



Environmental Advisory Board

Meeting Agenda

April 29, 2026, 3:00 P.M.

Centennial II HR Conference Room B

805 Central Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Virtual Attendance through Microsoft Teams

Order of Business

I. Public Comment

II. Call to Order

III. Administrative Action*

- Approval of March 25, 2026 – Meeting minutes

IV. Office of Environment and Sustainability Comments- Ollie Kroner

- Energy Update
- Recycling Update

V. Information/Updates

- EAB Memberships Update

VI. Items for Vote*

- None

VII. Open Discussion

- Leveraged Fund Update

VIII. Presentations

- Presentation on Brownfields in priority investment areas – OES and Partners

IX. Next Meeting

- The next EAB meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at 3:00 PM.

X. Adjournment

Agenda Packet Materials:

- Draft meeting minutes from 03/25/2026
-



Policy Opportunity for Clean Energy Development: House Bill 15 and Priority Investment Areas (PIAs)

Climate, City Services, & Infrastructure Committee Presentation

4.28.26





Green Cincinnati Plan: Clean Energy Goals



FOCUS AREA

Buildings & Energy

Clean Energy

Obtain 40% of electricity load from clean energy sources by 2030.

Provide residents and businesses with continual access to power from clean energy sources

VISION

Adoption of clean energy sources and energy efficiency measures by 2050 that result in net-zero emissions from buildings, contributing to a healthy, equitable, and resilient future for our City.

- Support programs like Solarize that encourage adoption of rooftop solar
- Partner with local organizations to offer financing tools such as a loan fund, Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE), or Green Bank to support investment in renewable energy
- Continue to pursue wind and solar power purchase agreements (PPAs) to secure enough electricity to support City operations and the City's aggregation program
- Identify energy storage options like batteries, pumped storage, or hydrogen storage to maximize utilization of clean energy and improve grid reliability



FOCUS AREA

City Operations

Energy

100% Renewable Energy for city operations by 2035.

30% energy efficiency improvements by 2030.

Invest in high-performance and resilient city facilities

VISION

A City that leads by example, centering community voice in the inter-departmental design and implementation of programs and policies.

- Establish prioritized facilities as "Resilience Hubs"—centers for community gathering during emergency, equipped with solar and backup power to provide relief during emergencies
- Pursue additional utility-scale clean energy with requests for proposal (RFP)
- Organize facility managers to create a sustainable facility policy for new city buildings
- Continue to strategically pursue energy efficiency for city facilities
- Convert streetlights to LED including electrifying gas lights
- Publish energy benchmarking data for city facilities on Cincy Insights

Municipal Investment Fund (MIF), Phase 1



- 49 Communities, \$250,000 each
- Grant: Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) National Clean Investment Fund (NCIF)
- Market-building activities for Clean Energy, Zero-Emissions Buildings, and Zero-Emissions Transportation (not tied to specific projects)
- Deliverables: Public/Private Partnership Plan & Project Pipeline
- November 1, 2025 to May 1, 2026



Grantor



Grantee



Sub-Grantee

HB 15 Overview

An aerial photograph showing a multi-lane road winding through a dense forest. In the background, there are several large industrial or commercial buildings, and further back, a residential neighborhood with houses is visible under a clear blue sky.

House Bill 15 is an Ohio state energy law that passed in August 2025

Provisions include:

- "Priority Investment Area" (PIA) designation for Brownfields; expedited State permitting and tax abatements on PIAs
- Clarified and expanded rules for self-generation of energy (microgrids for large customers; generation does not have to be on-site)
- School Energy Loan Fund for Public Schools
- Greatly reduced Tangible Personal Property taxes for generation
- Requires utility-generated capacity maps for interconnection

