## Smarter together 2022 Community impact report







# We've emerged from the pandemic with renewed energy and a greater need to drive positive impact.

In 2022, AES Ohio extended its community leadership with smart, new and creative ways to make a positive lasting impact in the communities where we live and serve. We did this all together, with our people and customers. The challenges our communities have faced in the last few years didn't stop the powerful impact of our nearly 800 AES Ohio people who came together to contribute hundreds of volunteer hours and support meaningful organizations at community celebrations. We've emerged from the pandemic with renewed energy and a greater need to drive positive impact.



AES Ohio supported and celebrated at events such as Summer in the City and Art in the City. Additionally, our community impact is strong with partnerships with Big Brothers Big Sisters Miami Valley, Clothes That Work, Rebuilding Together Dayton, RETREET, and Shango: Center for the Study of African American Art & Culture and the Dayton Holiday Festival. Our people volunteered at the Dayton Foodbank filling nearly 1,400 Good-togo Backpacks for children facing food insecurity. AES Ohio also partnered with Five Rivers MetroParks for the second annual Day in the Parks, helping at Spring Run Conservation Area Wetland Restoration Project and Adventure Central, a collaboration with The Ohio State University Extension and 4-H Youth Development.

#### We take great pride in being there when you need us the most and are committed to powering the communities where we live and serve.

On Monday, June 13, 2022, two severe storm cells moved across the AES Ohio service territory within six hours. Straight-line winds up to 100 mph and lightning caused extensive damage to equipment. Much of the damage was due to trees and branches falling on power lines. In total, more than 43,000 customers experienced power outages, some for more than 48 hours.

The AES Ohio Foundation added to its long tradition of funding community needs by announcing \$1.3 million in awards for 47 projects targeting economic development and the arts, poverty reduction and workforce development. The Foundation is intentional about supporting institutions and programs serving basic needs. Additional awards were granted to multiple organizations, whose purposes range from empowering those who are socially and economically disadvantaged to focusing on mental health. Since 1985, the Foundation has awarded over \$44 million in grants within the utility's service territory.

After filing our Electric Security Plan in September, AES Ohio stands ready to partner with our customers and communities to help accelerate Ohio's energy future. This is a comprehensive plan to enhance and upgrade our network and improve service reliability, provide greater safeguards for price stability and continue investments in local economic development. AES Ohio remains committed to providing reliable energy at competitive prices, while investing and supporting our communities.

As you review our 2022 Community Report, I hope you see the impact AES Ohio has never been stronger. The stories in this report shine a light on our commitment to you and our continued commitment to accelerating the future of energy, together.

Kristina Lund President and CEO, AES US Utilities





# Community investments by the numbers

AES Ohio and its people are dedicated to making a difference in the communities where live, work, and serve.

\$2.4 million

was invested back into the community through four strategics areas:



AES Ohio does not pass on the cost of its community investments or advertising to customers.



Economic Development and the Arts



**Poverty Reduction** 



Workforce Development



Diversity, Equity, and inclusion



AES Ohio Foundation press release

The AES Ohio Foundation is a 501(c)(3) private foundation established in 1985 to invest in our communities and contribute to the improvement of the overall quality of life. Since its inception, The AES Ohio Foundation has gifted over \$44 million in grants to the community. Our people are powering the community and together, we are accelerating the future of energy.

2022 investments

#### 72 total investments

	% of total investment
Arts & Culture	15%
Poverty Reduction	23%
Economic Development	40%
Workforce Development	20%

Diversely driven organizations and programming



60% of the organizations focus on customer needs and education



## Economic Development and the Arts





#### OHIO'S BIG WIN: Honda and LG Energy Solution Joint Venture

AES Ohio plans to invest \$100 million in infrastructure to promote economic development and customer growth in West Central Ohio. The new infrastructure is essential to maintain reliable service to existing customers and serve the new Honda and LG Energy Solution battery cell plant announced in October by Ohio Governor Mike DeWine. The \$4.4 billion investment by Honda and LG Energy Solution in Fayette County, Ohio will create an electric vehicle hub in West Central Ohio, benefiting the nation. Once completed, the new battery cell plant will make Honda AES Ohio's largest customer. Additionally, the existing Honda plants will retool to support EV manufacturing.

