

## **LOCAL GROUPS PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL PROJECT**

Members from the Bryan Co-op and the Williams County Alliance gathered at the Bryan Community Center on June 14 to take part in a Community Conversation, a component of the National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposure.

The National Conversation, supported by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, is a two year project to create a national action agenda for strengthening the United States' approach to protecting the public from harmful chemical exposure. The Community Conversation provided an opportunity to gain input and ideas from the public. More than 50 conversations, with over 800 participants, were planned across the nation.

The feedback from the community meetings will be synthesized with other conversations being held throughout the country into a report. The report will be shared with the National Conversation work groups and the Leadership Council and will help inform their work as they begin developing the action agenda. The Leadership Council, a group of key environmental and public health leaders, will prioritize recommendations and consider key issues or ideas important to members of the public who were engaged in the project. The action agenda—clear, achievable recommendations—will help government agencies and other organizations strengthen their efforts to protect the public from harmful chemical exposures.

The Williams County Alliance, in partnership with the Bryan Co-op and Ohioans for Health, Environment and Justice, was awarded a grant to help assist in hosting a Community Conversation. The Bryan Co-op and the Williams County Alliance are local grassroots organizations.

A follow-up discussion on reform of the Toxic Substances Control Act will be held at the Williams County Alliance meeting on Monday, July 26, at 5 pm, at the Williams County Public Library Annex. The meeting is open to the public.