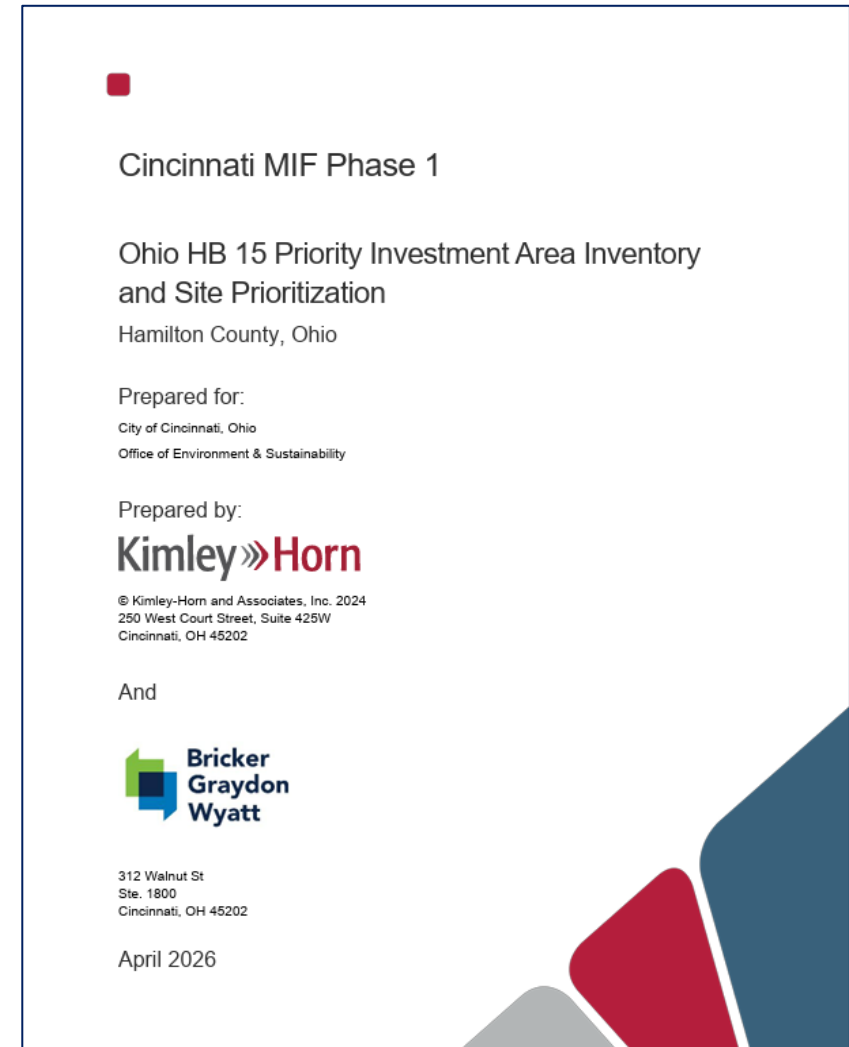
How Cincinnati Can Leverage HB 15

MIF Phase 1 funded report on HB 15,
prepared by local experts:

- Kimley-Horn and Associates
- Bricker Graydon Wyatt

Report includes:

