**CITY OF COLUMBUS, OHIO ENERGY SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

**PROGRAM PLAN**

The City of Columbus, Ohio Energy Special Improvement District (the “District”) will administer a property assessed clean energy (“PACE”) program (the “Program”). The Program will provide financing secured by special assessments on real property for special energy improvement projects. The District authorizes and adopts this plan for the Program (as the same may be amended and supplemented from time to time as provided herein, the “Plan”) to provide for the Program’s administration and to set forth the terms and conditions of participation in the Program. The Columbus-Franklin County Finance Authority, as the initial property owner owning real property within the District, authorizes and consents to this Plan.

The District is established pursuant to the special energy improvement district provisions of Chapter 1710 of the Ohio Revised Code. This Plan refers to Chapter 1710 and any and all future amendments to the special energy improvement district provisions of Chapter 1710 as the “Act.” Any specific statutory reference contained in this Plan shall also refer to any succeeding or amending statutory provision.

Participation in the District’s Program is limited to property owners who have agreed to add their property to the District and who otherwise meet the Program’s terms and conditions. These terms and conditions are addressed in this Plan, and include, without limitation, an application, a petition, a schedule of assessments to be made on included property (“Assessment Schedule”), and the governing documents forming the District. The District’s governing documents include its Articles of Incorporation, Code of Regulations, resolutions duly adopted by the board of directors of the District, and the applicable resolutions and ordinances of the participating political subdivision where the real property is located (collectively, the “Governing Documents”). As a condition to participation in the District and the Program, each property owner must review and agree to the Governing Documents and further must review, agree to, and execute this Plan, an application, a petition, and an Assessment Schedule. The Governing Documents, this Plan, the applications, the petitions, and the Assessment Schedules are referred to herein collectively as the “District Documents.”

The District Documents establish the terms and conditions of the Program. The Program terms and conditions may be amended from time to time as described in Part X of this Plan. **By agreeing to and executing the District Documents, each property owner consents to the terms and conditions of all District Documents.**

# Purpose of the Program

The Program is intended to assist property owners, whether private or public, who own real property within participating political subdivisions to obtain financing for special energy improvement projects, as that term is defined in the Act (the “Authorized Improvements”). Obligations, including but not limited to special assessment reimbursement agreements, special assessment revenue bonds and revenue notes, loan obligations or other evidences of indebtedness, or nonprofit corporation securities (collectively, the “Program Obligations”) may be issued by the District or on behalf of the District by a third party. Program Obligations or the proceeds from the sale of the Program Obligations may be used to finance Authorized Improvements that benefit properties within the District and any costs incurred by the District in connection with the issuance of Program Obligations. Participating political subdivisions shall levy special assessments on real property included in the District, the payment of which may pay the Program Obligations and the costs of administering the Program. Special assessment payments levied to finance Authorized Improvements will be due and payable by property owners at the same time real property taxes are due; provided, that certain Program Obligations may require special assessments to be due and payable by property owners only to the extent that such property owners fail to pay an obligation of the property owner secured by special assessments, such as a loan, in which case special assessments will only be due and payable by property owners if actually levied.

**Nothing in this Plan shall be construed as a representation on the part of any participating political subdivision, the District, the Board, or any of the directors, officers, agents, members, independent contractors, or employees of the District or Board that the Program is the best financing option for every situation. Property owners are advised to conduct independent research to determine the best course of action.**

# The District’s Governance, Program Administrator, and Conduit Financing Entity

The District shall be governed, pursuant to the District Documents and the Act, by the Board of Directors (“Board”) of the City of Columbus, Ohio Energy Special Improvement District, Inc., a nonprofit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Ohio (the “Corporation”) to govern the District.

Pursuant to the Act, other Ohio law, and the Code of Regulations of the Corporation, the Board may from time to time, and under such conditions as the Board determines, delegate any or all of the authority contained in this Plan to its sub-committee or to an agent, independent contractor, or employee of the District or the Board.