LG Energy Solutions is the largest electric vehicle battery maker in the world. Honda built their first Ohio manufacturing facility in Marysville 45 years ago and has now solidified its future in Ohio. For AES Ohio, the project is one of the most significant we've ever seen and will represent the largest load when completed. Construction of the facility will begin in 2023 with production starting by the end of 2025.









### Premier lightning sponsorship of the Dayton Arcade

AES Ohio is the premier lighting sponsor for the Dayton Arcade. An anchor in downtown Dayton's central business district, the Arcade opened more than a century ago as one of the country's most modern and complete structures of its kind. Shuttered for almost 30 years, the Dayton Arcade's redevelopment brings new life and investment into downtown Dayton. This project was coined as "the most transformational project in America". The Arcade's 90-foot diameter glass Rotunda serves as interior connector for all nine buildings in the complex encompassing almost a full city block. AES Ohio is honored to be a part of the newest chapter of the Dayton Arcade's rich history by sponsoring the interior and exterior lighting of this innovation hub.











#### The Dayton Contemporary Dance Company approaches their 55th season

Rooted in the African-American experience, the awardwinning Dayton Contemporary Dance Company (DCDC) is a culturally diverse contemporary dance company committed to reaching the broadest audience through exceptional performance and arts-integrated education. Founded in 1968 by Dayton native and visionary pioneer, Jeraldyne Blunden. DCDC approaches their 55th season, performing to local audiences at the Levitt Pavilion, Victoria Theatre and around the world. The AES Ohio Foundation awarded a grant to the dance company supporting this significant milestone. Today, DCDC is the 10th largest modern contemporary dance company in the nation.

### Muse Machine connects students and the arts

Muse Machine is a nationally recognized arts education organization annually serving 70,000 students and their teachers in 10 counties in southwestern Ohio. Since 1982, Muse Machine has been acclaimed both locally and nationally, by educators, students and families, the President of the United States and the National Endowment for the Arts, for enriching the creative and academic lives of thousands of young people across the Miami Valley. The AES Ohio Foundation awarded a grant to support creative experiences and programs for young people of the Miami Valley.











#### AES Ohio celebrates Art in the City

Art in the City is the second signature event of the 2022 AES Ohio Summer in the City series. This sponsorship helps stimulate economic development in the downtown core by encouraging people to visit and enjoy the restaurants, stores and amenities Dayton has to offer, inspiring future business investment. The annual event featured more than 300 artists and celebrated the visual and performing arts through performances, concerts, demonstrations, hands-on projects, a juried art show and artisan market.

Attendees were encouraged to leave their mark downtown by participating in several community art projects including chalk the block, community art cube and a community mural called "Sweet Harmony."









### The FoodBank Dayton Good-to-Go Backpacks

AES Ohio partners with The Foodbank Dayton in support of their mission to relieve hunger in the community by acquiring and distributing food. An idea generated by the Customer Cares Team, AES Ohio people are participating in the "Good-to-go backpacks" effort where, each week, volunteers fill approximately 1,400 backpacks full of food. These packs are then given to schools and agencies, who in turn, give them to children facing food insecurity. Our people have committed to writing inspiring notes to include within each backpack. AES Ohio people are encouraged to write hand-written notes on 3x5 index cards, personalized and decorated with stickers.

#### Volunteering for National Rebuilding Day

AES Ohio people joined nearly 500 community volunteers on National Rebuilding Day in the Edgemont neighborhood to assist homeowners, primarily seniors with repairs and modifications, smoke detector installs and yard clean up so they can age in place safely and live independently. Rebuilding Together Dayton seeks to advance health equity by improving health and housing outcomes for our neighbors in economically distressed communities. Rebuilding Together Dayton envisions safe homes and communities for everyone.