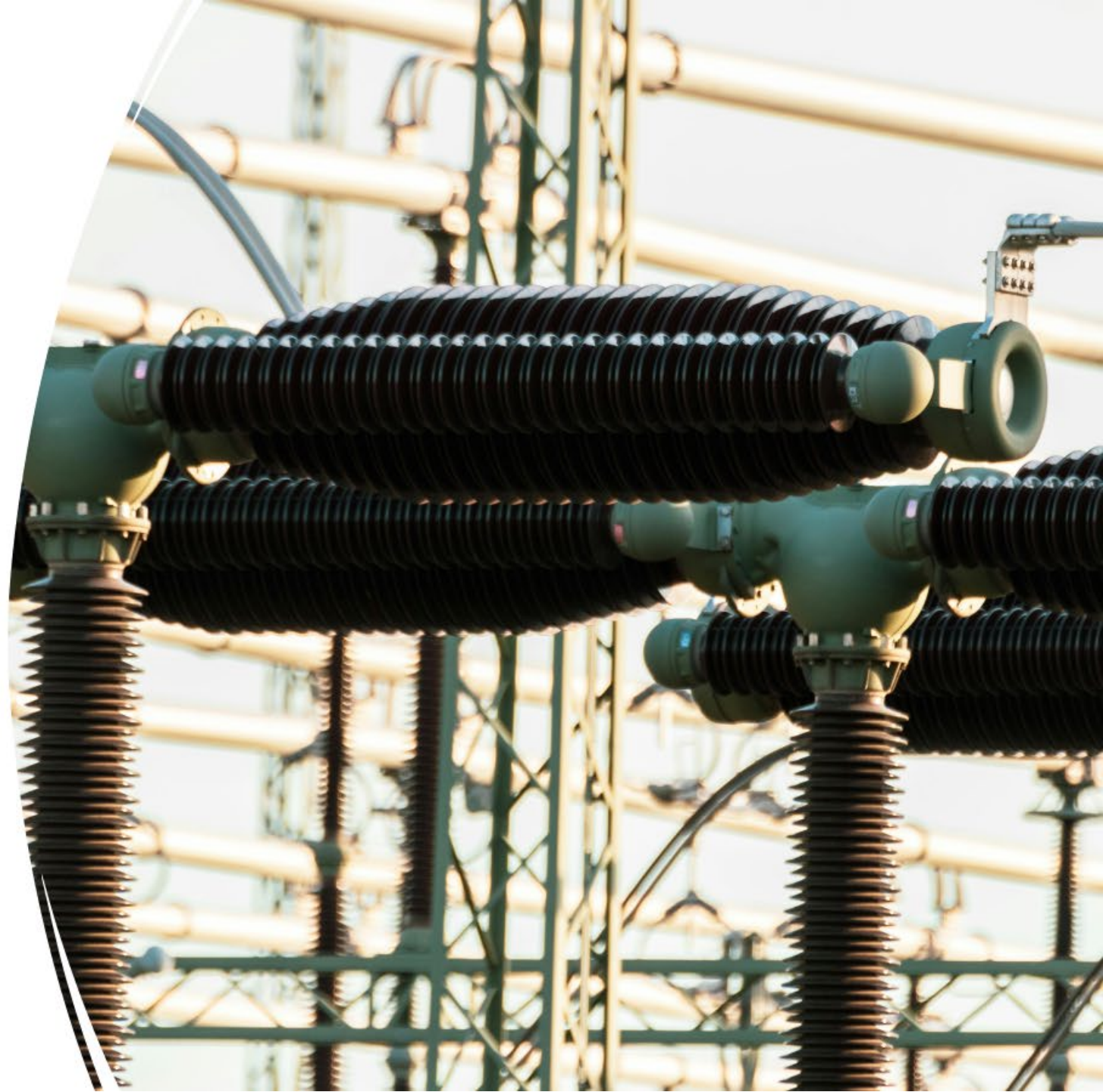
- Evaluation of the clean energy provisions of HB 15
- Site Suitability Evaluation for "Priority Investment Area" (PIA) designation for Brownfields



HB 15: Priority Investment Areas

Brownfields and former coal mine sites can be designated as PIAs. This designation enables:

- Expedited permitting at the Ohio Power Siting Board (generation projects >50 MW)
- 5 year property tax abatement for gas & electric transmission infrastructure
- Eligible to receive a Brownfield Remediation Program grant of up to \$10 million for site assessments, monitoring, remediation, clean-up, grading, and site work necessary to make site usable for economic development



HB 15: Priority Investment Areas

PIAs are established by the political subdivision (city, county, or township) passing an ordinance or resolution requesting the Ohio Department of Development to designate the site as a PIA.

The Ohio Department of Development then reviews and certifies.



Priority Investment Areas – Suitability Analysis

PIAs can only be designated on brownfield or former coal mine sites.

Only potential sites located within Hamilton County, Ohio and listed on the USEPA or OEPA brownfield inventory were considered.

The analysis does not include potential brownfields or sites that are likely brownfields but are not listed on either of these databases (e.g., landfills).



Priority Investment Areas – Suitability Analysis

Purpose: identify potentially suitable PIA sites for clean energy or battery storage development that would leverage multiple incentives from HB 15.

Sites were scored higher if they met at least one of the following criteria (beyond brownfield or former coal mine status):

- Current or potential future ownership of site by a mercantile customer to create behind-the-meter energy generation.
- Potential to generate or store at least 5 MW of power from wind or at least 50 MW of energy generation or storage from solar or batteries.

Sites were prioritized (i.e., ranked) into low, moderate, and high suitability categories based on their potential for energy generation capacity, energy type suitability, and meeting the criteria above.



Priority Investment Areas – Suitability Analysis

Four-Tiered Analysis:

Sites within Hamilton County were assessed through each tier, narrowing the pool of suitable sites recommended for consideration.

Tier 1: Initial Site Qualifications (PIA Designation)

- Site is a brownfield or formal coal mine
- Site has been redeveloped

Tier 2: Energy Infrastructure Potential

Tier 3: OPSB & Permitting Suitability

Tier 4: HB 15 Suitability



Priority Investment Areas – Suitability Analysis

Tier 2: Energy Infrastructure Potential

- Energy Types (solar, wind, BESS)
- General Suitability (proximity to substations, transmission lines, etc.)

