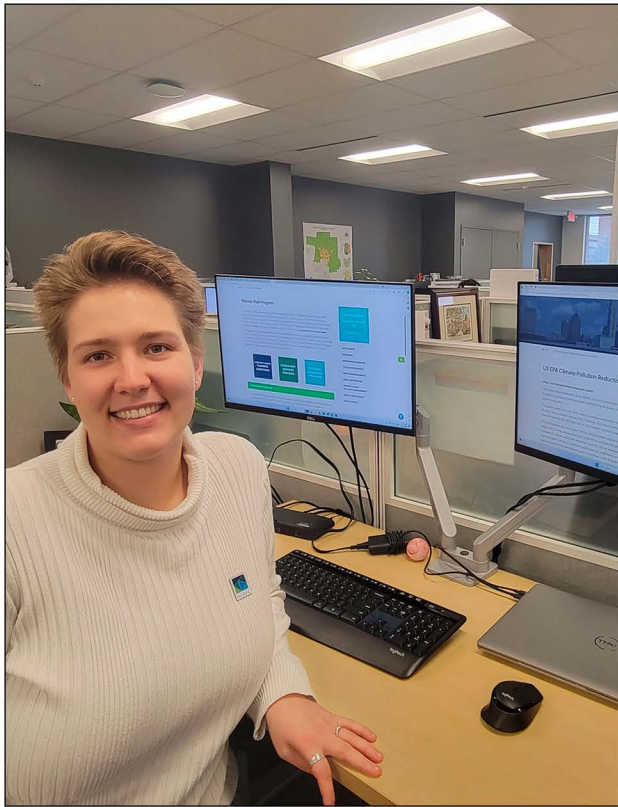


Karina Peggau

Senior Sustainability Planner

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC)



The population in Central Ohio is growing rapidly but, like other parts of the country, is experiencing the effects of a changing climate. My role is to reduce the effects of climate change on people and make Central Ohio a more sustainable place. I am currently working on two projects. In the first project, I am working with a team of local government and non-profit groups to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions in Central Ohio. In the second project, I am a trusted resource that can help communities with their own planning projects. What does a planner do? Planners develop guides and programs that help direct land use and improve communities. Planners usually work for a government, non-profit organization, or a planning firm. Planning is a diverse career; some planners work with energy, transportation, or finance. Other planners make maps or represent their communities as government officials. I knew I wanted to be a planner because I wanted to help my community.



Skills used: Planners use many skills, but the most important are good listening, patience, problem solving, teamwork, and creativity. In my role, I use my science background to help me make decisions about improving the environment. Most planners study city and regional planning in college.



Recommendations to youth: As soon as you know what you want to do when you grow up, look up job postings for your dream job (on Google, LinkedIn, Indeed, or Glassdoor) and read about what qualifications they look for. This will help you decide which classes to take in college, which skills to practice in clubs, or which internships/apprenticeships to take as you prepare for that dream job. Does your dream job need leadership skills? Join an extracurricular club. Does your dream job need mapping experience? Take a geography class. If you think two steps ahead, you will be more prepared when it's time to apply for that job. BONUS: Even if your dream job changes, your experience will always be valuable!

To learn more about a few of the many careers that connect with climate and climate change, visit go.osu.edu/climate-careers/.



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