This Plan specifically contemplates that, as authorized in the Act, [\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_] will serve as the District’s “Program Administrator” and render program administration services to the District and the Columbus-Franklin County Finance Authority will serve as the District’s “Conduit Financing Entity” and render conduit financing services to the District.

The District is authorized to contract with [\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_] for program administration services rendered to the District. The program administration services rendered by the Program Administrator may include, without limitation (i) pursuant to Part III of this Plan, developing and administering eligibility guidelines, creating and administering an application, setting criteria and developing a list of pre-approved contractors, procuring resources or cooperating with property owners to procure resources, and administering referrals, (ii) pursuant to Part IV of this Plan, marketing, program design, cooperating with property owners to implement Authorized Improvements, and other administrative services, and (iii) the establishment and administration of a revolving loan facility providing financing for certain special energy improvement projects.

The District is authorized to contract with the Columbus-Franklin County Finance Authority for conduit financing services rendered to the District. The conduit financing services rendered by the Conduit Financing Entity may include, without limitation (i) pursuant to Part III of this Plan, financing Authorized Improvement and cooperating with property owners to obtain financing, (ii) pursuant to Part IV of this Plan, tracking and administering Program Obligations, administering special assessments, budgeting, and conducting or overseeing the audit process, (iii) assistance with marketing efforts relating to the District, and (iv) tracking compliance with respect to the Economic Inclusion Plan established by the Columbus-Franklin County Finance Authority.

# Program Eligibility, Approvals, Financing, and Procurement

The Board is hereby authorized to create, administer, amend, and abolish a process by which property owners join the Program. The process by which property owners join the Program may include, without limitation, the following requirements:

1. Eligibility. The Board is hereby authorized to create, administer, amend, and abolish eligibility requirements for the Program. The Board is further authorized to determine, in each individual case, whether property is eligible for participation in the Program.

To be eligible for participation in the Program, each property owner must file a petition with the Board requesting to add its property to the District and requesting the levy of special assessments to be used to pay or secure Program Obligations issued or used to finance Authorized Improvements. Each parcel of real property added to the District must have at least one Authorized Improvement. The petition to add property to the District shall be considered by the District in accordance with this Plan and the other District Documents. If the District approves the petition, it shall submit the petition to the executive officer and legislative body of the participating political subdivision in which the real property is located. A property owner may file more than one petition and may amend or withdraw any petition filed at any time before the petition is approved by the legislative body of the participating political subdivision in which the real property is located. Petitions shall conform to the requirements of Ohio Revised Code Chapter 1710 and any requirements of the Board.

To be eligible for participation in the Program, each property owner must agree to be bound by the terms of this Plan. The Plan for the District may be amended and supplemented from time to time in accordance with its terms, including, specifically, by supplements to the Plan which identify additional Authorized Improvements within the District to be subject to the Plan or add property to the District and subject such additional property to the Plan. To be eligible for participation in the Program, each property owner must file a supplement to this Plan (the “Plan Supplement”) with the Board and the clerk of the legislative body of the participating political subdivision in which the real property is located identifying the Authorized Improvements to be undertaken as part of the Plan applicable to real property within the District or to be added to the district. Plan Supplements shall include such other information as may be required by the Board. Plan Supplements shall conform to the requirements of Ohio Revised Code Chapter 1710 and any requirements of the Board.

To be eligible for participation in the Program, each property owner must agree to and must execute an Affidavit on Facts Relating to Title under Section 5301.252 of the Ohio Revised Code to be recorded with respect to the real property to be added to the District and filed with the clerk of the legislative body of the participating political subdivision in which the real property is located, which Affidavit on Facts Relating to Title shall state that the property owner has consented to include such real property in the District and that the property owner consents to, and will take all actions necessary to place upon such property, any subsequent special improvement district formed under Ohio Revised Code Chapter 1710 that includes such real property as long as the statutory conditions for forming the subsequent special improvement district are otherwise satisfied.