Solar Specific Suitability Factors	Acreage	0-5 acres (1 pt)
		5-35 ac (3 pt)
		35+ acres (5 pt)
	Irradiance	<3.9 kWh/m ² /day (1 pt)
		4.0-4.5 kWh/m ² /day (3 pt)
		4.5-5.0 kWh/m ² /day (5 pts)
Solar Capacity	0-5 MW (Distributed solar) (1 pt)	
	5-50MW (Utility solar) (3 pt)	
	50MW (OPSB site) (5 pt)	

BESS Specific Suitability Factors	Acreage	0-0.1 acre (1 pt)
		0.1-5 acres (3 pt)
		5+ acres (OPSB site) (5 pt)
	Storage capacity	<50MW (0 pt)
>50MW (5 pt)		

Wind Specific Suitability Factors	Acreage	0.5-40 acres (Facility scale) (1 pt)
		40-1,200 acres (Community scale) (3 pt)
		1,200+ acres (Utility scale) (5pt)
	Estimated Wind Energy Capacity	Less than 1.5 MW (Facility scale) (1 pt)
		1.5-5 MW (utility scale) (3 pt)
		5 MW (utility scale & OPSB site) (5 pt)
Average Windspeed at 80 m	0-5 m/s (1 pt)	
	5-6 m/s (3 pt)	
	6+ (5 pt)	

Priority Investment Areas – Suitability Analysis

Tier 3: OPSB & Permitting Suitability

- if a site would need to go through OPSB review,
- is documented by the USEPA brownfields program or the OEPA Targeted Brownfield Assessment Program Sites as needing cleaned-up,
- if the site is in either the 100 or 500-year floodplain, and
- the surrounding land use.

Tier 4: HB 15 Suitability

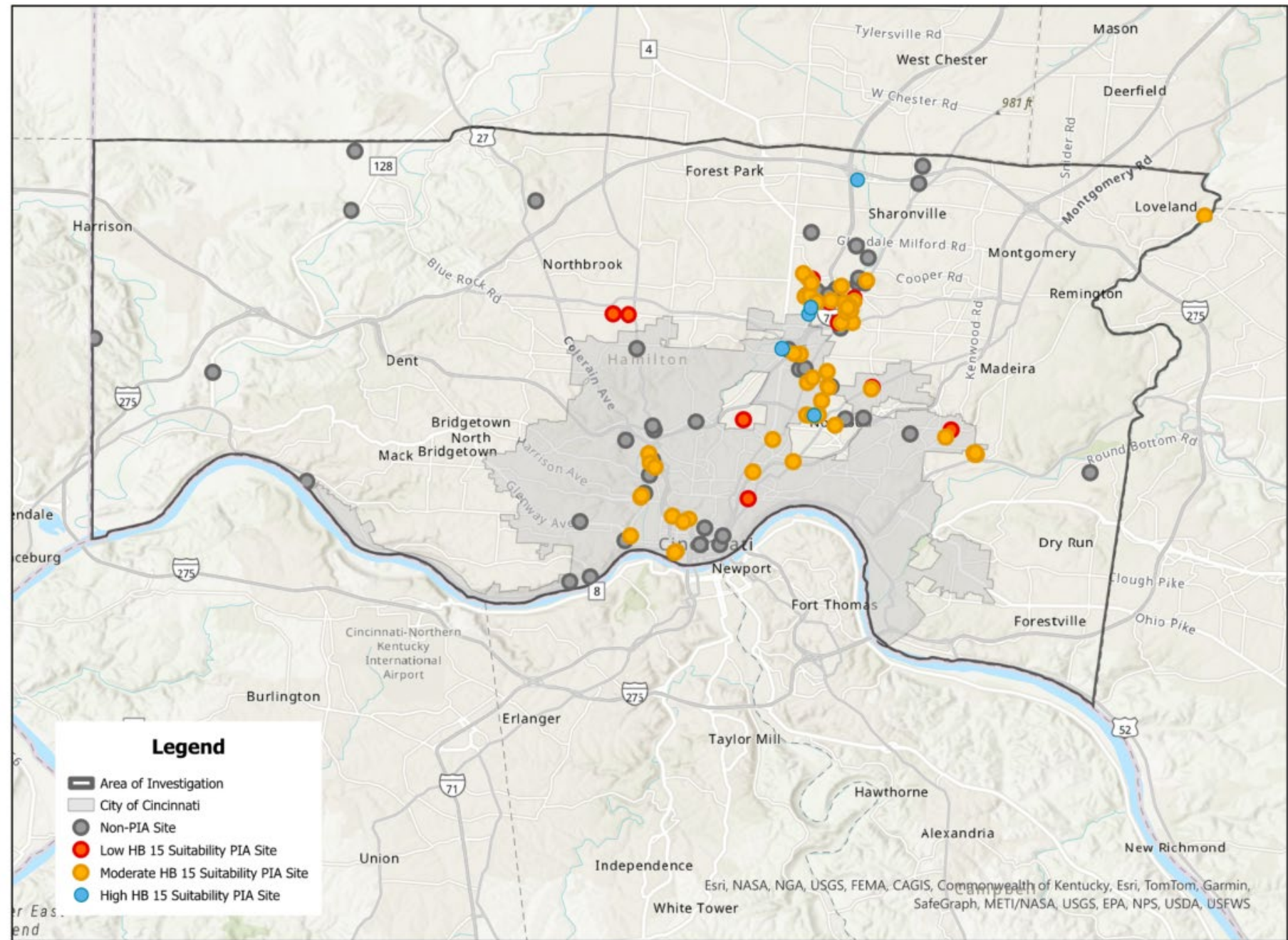
- qualify as a PIA,
- be currently owned by a Mercantile Customer, or
- qualify as an OPSB-Permitted Major Utility Facility.



