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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MORPC promotes Air Quality Awareness Week

(Columbus – April 29) The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) will be promoting *National Air Quality Awareness Week*, May 2-6, 2016, with daily social media messages informing residents about steps Central Ohioans can take to reduce air pollution. Poor air quality affects everyone; however, some individuals are particularly sensitive to air pollutants, including children and adults who are active outdoors, the elderly, and those with chronic respiratory diseases such as asthma. “National Air Quality Awareness Week is a reminder that everyone can pitch in to improve regional air quality,” stated MORPC’s Air Quality Program Supervisor, Evelyn Ebert. “MORPC will be highlighting actions Central Ohioans can take to improve air quality on our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages, so be sure to *like* and *follow* MORPC to learn more.”

MORPC uses the national AQI scale to inform the public about daily ozone and particle pollution levels in Central Ohio. The AQI scale runs from 0 to 300 - the higher the AQI value, the greater the health concern. When levels reach above 100, air quality is considered to be Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups. MORPC issues an Air Quality Alert to the public when pollution levels reach 101 or higher. You can sign-up online to receive Air Quality Alert notifications delivered straight to your inbox at <http://airquality.morpc.org>.

Many partners in the Central Ohio community have already taken steps to be stewards of regional air quality. More than 25 local governments and businesses have pledged to Take Five for Clean Air, each committing to at least five air-friendly practices. MORPC recognizes Metro Parks as an example of a strong partner for clean air in Central Ohio, and member of the [Take Five for Clean Air campaign](#). Metro Parks notifies staff of Air Quality Alerts via e-mail so that outdoor workers can take the necessary precautions and Park Rangers can inform the public about Air Quality Events.

After adopting a No Idling policy, Metro Parks was able to access No Idling parking lot signs from MORPC for display at each Metro Park. Staff members report that the public asks about the signs when visiting the parks, providing an opportunity to educate Central Ohioans about the pollution caused by unnecessary vehicle idling. Emissions from cars and trucks are the single biggest contributor to harmful ozone pollution in the region.

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Working to Build a Better Region

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The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) is a voluntary association of local governments and regional organizations which envisions and embraces innovative directions in economic prosperity, energy, the environment, housing, land use, and transportation. Our transformative programming, services and innovative public policy are designed to promote and support the vitality and growth in the region.