Ohio's energy future. The Energize Ohio curriculum demonstrates the ability of OSU Extension to address educational needs associated with energy as one of Ohio's most pressing critical issues.

#### **What is Energize Ohio?**

The Energize Ohio curriculum currently has two primary initiatives including 1) large scale renewable energy development and 2) shale gas development. The existing curriculum

consists of worksheets, narrated PowerPoint presentations, website blog discussions, magazine articles, a workshop/simulation exercise, and fact sheets. The Energize Ohio team members have also had conversations on developing curriculum for a third initiative focusing on energy efficiency. Our team is currently working with Comm Tech to redesign the [Energize Ohio Website](#) which will host all curricular materials in the future.

#### **How does this Curriculum Help Local Communities?**

Energize Ohio is designed to enhance community leaders' and local residents' knowledge of energy drivers and development to promote best practices and informed decision-making on the implementation of sustainable energy strategies for Ohio's communities.

#### **How do we Partner with Local Extension Offices to Deliver this Program?**

The Energize Ohio Program is designed to be flexible and meet local needs. Extension Offices can determine which programs address their communities' concerns and work with the Energize Ohio team on a plan of action. The program can be delivered by local Extension personnel with support from the Energize Ohio team in a "train-the-trainer" approach, building local capacity for future curriculum delivery.



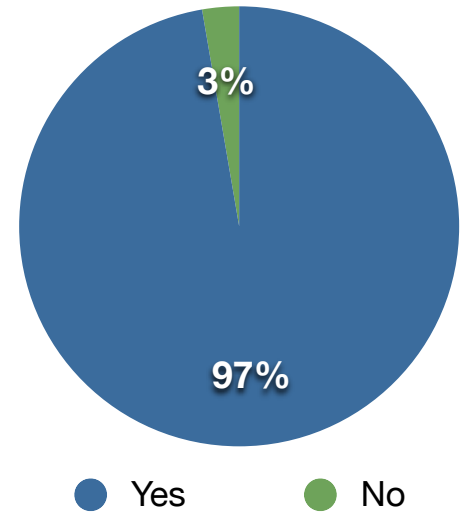
**Jackson Center, Shelby County Program  
Wind Energy Development**

On June 12, 2012 OSU Extension conducted a wind energy development program in Jackson Center, Ohio. The presentation was led by Nancy Bowen, Field Specialist in Community Economics and Eric Romich, Field Specialist in Energy Development at OSU Extension.

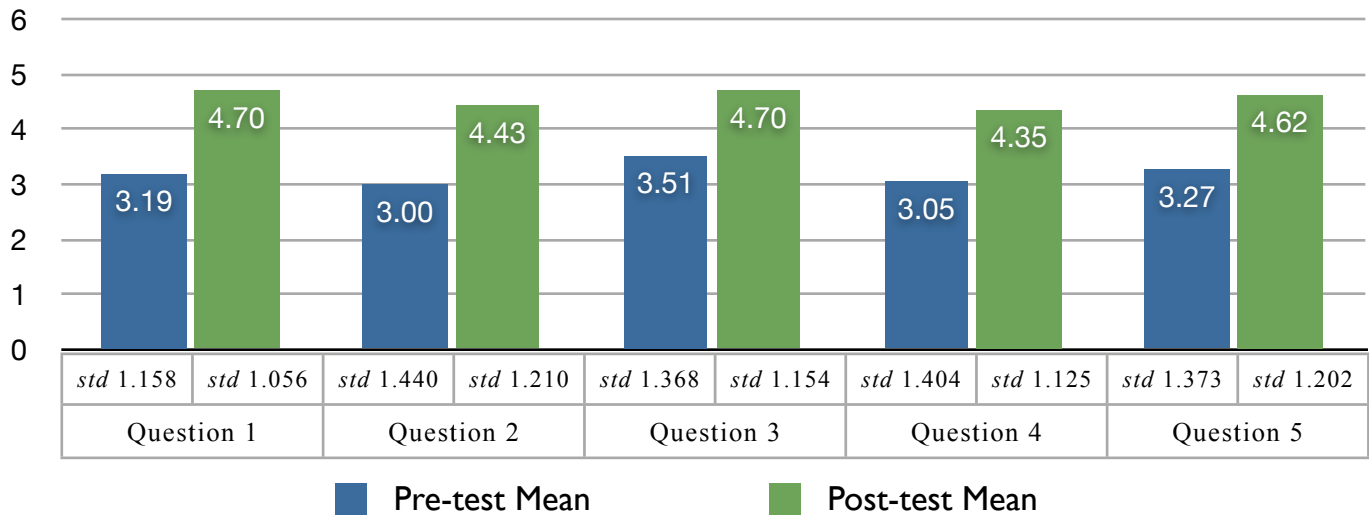
As a foundation for the presentation, Extension provided information on the renewable energy “drivers,” including Ohio SB 221 and SB 232. The program approached wind development from an unbiased perspective addressing both potential benefits and challenges of wind development in Ohio. In closing, reflecting on hands-on experience, Nancy Bowen provided a case study overview of the Iberdrola Blue Creek Wind Farm project in Van Wert County. The presentation was approached from an educational standpoint, not promoting the issue one way or another.

Roughly 70 participants attended the program and expressed their appreciation for Extension’s willingness to address this controversial issue. In an effort to measure short term impacts, pre-test / post-test program evaluations were conducted. A summary of the results are illustrated in graph form on this page.

**Would You Recommend this Program to Other Ohio Communities?**



**Short Term Impact - Knowledge Gained**



**Pre-Test / Post-Test Questions for Wind Energy Development Program Evaluation**

1. I have a good understanding of what is driving renewable energy development.
2. I understand the different types of policy that impact renewable energy development.
3. I am aware of the pros and cons of renewable projects.
4. I am familiar with the various types of renewable energy projects occurring in Ohio.
5. I am well informed and have the knowledge/information necessary to make a decision regarding a renewable energy project in my community.





## Commitment to Elevating and Expanding Team Members and Curriculum Materials

The existing Energize Ohio Program is well established and demonstrates a history of impacts that can be built upon and expanded as an OSU Extension Signature Program. The Energize Ohio Signature Program team seeks collaborative opportunities to expand the curriculum beyond renewable energy and shale gas development to include additional energy topics such as energy efficiency and bio-energy topics. We encourage anyone with interest in energy to contact one of our team members to learn more.



## Energize Ohio - Building Ohio's Energy Future Signature Program Team Members

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