

THE WAYNE COUNTY PROGRESSIVE

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Reducing Pollution and Protecting the Earth

There is good news: U.S. Mayors are beginning to assume responsibility for conservation and protection of our increasingly fragile environments, as well as address the problems of the rampant pollution around us.

The Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement, administered by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, has been signed by over 800 American mayors, including those in charge of 20 Ohio cities, towns and villages. The mayor or our neighboring city of Orrville has signed the agreement. By signing, a mayor commits her or his community to work toward meeting or exceeding the targets of the Kyoto Protocol, i.e., to take action in their operations and policies to reduce global warming pollution.

The actions that mayors take may vary by community. A few examples of what may be done are: introducing recycling or improving existing recycling programs, tree planting, reduction of urban and commercial sprawl, farmland protection, expanding green spaces, reduction of chemical applications (insecticides, herbicides, salt), use of hybrid vehicles, LED street and traffic lights, and electrical conservation.

It is encouraging to see this movement taking hold in the cities and towns of America and around Ohio.

But there is bad news along with the good: there are too many mayors ignoring the problems of environmental degradation by shirking their responsibilities: not taking on the challenges of global warming such as stopping the continued spo-

liations of our environment, or cleaning up the many messes we've been making for years upon years.

At the moment in Wooster a dynamic group of concerned citizens calling themselves *The Wooster Green Committee* is working to encourage the mayor of Wooster to sign the *Climate Protection Agreement*.

For more information on how you may help this committee as well as take action to protect and improve our local environment, please contact Network member Ruth Vander-sall at (330) 857-6903, or Betty Schuler at (330) 264-3710.



Summer Scene - Wayne County

Network Speaker Series

Every Fourth Wednesday at 7:00 PM

Monthly general membership meetings of the Wayne County Progressive Network are held at the Wayne County Public Library, on West Liberty Street in Wooster. Meetings convene at 7:00 p.m. After the business portion of each meeting, a local government official or expert in a subject of interest to the Wayne

County community talks to the assembled group.

Past speakers have included the Honorable Clair Dickinson, judge of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals who discussed the role of the circuit courts in Ohio, Harry Featherstone on electric cars as a replacement for gasoline-burning vehicles, Jon Ansel of the Wooster City Council on the operations of local government, Chris Link, Executive Director of the Ohio ACLU, Beverly Theil, Guardian Ad Litem of the Juvenile Court, Marie Moore, Republican Candidate for County Prosecutor, Former President of the Wooster City Council and Former Mayor, Judi Mitten, and many more. Meetings are open to the public. Refreshments are served after the question and answer period.

Wayne County and America's Farmlands: Worth Protecting

Jim Anderson

An award recently conferred on a Wayne County farm is another happy bit of evidence that one of Wayne County's richest resource is recognized - our farmland - that is fast disappearing. The data about the conversion of farmland to "economic development" is alarming. It is more urgent than ever to work locally for preservation of our ultimate life sustaining resource.

The Ohio Livestock Coalition, and the Ohio Sheep Improvement Association annually recognize exemplary practices of stewardship and protection of valuable farmland. This year's recognition went to a Wayne County farm, Lambshire Polypays.