Ohio Mid-Eastern Government Association (OMEGA)

Current Initiatives
- Identifying resources
- Gathering info for economic development (Tuscarawas Regional Technology Park)
- Researching alternative energy sources
- Searching for manufacturers with new product development
- Developing synergies between energy and economic development
- Extending utilities and infrastructure (water and sewer lines, for example)
- Restoration ecology at the Wilds
- Ren-tech- biomass/renewable resources
- Job creation and energy related economic development
- Looking for innovative ideas, sources of money
- Developing fuel cell technology- Byesville Local Water District
- Looking for energy savings at every level
- Resource inventories
- EODA- marketing the region
- Identifying needs of existing businesses
- Incorporating small businesses
- Collaborating a regional effort
- Individual counties working on energy development
- Amish country is interested in alternative energy
- Conservation and energy efficiency
- Conducting energy audits/creating energy auditor positions
- Ethanol Plant infrastructure
  - Under construction
  - Capacity of 50m/gal/year
- Conservation- energy is part of plan
  - Creating top regional collaborations with agricultural communities and public education system

Opportunities:
- Marginal landscapes
- Learn about energy programs and ideas
- Waterline program
- Utilize website, keep website updated
- Small business expansion
- Possibly use utilities as “resources” for energy audits
- Use region’s tradition of manufacturing and combine with IT possibilities
- Develop a regional vision involving environmental, technological, community, and manufacturing aspects of region
- Identify assets, stakeholders
- Use communication vehicles
- Utilize TA/GIS
- Conduct industry/business inventories
- Research about coal technologies (treatment and efficient mining of coal), overcoming challenges in these areas
- Cluster development
- Conduct advanced energy inventories
- Create an industry trade show
- Identify Appalachian Ohio energy experts; utilize as a resource
- Develop 101 environmental education standards (for example, what is biomass?)
- Capture local wealth

Needs:
- Coordination- “central clearinghouse”
- Creation of a formal structure with defined communication
- Industrial sites, fully developed, with infrastructure
- Energy audits system
- Certification- networking, education
- Resource inventory for the region
- Educational tools (!)
- Test energy efficiency
- Industry trade show

Resources/Funding:
- East Tech Angel Fund- 2.2 million dollars
- Leverage Funds
- ESP Program