1. Application. The Board is hereby authorized to create, administer, amend, and abolish an application, including a pre-application, for participation in the Program. The Board further may set the terms and conditions for the application’s use and evaluation.
2. Contractors. The Board is hereby authorized to require property owners to complete Authorized Improvements through the work of pre-approved contractors. The Board is further authorized to create criteria for the approval of contractors, including but not limited to compliance with the Economic Inclusion Plan adopted by the Columbus-Franklin County Finance Authority, and to determine which contractors meet the criteria and are approved. The Board may communicate which contractors have been pre-approved to property owners by any means the Board deems appropriate, and the Board shall determine whether property owners comply with its pre-approved contractor’s requirements.

**Nothing in this Plan or the District Documents shall be construed to be a recommendation or guarantee of reliability of pre-approved contractors by any participating political subdivision, the District, the Board, or any of the directors, officers, agents, members, independent contractors, or employees of the District or Board.**

1. Procurement and Referrals. The Board is hereby authorized to procure supplies, services, contracts, financing, and other resources related to the completion of Authorized Improvements. The Board is further authorized to refer property owners to suppliers, service providers, contractors, lenders, and the providers of other resources related to the completion of Authorized Improvements and the administration of District activities.

Pursuant to the Act, the Board shall adopt written rules prescribing competitive bidding procedures for the District and for Authorized Improvements undertaken by the District on behalf of property owners, which competitive bidding procedures may differ from competitive bidding procedures applicable to the City or the procedures in Chapter 735 of the Ohio Revised Code and may specify conditions under which competitive bidding is not required. Except as specified in the Act and in this Plan, the District Documents shall not be construed to eliminate or alter the competitive bidding procedures applicable to the City as a participating political subdivision.

1. Financing. The Board is hereby authorized to finance Authorized Improvements through the use or issuance of Program Obligations. The Board may hire such legal and financial professionals as may be required to successfully finance Authorized Improvements through the use or issuance of Program Obligations.

# Services Plan

The Board is hereby authorized to provide ongoing services to the District, its property, and the property owners. All services provided under this Plan shall be deemed to be services provided in furtherance of Authorized Improvements provided under this Plan. Such services, without limitation, may include the following:

1. Program Design. The Board is hereby authorized to design comprehensive services to establish and maintain the Program’s legal and programmatic framework.
2. Program Administration. The Board is hereby authorized to educate the public on the Program and its purposes, market the program to the public, process applications, verify aspects of the Authorized Improvements, assure the Program’s overall quality and the quality of Authorized Improvements, serve customers, and assist property owners in the origination and closing processes.
3. Marketing. The Board is hereby authorized to market the Program and promote the District’s image through means such as developing literature and brochures, conducting public relations, collecting data, managing information, cooperating with members, creating electronic and print marketing materials, and holding special events.
4. Authorized Improvement Implementation. The Board is hereby authorized to cooperate with property owners for the implementation of Authorized Improvements, including cooperating with property owners for the addition of property to the District and the approval of petitions and Plan Supplements by participating political subdivisions and the Board.
5. Tracking and Administration of Program Obligations. The Board is hereby authorized to create, administer, amend, and abolish procedures for the tracking and administration of Program Obligations issued or used to finance Authorized Improvements. Without limitation, the administration of special assessments may include reporting delinquent special assessments, following-up with delinquent property owners, and coordinating with delinquent property owners. The Board may hire such professionals as may be required to successfully track and administer Program Obligations.
6. Administering Special Assessments. The Board is hereby authorized to create, administer, amend, and abolish procedures for the administration of special assessments levied pursuant to the District Documents. Without limitation, the administration of special assessments may include calculating the amount of special assessments, preparing certifications of special assessments for the county auditor, billing the special assessments, and considering property owners’ claims regarding the calculation or billing of special assessments. The Board may hire such professionals as may be required to successfully administer special assessments.
7. Budgeting. The Board shall provide for the production of an annual report describing the District’s budget, services delivered, revenues received, expenditures made, and other information about the District’s activities. The annual report shall be made available to the Board and to the District’s members. The Board may hire such professionals as may be required to successfully account for all District finances.
8. Auditing. The Board is hereby authorized to provide for an audit of the District in such manner as the Board deems appropriate. The Board may hire such professionals as may be required to successfully audit the District.
9. Other Services. The Board is hereby authorized to provide any other services authorized by the Act.

