Ohio Sunset Review Committee
Agency Questionnaire

Agency Name Ohio Propane Council

Point of Contact Todd Thatcher

Agency's primary purpose and its various goals and objectives

The Ohio Propane Council was created to establish a statewide marketing program to promote the propane industry as a safe and efficient industry and to promote programs that incentivize the use of propane throughout Ohio; and to support training, research and industry education.

The Council was created in House Bill166 (Main Operating Budget) of the 133rd General Assembly in 2019. Since its inception, the Ohio Propane Council made it a goal to increase energy efficiency for rural Ohioans by creating an appliance rebate program. Through the rebate program, the Council is creating safer homes by requiring appliance installations with safety checks required by licensed professionals. The Council is also making homes operate more efficiently through incentives that encourage newer, more efficient appliances (furnaces and water heaters) that are also using cleaner energy.

Agency's past and anticipated workload, number of staff required to complete workload, and total number of staff

The Council, in an effort to maximize efficiency and operate at lower costs, has outsourced its operational and rebate processing staff to a contract management organization. The Council has additionally outsourced its marketing efforts to a contractual based public relations firm. Both decisions to contract with third-party entities allow the Council to operate at a fraction of the cost of in-house staff, and these contractual decisions allow more funding to be devoted to the appliance rebate program.

Agency's past and anticipated budgets and its sources of funding

All funding for the Ohio Propane Council is provided entirely through an assessment of .002 mills per gallon of propane sold at the wholesale level. The Council does not rely on any state funding. The funding mechanism mirrors numerous other state agricultural check-off and marketing programs. By statute, the marketing program is required to be self-supporting.

Number of members of its governing board or other governing entity and their compensation, if any

Per statute, the Council is appointed by the Director of Agriculture and must be comprised of: two multi-state propane gas retailers; two intrastate propane gas retailers; one cooperative propane gas retailer; one wholesale propane gas wholesale distributor; one propane gas equipment dealer; the Director of Agriculture or the Director's designee and the state fire marshal or fire marshal's designee. Aside from reimbursement for travel expenses and council-related activities members of the Council do not receive compensation from the state.

Additional notes

The Ohio Department of Agriculture is respectfully requesting re-authorization of the Ohio Propane Council.