### YMCA is growing to serve Northwest Dayton

The YMCA of Greater Dayton has been serving the community for 150 years. The Y is expanding with a new Northwest Health and Wellness Center. It is a place of encouragement, possibility and hope for all. Today, through the programs at the Y, we bring together to help those who are struggling, alone and in need and focus on strengthening our community. Every day, the Y is supporting kids, adults, seniors, and families with programs and services that protect, teach, connect, heal, nourish, and encourage. Everything that we do together empowers our community to thrive.



## ★ Workforce development



#### University of Dayton Statehouse Civic Scholars Program



The University of Dayton (UD) student interns work in the state capital for the summer, gaining valuable job skills and learning how state government functions. They learn about organizations that work in and around the statehouse and even sharpen soft skills, such as networking, too. Each year, 12 students are selected to intern in highly desirable offices in state government, including the Ohio Statehouse, executive agencies, judiciary, interest groups, and lobbying firms.

This year, student placements included the Governor, Attorney General, Supreme Court, Representatives offices, Mayor's Alliance, Ohio Environmental Council, Ohio Chamber of Commerce, Ohio Civil Rights Commission and other key legislative offices. Since its inception in 2013, the Statehouse Civic Scholars program was funded by corporate sponsorships and later, in 2017, funded through AES Ohio Foundation grants.



### Students of Integrity Scholarship Awards

As a founding member of the Better Business Bureau (BBB) of Dayton and the Miami Valley, AES Ohio supports their mission to promote and foster the highest ethical relationships between businesses and the public through voluntary self-regulation, consumer and business education and service excellence.

Most recently, the BBB established the AES Ohio Student of Integrity Scholarship Award to recognize area high school students who go above and beyond to demonstrate they value integrity, ethics and a sense of community. Through this partnership, AES Ohio continues to support education and guidance to encourage future



watch the video





### Diversity Equity and Inclusion





#### Powerful Pathways

The AES US Utilities piloted a program called Powerful Pathways. The program is designed to provide a learning and development pathway for individuals who do not have a traditional two- or four-year degree.

Powerful Pathways was launched with our Indiana and Ohio customer care teams who are among our most diverse groups in the US Utilities. Knowing the wellrounded skills needed as a successful customer team member, other positions traditionally requiring a degree were reviewed and a common learning journey was defined to develop the participants' skillsets.

# In 2022, nine individuals completed the year-long training program and graduated!





#### Employee Resource Groups (ERGs) available and open to all employees

These resource groups are voluntarily and employeeled, meeting in-person or virtually to learn from each other baseon on common interests, backgrounds or demographics. AES ERGs include the Emerging Professionals' Network, Black professionals Network, AES Pride Network, AESVets and Women's Networking Group.

Whether our people are local or global, we work as one team. All together, we leverage our diverse perspectives to meet changing customer needs across our markets.

#### Gift of Power impact

The AES Ohio Gift of Power program completed its seventh year providing emergency assistance to customers struggling to pay their winter heating bills. Our contribution along with generous donations from customers and employees kept the power on for families, friends and neighbors. All donations were administered by The Salvation Army.

Since the program began in 2015, Gift of Power has helped 3,200 customers with donations totaling more than \$1.5 million.



aes-ohio.com/gift











#### Day in the Parks

Partnering with Five Rivers MetroParks, AES Ohio Day in the Parks marks its second year as a new tradition for our people to help our community revitalize the parks that we enjoy year-round throughout the Dayton region. More than 30 volunteers participated in a variety of projects at Spring Run Conservation Area and Adventure Central to beautify and enchance these important community assets.

Spring Run Conservation Aera Wetland Restoration Project is in Trotwood. The project is fully funded by a \$499,500 grant from Governor Mike DeWine's H2Ohio initiative. The 550-acre Spring Run Conservation Area is comprised of two land parcels: the 190-acre Great Miami Weland Mitigation Bank, the property once planned to become a landfill.