#  Fees

Program Costs. The Board is hereby authorized to charge to property owners, as costs of administering the Program, any costs permitted by the Act. Such costs may include, without limitation, the following:

1. The cost of creating and operating the District, including creating and operating City of Columbus, Energy Special Improvement District, Inc., hiring employees and professional services, contracting for insurance, and purchasing or leasing office space or office equipment;
2. The cost of planning, designing, and implementing Authorized Improvements or services under this Plan, including payment of architectural, engineering, legal, appraisal, insurance, consulting, energy auditing, and planning fees and expenses, and, for services under this Plan, the management, protection, and maintenance costs of public or private facilities;
3. Any court costs incurred by the District in implementing this Plan or any Plan Supplements;
4. Any damages resulting from implementing the public improvements or public services plan;
5. The costs of issuing, monitoring, paying interest on, and redeeming or refunding Program Obligations issued or used to finance Authorized Improvements or services under this Plan; and
6. The costs associated with the sale, lease, lease with an option to purchase, conveyance of other interests in, or other contracts for the acquisition, construction, maintenance, repair, furnishing, equipping, operation, or improvement of the District’s territory, or between the District and any owner of property in the District on which an Authorized Improvement has been acquired, installed, equipped, or improved.

Pursuant to the Act, such Program costs may be included in the special assessments levied on real property within the District.

Application Fee. The Board is hereby authorized to set and charge an application fee for Program services provided by the District. The application fee may be non-refundable. The application fee may be credited to the cost of Authorized Improvements if the application is approved and an Authorized Improvement is made to the property for which application was made.

# Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Regulations and Requirements

Energy Efficiency Reporting Requirements. Ohio Revised Code Section 1710.061 requires the Board to submit a quarterly report to each electric distribution utility (“EDU”) with a District Authorized Improvement within the EDU’s certified territory. The quarterly report submitted to the EDU must include the total number and a description of each new and ongoing District Authorized Improvement that produces energy efficiency savings or reduction in demand and other additional information that the EDU needs to obtain credit under Ohio Revised Code Section 4928.66 for energy efficiency savings or reduction in demand from such projects. The Board is hereby authorized to submit quarterly reports due required under Ohio Revised Code Section 1710.061. Property owners shall comply with Board requirements for information gathering and reporting to ensure Board compliance with Ohio Revised Code Section 1710.061.

Energy Efficiency Credits. The Board is hereby authorized to adopt rules governing energy efficiency credits associated with Authorized Improvements financed with Program Obligations or the proceeds of Program Obligations. Property owners shall comply with Board requirements in furtherance of energy efficiency credit programs.

Renewable Energy Credits. The Board is hereby authorized to adopt rules governing renewable energy credits associated with Authorized Improvements financed with Program Obligations or the proceeds of Program Obligations. Property owners shall comply with Board requirements in furtherance of renewable energy credit programs.

Monetizing Other Energy Efficiency or Renewable Energy Attributes. The Board is hereby authorized to adopt rules governing the monetization of any energy efficiency or renewable energy attributes of any Authorized Improvements financed with Program Obligations or the proceeds of Program Obligations. Property owners shall comply with Board requirements in furtherance of the monetization of such attributes.

# Statutory Requirements

As provided in the District Documents:

1. Additional territory may be added to the District in accordance with the Act and the rules established by the Board pursuant to Part III of this Plan.
2. The District Documents may be amended or supplemented in accordance with their terms.
3. As described in this Plan, the Board is authorized to implement and amend this Plan, any Supplemental Plan, and any other plans for Authorized Improvements, public improvements, and public services, all in accordance with the Act.
4. The public improvements to be provided by the District are the Authorized Improvements identified in each petition and Plan Supplement. The area where the Authorized Improvements will be undertaken will be the area identified in each petition requesting formation of the District or requesting addition of real property to the District. The method of assessment shall be in proportion to the special benefits received by each property owner within the District as a result of Authorized Improvements.
5. For the purpose of levying an assessment, the Board may combine levies for Authorized Improvements and public services into one special assessment to be levied against each specially benefited property in the District.