Results

66 applicable sites identified within **Hamilton County** recommended for consideration of PIA designation by benefitting from HB15:

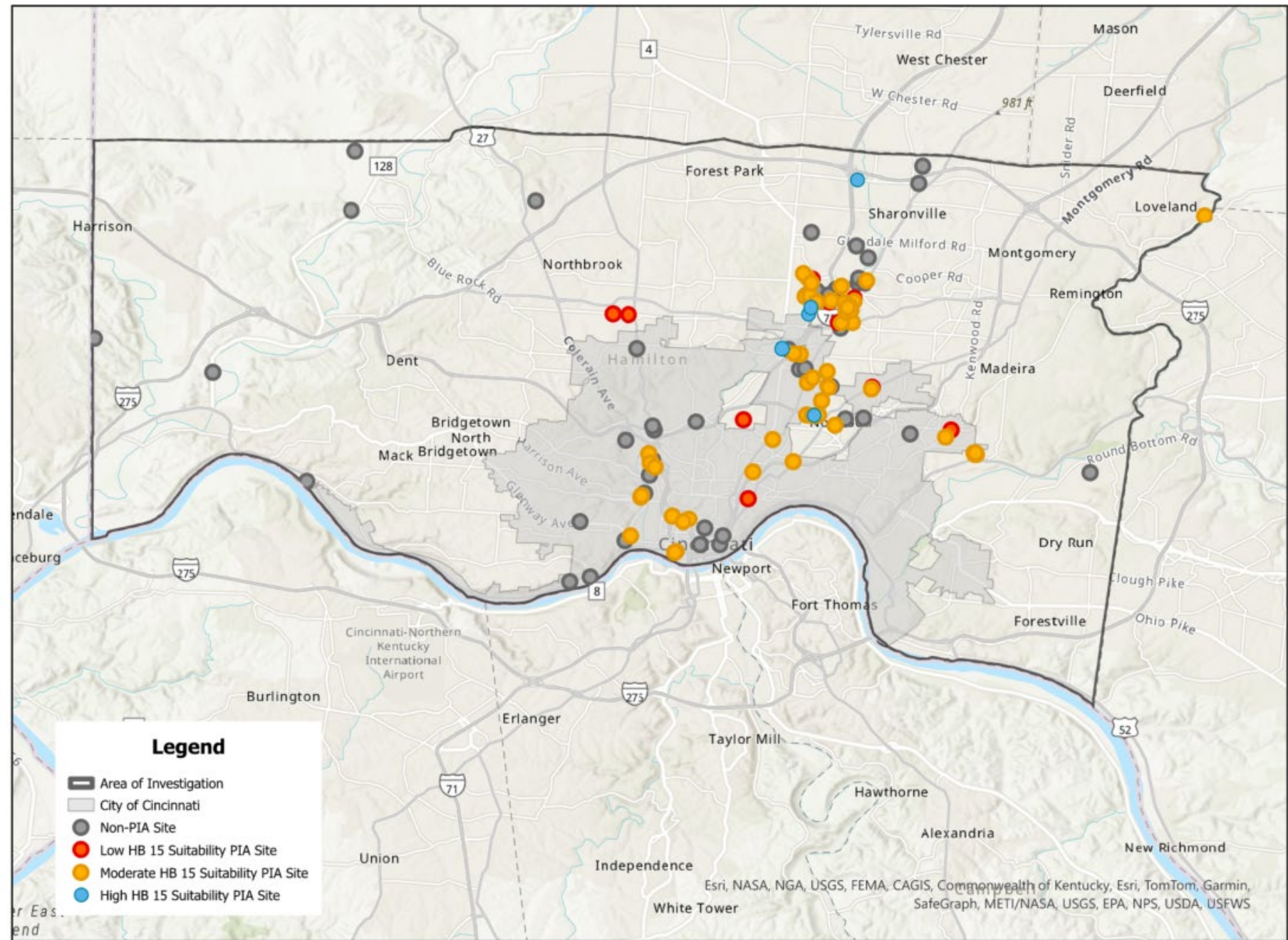
- **8** High Suitability
- **47** Moderate Suitability
- **11** Low suitability