Volunteers picked up debris from the recently excavated golf course property at Spring Run and planted seedlings as part of the nature exploration programs at Adventure Central.



### Earth Day Adopt-a-Park

Hundreds of Miami Valley residents volunteer to help protect and keep local parks and waterways clean during Five Rivers MetroParks Annual Adopt-a-Park. AES Ohio volunteers including family members pitched in to clean up the bank along the Great Miami River as part of the Earth Day celebration. The team spent the morning with

trash bags in hand picking up debris covering a threemile stretch in front of the Dayton Service Building. Their efforts help to improve the environment and beautify the region's natural areas.





### Making Carillon Park safer for bald eagles

Carillon Historical Park near downtown Dayton is home to two bald eagles, Willa and Orv. Their family has expanded with two eaglets, Skye and Kittyhawk. The eagles initially built their nest in 2018 and have returned every year since. Their nest is near existing electric utility poles and power

lines. To safely coexist and maintain their habitat, AES Ohio successfully constructed avian protection measures. Bald eagles are a US protected avian species.

AES Ohio worked closely with a consultant Western EcoSystems Technology under the guidance of the US Fish and Wildlife Services to develop avian protection retrofit options or electric utility poles and distribution power lines to minimize future eagle collision risks. The retrofits were successfully installed which included a cover for energized conductors and jumper wires equipment covers, ground wire covers above the utility pole crossarm and bird flight diverters on distribution conductors to increase line visibility. Now, visitors at the park and the many bird watchers can enjoy observing the eagles with the protection measures taken so utility equipment and their habitat can safely coexist.





### We bring the energy

AES Ohio is bringing the energy to significant projects and places in downtown Dayton, including the Dayton Arcade, RiverScape and the visual and performing arts.



The historic Dayton Arcade, is a gathering space for fostering unique connections to develop the ideas, partnerships and organizations that will enrich the Dayton community. The Dayton Arcade is a collection of nine buildings in Dayton, Ohio. The Arcade is a historic, architecturally elegant complex in the heart of Dayton's central business district.



RiverScape, is an active and vibrant park on the banks of the Great Miami River. The location offers a place for those who live, work and play downtown to connect to nature. RiverScape preserves glimpses of the city's origins and also embraces modern innovation and evolves with the needs of the vibrant and connected neighborhoods that surround it.



aes-ohio.com/bring-energy



Dayton's passion for the performing and visual arts connects and contributes to the vibrancy of downtown. From the Broadway series to the internationally acclaimed dance companies, the philharmonic, ballet and opera, these performances transform lives at the most iconic venues in the city.

### All Together for Team Tuesdays

AES US Utilities returned to the workplace for hybrid schedules focused on #TeamTuesdays and #WelcomeWednesday, allowing teams to reconnect in person and meet new faces, some for the first time in person.





# Our next step toward the future of energy





### Renewable energy powers the University of Dayton Arena championship practices and games

AES Ohio helped to ensure all practices and games for the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball First Four<sup>®</sup> were powered by renewable energy. AES Ohio purchased renewable energy credits (RECs) and applied them toward incremental energy usage at the University of Dayton Arena facilities for pre-game events, practices and First Four games. As part of AES's commitment to accelerating the future of energy, we are excited to provide safe, reliable and advance sustainability efforts.





### Go Green with Bike Miami Valley

To help reduce carbon emissions, AES Ohio partnered with Bike Miami Valley to sponsor two bicycle hubs, 30 e-Link bikes and five green link bikes (pedal bikes) for bicycle enthusiasts. The hubs are in downtown Dayton near Monument Ave and Brown Street adjacent to the University of Dayton.

Bike Miami Valley is recognized as a Platinum Level Bicycle Friendly Business by the League of American

Bicyclists. Partnering with Bike Miami Valley is one of the many ways AES Ohio focuses on creating an engaged, vibrant, welcoming region and a great place to live and work.