# Changes in State and Federal Law

The ability to issue or use Program Obligations to finance Authorized Improvements is subject to a variety of state and federal laws. If these laws change after property owners have applied to the District for financing, the District may be unable to fulfill its obligations under this Plan. **The District shall not be obligated to implement any provision of this Plan which is contrary to state or federal law. The District shall not be liable for any inability to finance Authorized Improvements as a result of state and federal law or any changes in state and federal law which reduce or eliminate the effectiveness of financing Authorized Improvements through the District’s Program.**

# Releases and Indemnification

The District has been created with the approval of the City of Columbus, Ohio, as a participating political subdivision, for the purposes of implementing this Plan and administering the Program. The District and any participating political subdivision shall be neither responsible nor liable for the installation, operation, financing, refinancing, or maintenance of Authorized Improvements. Property owners will be solely responsible for the installation, operation, financing, refinancing, and maintenance of the Authorized Improvements. Participation in the Program does not in any way obligate the District or any participating political subdivision to ensure the viability of Authorized Improvements. Owners of assessed real property must pay the special assessments regardless of whether the Authorized Improvements are properly installed or operate as expected.

**By agreeing to and executing this Plan, each owner of real property included in the District (other than any political subdivision that owns real property included in the District) agrees to release, defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the District and the participating political subdivisions, including their directors, officers, members, agents, independent contractors, and employees, from and against any claims, actions, demands, costs, damages or lawsuits, arising out of or connected with participation in the Program. Any political subdivision that owns real property included in the District agrees to release and hold harmless the District and the participating political subdivisions, including their directors, officers, members, agents, independent contractors, and employees, from and against any claims, actions, demands, costs, damages or lawsuits, arising out of or connected with the political subdivision’s participation in the Program in its capacity as a property owner.**

# Changes in the Program Terms; Severability

Participation in the Program is subject to the District Document terms and conditions in effect from time to time during participation. The District reserves the right to change this Plan and the terms and conditions of the District Documents at any time without notice. No such change will affect a property owner’s obligation to pay special assessments as set forth in the District Documents.

If any provision of the District Documents is determined to be unlawful, void, or for any reason unenforceable, that provision shall be severed from these District Documents and shall not affect the validity and enforceability of any remaining provisions.

# Disclosure of Property Owner Information

The District and any participating political subdivision may disclose information of the District to any agent of the District or to third parties when such disclosure is essential either to the conduct of the District’s business or to provide services to property owners, including but not limited to where such disclosure is necessary to (i) comply with the law (ii) enable the District and participating political subdivisions and their agents to provide services or otherwise perform their duties, and (iii) obtain and provide credit reporting information. In order to receive funding for the Program and to enable communication regarding the State of Ohio’s energy programs, property owners’ names and contact information may be disclosed to their current electric utilities. Property owners’ names, contact information, and utility usage data further may be disclosed to the District and its agents for the purpose of conducting surveys and evaluating the Program. The District shall not disclose personal information to third parties for telemarketing, e-mail, or direct mail solicitation unless required to by law or court order.

**Each owner of real property located within the District acknowledges that the District is subject to Ohio public records laws, including Ohio Revised Code Section 149.43 *et seq.* Each property owner that executes this Plan agrees to the disclosure of certain property owner information as stated in this Part.**

**by executing this Plan, The property owner identified below hereby AUTHORIZES AND CONSENTS TO THIS PLAN and agrees TO PERFORM the obligations of the property owner contained in this Plan.**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2014

**Property Owner:**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Authorized Signatory**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Title:

Address for notices to Property Owner:

Description of Real Property Subject to this Plan: