



Contact: Bernice Cage
Tel.: 614-233-4157
Cell Phone: 614-626-1117
Email: bcage@morpc.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

State Leaders address Energy Policies and Sustainability Issues at MORPC's 2015 Summit on Sustainability

(Columbus – September 29, 2015) The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission's 2015 Summit on Sustainability will take place Friday, October 2 from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Hilton Columbus Downtown, 401 North High Street, Columbus. The Summit on Sustainability is MORPC's signature environmental conference, bringing hundreds of community leaders together to explore and share sustainable ideas and solutions. This year's theme, *Regions Matter*, will focus on sharing best practices that can be applied by local governments, businesses and residents to improve the environment in which we live.

The region is forecasted to grow by 25 percent by the year 2050, yet recent studies have illustrated inefficiency in the regional use of energy in the transportation, industrial, commercial and residential sectors. Meanwhile, many companies are investing in cleaner, smarter uses of energy to improve operational excellence and reduce environmental impacts.

State leaders and experts will address energy and sustainability policies, current trends and issues in three breakout sessions:

9–10:30 a.m. Energy Policy & Current Issues

Senator Troy Balderson, District 20; Ted Ford, Ohio Advance Energy Economy; and State Representative Michael Stinziano, District 18 will discuss energy efficiency and renewable energy options that can support the growth and success in Central Ohio. The report of the Energy Mandates Study Committee is expected by September 30 and Property Assessed Clean Energy is being streamlined as a more effective project financing tool.

10:45 a.m. -12:15 p.m. Fuels & Transportation

Sam Spofforth, Clean Fuels Ohio; Issac Orr, Heartland Institute; and Jack Irvin, Government & Industry Affairs for Ohio Corn & Wheat will discuss the current environment of fuels and share their insight on what solutions will ensure that future generations in Central Ohio enjoy a clean and sustainable environment.

2–3:30 p.m. Looking ahead, what are the important Sustainability Policy Issues?

Alison Goebel, Greater Ohio Policy Center; Jack Shaner, Ohio Environmental Council; Kevin Futryk, Government Advantage; and Shawn Bennet, Ohio Oil and Gas will address emerging environmental and sustainability issues we face as a region and provide their legislative insight on potential policy solutions.

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Working to Build a Better Region

**111 Liberty Street, Suite 100
Columbus, Ohio 43215-5222
Phone (614) 228-2663 Fax (614) 621-2401
www.morpc.org**

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An agenda for the 2015 Summit is available at www.morpc.org/summit.

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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.