### AES Ohio powers the U.S. Senior Women's Open with renewable energy

AES Ohio sponsored the 2022 United States Golf Association's (USGA) U.S. Senior Women's Open on August 25-28. In partnering with organizers, we provided safe, reliable and green energy options to advance their sustainability efforts. Additionally, we purchased renewable energy credits (RECs) and applied them toward energy usage at three NCR Country Club facilities for practices and the championship. Investments like this support economic growth for the Dayton region.









AES Ohio has made progress made towards Smart Grid Plan to modernize our electric infrastructure by implementing advanced tools, techniques, and technologies.

A connected Smart Grid plays a crucial role in this, replacing outdated equipment and assets which in turn reduces the potential for power outages and improves safety for our customers. We know that our customers depend on us to provide the energy they need to power their lives every day, and we hold the solutions we deliver to global standards of excellence, all with the goal of addressing the economic, environmental, and modern energy needs of the growing Dayton Region. Despite facing continued challenges in the global supply chain, we have made significant progress in all these areas during year two of Smart Grid.

In 2022, AES Ohio took significant steps towards a more reliable, efficient, and sustainable energy future for our customers. The rebuilding circuits will result in a more reliable power supply and less power outages, while newly installed smart meters will enable customers to monitor and manage their energy usage more effectively. This not only improves data security, but also enhances customer support and reduces the impact of storms.



www.aes-ohio.com/smart-meters

AES Ohio people and contractors reached the following project-to-date milestones of Smart Grid at the end of 2022:

#### Meters

127,000 meters installed Distribution automation 73 reclosers installed

Substation automation

8

substations completed

#### Smart thermostats

9,417 units sold

9,288

rebates provided

#### routers installed

#### **EV** charging stations

\$5.1M

Telecom

25

EV charging projects





#### AES Ohio files Electric Security Plan

On September 26, AES Ohio filed its latest Electric Security Plan (ESP) with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO). The comprehensive plan is designed to enhance and upgrade service reliability, provide greater safeguards for price stability and continue investments in local economic development. AES Ohio intends to increase investments in the distribution infrastructure and deploy a proactive vegetation management program.

Additionally, AES Ohio is proposing new and innovative programs to help customers save money while meeting their ever-changing energy needs driven by new smart technologies. The plan comprises energy efficiency programs for residential and low-income customers, including ways to save by utilizing smart thermostat technology and new pricing incentives to promote the growth and expansion of companies in the region, helping foster a strong local job market.



Learn more about the ESP





### AES Ohio receives Edison Electric Institute Emergency Recovery Award

The AES US Utilities were announced as recipients of Edison Electric Institute (EEI) Emergency Response Awards. The EEI Awards recognize assistance and recovery efforts of electric companies following service disruptions caused by extreme weather or other natural events. AES Ohio was recognized with the EEI Emergency Recovery Award for quickly and safely restoring service after two severe storm cells moved across Ohio in June 2022 impacting more than 43,000 customers. Under an excessive heat advisory, crews worked safely around the clock with 95-degree temperatures and with the heat index rising to 108 degrees for three consecutive days.







### Employee giving campaigns

AES Ohio continued its annual tradition by donating over \$165,000 to a variety of causes within the United Way of Greater Dayton through the annual employee giving campaign. United Way of Greater Dayton Area hosted a lunch and learn with partner agencies and social impact grantees to share their impact with AES employees. More than 300 AES employees participated in the virtual kickoff, BINGO, and in-person activities during the two-week campaign window, coming All Together, for a great cause.

### **Board affiliations**

Our AES Ohio people serve in the community through a variety of board appointments at organizations such as American Red Cross - Miami Valley Chapter, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Miami Valley, Boonshoft Museum of Discovery, Clothes that Work, Juniot Achievement Greater Dayton, Muse Machine, Rebuilding Together Dayton, The Children's Hunger Alliance, The Foodbank, ThinkTV, and the Local Organizing Committee for the Dayton Hoopla and NCAA Men's Division I Men's Basketball First Four® to name a few. We are proud of the many ways that our people support the community we serve.































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