



## **COMPETING FOR FUTUREGEN: A WIN-WIN FOR OHIO**

Following is a summary of the positive benefits of the FutureGen competition already being realized in Ohio, as noted by participants in the June 26, 2006 meeting of the Ohio FutureGen Task Force.

### **Unparalleled cooperation**

- The Ohio FutureGen Task Force brought together disparate state and federal agencies, universities, industry and environmental groups, and others in a sustained, two-year on-going collaborative effort.
- Not insignificantly, Task Force membership included the active participation by the Ohio Environmental Council – one of the foremost environmental groups in the state.
- Eight Ohio counties selected as potential host locations for FutureGen forged their own local partnerships which brought together a diverse mix of people and organizations focused on the same goal.
- Upon the designation of Ohio's proposed sites in Meigs and Tuscarawas Counties, state-county cooperation escalated quickly and became seamless and spirited.
- Property owners for the two proposed sites were and remain extremely cooperative in all aspects of site acquisition and mineral rights.
- Representatives from the six counties not chosen as prospective FutureGen sites expressed strong support for the Meigs and Tuscarawas County sites.
- New doors of communication were opened among Ohio universities.
- Local and statewide industries that might benefit from FutureGen learned more about one another, while exploring potential mutually beneficial relationships.
- The Memorandum of Understanding ratified by Ohio, Kentucky, and Pennsylvania demonstrates strong support for FutureGen being located in the Ohio River Valley.
- Numerous universities in the three states have agreed to participate in the Ohio River Valley Coal Research Consortium to conduct ongoing research should one of the three states be selected as the site for FutureGen.

### **Unparalleled bipartisan support**

- FutureGen enjoyed the immediate and continued support of the Taft Administration and both major party candidates for Governor.
- FutureGen was supported unanimously by members of the Ohio Senate and Ohio House of Representatives.
- FutureGen was endorsed in nearly unanimous fashion by the Ohio Congressional delegation.

- FutureGen enjoys the bipartisan support of all local officials Meigs and Tuscarawas Counties.

**Widespread, positive media exposure on a host of timely and key topics, especially in the energy and environmental fields.**

- Ohio’s FutureGen efforts received strong and broad support from the state’s newspaper editorial boards.
- Both as a fuel source of the future, and from a national energy security standpoint, coal will remain one of Ohio’s, and America’s, most viable and critical natural resources.
- Ohio’s long-standing leadership in clean-coal technology research, development, and deployment is a key asset, both in the FutureGen competition, and going forward.
- The work of the state’s university-based Ohio Coal Research Consortium was brought to bear throughout the FutureGen process.
- It is increasingly clear that coal can be an extremely “clean” fuel source, and can be used in an environmentally friendly manner.
- Clean-burning hydrogen for use in fuel cells will be a byproduct of the FutureGen process, underscoring Ohio’s emerging leadership in this “fuel of the future” technology.
- The process made clear that Ohio’s energy sources can and will play a key role in the areas of distributed electricity generation and homeland security.
- Ohio has great potential to transform its old “rust belt” image into America’s Alternative Energy Belt.

**Ohio’s many assets on display for nation and world to view**

- Ohio’s rural areas, which included seven of the eight counties considered as potential FutureGen sites, are every bit as attractive for new business development and growth as Ohio’s urban centers.
- Abundant coal reserves bode well for Ohio’s energy future.
- In the two proposed host counties and surrounding regions, and throughout the state, Ohio enjoys a highly skilled and available work force.
- The cost of doing business in Ohio is a key advantage.
- Ohio proved itself more than capable of creating a highly competitive package of financial incentives from a variety of funding sources.
- The work of the Ohio FutureGen Task Force demonstrated a willingness to embrace “out-of-the-box” thinking and strategic approaches to meeting the state’s challenges.
- The FutureGen process has highlighted dramatically the ability of Ohio citizens, in local communities and statewide, to come together for the greater good.

**Renewed focus on Ohio’s geological strengths and needs**

- The importance of funding for the Ohio Geologic Survey within the Department of Natural Resources was reinforced during the process of gathering necessary geological data for Ohio’s FutureGen proposals.
- The FutureGen process confirmed that Ohio’s relatively small Geologic Survey office can successfully compete with much larger counterpart organizations in other states.

- A new awareness of the importance of maintaining current, accurate, and statewide data on Ohio’s geological characteristics was recognized.
- Renewed interest in the practical and economic benefits of enhanced oil recovery was generated.
- Efforts are ongoing to identify the likely location(s) for the test well that will be drilled to gather key geological data for sequestration potential.

**Head start on likely future regulation of carbon dioxide**

- Should the federal government move forward with expected, new regulation of carbon dioxide, Ohio is well-positioned to meet the challenge.
- Carbon sequestration, as mandated in the FutureGen process, will play a key role in addressing global climate change, and again, Ohio is well-prepared in this arena.
- Ohio’s deep geological make-up renders underground carbon sequestration as extremely “doable.”
- Ohio’s long-standing participation, through the Ohio Coal Development Office, in the Midwest Regional Carbon Sequestration Project demonstrates Ohio’s readiness to comply with this FutureGen requirement.
- Ohio’s existing, positive regulatory environment will help assure a smooth transition

**Going forward**

- The work of the Ohio FutureGen Task Force is viewed by participants and stakeholders as a model that can be replicated in future state efforts that require broad partnerships among government agencies, industry, statewide organizations, higher education, and individual communities.
- Ohio now has a seasoned team of experts who can lead future state efforts in the energy and environmental fields.
- Numerous sites in Ohio have now been identified, as a result of the FutureGen site selection process, as highly desirable for the siting of future power plants or other industrial uses.
- Even if the first FutureGen plant is built in another state, Ohio has fortified its position to be a host state for the next-generation FutureGen power plants envisioned by the United States Department of Energy and FutureGen Industrial Alliance.