Results

23 applicable sites identified within the **City of Cincinnati** recommended for consideration of PIA designation by benefitting from HB15:

- **1** High Suitability
- **20** Moderate Suitability
- **2** Low Suitability





Next Steps

-
- Review and consider potential PIA sites in City limits
 - Share data with Hamilton County for potential PIA sites in the County
 - Outreach to potential sites for discussion
 - Develop roadmap for designation of PIAs with property owners





Questions



Environmental Advisory Board

Minutes of March 25, 2026

Members Present:

- **In Person:** Briana Mazzolini-Blanchard; Dave Schmitt; Douglas Walton; Kylie Johnson; Michael Roman; Monica Perdomo; Nayana Shah; Susan Sprigg
- **Virtual:** Andrew Musgrave; Carla Walker; Nathan Alley; Rico Blackman; Van Sullivan; Yasmine Allen

Members Absent: Ashlee Young; Emmy Schroeder; Ericka Copeland; Megan O'Keefe; Sarah Kent

Staff Present: Oliver Kroner; Amanda Testerman; Erin Kabel

Meeting: A meeting of the Environmental Advisory Board was held on March 25, 2026, at 3:00 PM at Centennial II HR Conference Room B, 805 Central Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202.

Meeting Agenda:

- I. **Public Comment**
- II. **Call to Order at 3:05 PM**
- III. **Administrative Action***
 - Approval of February 25, 2026 – Meeting minutes
- IV. **Office of Environment & Sustainability Comments- Ollie Kroner**
 - Budget Cycle- 5.1% proposed reduction; OES proposed cuts to customer service for recycling cart services. Some proposed budget cuts may not be accepted. Final budget to be voted on by City Council in June
 - Federal EPA- Positive signals around recycling cart replacement grant \$5.1 million award
- V. **Information/Updates**
 - None
- VI. **Items for Vote***
 - Proposed bylaw language for Vice Chair
 - New language to be revised and drafted to be proposed at next meeting in April
- VII. **Open Discussion**
 - Leveraged Support Grant- Ollie Kroner
 - i. Application evaluations will be due in August. More info to come on rubric, members of EAB who will participate, and overall process.
 - EJ Codification Recommendations- David Reeves
 - CM Owens office received and reviewed EJ Recommendations submitted by EAB in December 2025. Looking to move forward these items.
 - Draft Motion for Climate Equity Indicators Report update in April
 - Citywide Language access ~suggestion for Welcoming America Certification
- VIII. **Executive Session-**
 - Purpose: To discuss a legal opinion regarding Green Infrastructure Funding
 - Vote to enter Executive Session
 - i. Yes- 12 votes; No- 0 votes
 - Vote to Exit Executive Session
 - Yes- 12 votes; No- 0 votes
- IX. **Next Meeting**
 - Wednesday, April 29, 2026, at 3:00 PM
- X. **Adjournment at 4:22 PM**