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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MORPC Seeks Nominations for Green Region Awards

(Columbus – June 1, 2016) The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) is seeking nominations through June 30, 2016 for the [Green Region Awards](#), honoring individuals and organizations working to create a more vibrant and environmentally sustainable region. MORPC will announce the award recipients at the Summit on Sustainability on Friday, October 21, 2016 at the Hilton Columbus Downtown.

The ***Bill Lewis Green Mobility Award*** recognizes an individual, either professional or student, exemplifying outstanding work towards creating a world-class multi-modal transportation system for Central Ohio. Last year's award was presented to the family of Bill Lewis in recognition of his unwavering commitment to public service and his many accomplishments in the areas of active transportation, multi-modal transportation projects, and innovative projects.

The ***Green Leader Award*** is given in recognition of an individual or organization exemplifying outstanding leadership and innovation in seeking comprehensive sustainability solutions to address key challenges facing the region. The 2015 winner of the Green Leader Award was Mount Carmel Health System. Some examples of Mount Carmel Health System's innovative solutions include the Healthier Beverage Challenge which increased the amount of healthy beverages by 20 percent and an AEP rebate program/energy grant for the use of Energy Star equipment and products during utility upgrades which resulted in cost savings and reduction of energy consumption.

The ***Green Collaborative Achievement Award*** is given to a group of organizations or individuals who have shown effectiveness in producing environmental accomplishments through a collaborative effort. Criteria for nominations:

- tangible results, innovation, and long-term impacts on Central Ohio
- comprehensive sustainability approaches, which include consideration for a combination of the following MORPC program areas: agricultural preservation and local food, air quality, energy, materials management, sustainable growth, trails and active transportation, and water quality

Last year's winner was the Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed (FLOW). FLOW and their partners have created a foundation of success for several ongoing and new initiatives that support the fulfillment of FLOW's mission. Programs like the Adopt-A-Pond or FLOW's Stream Quality Monitoring initiative are all aimed at improving water quality, increasing the health of our watersheds, and offering different pathways for citizen watershed stewardship.

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Working to Build a Better Region

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Nominations are open to individuals and organizations located within MORPC's 15-county region (Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Hocking, Knox, Licking, Logan, Madison, Marion, Morrow, Perry, Pickaway, Ross, and Union counties). Repeat winners will not be selected from the previous two years, but nominees from previous years can be re-submitted.

The tenth annual Summit on Sustainability is MORPC's signature environmental conference developed to aid community leaders, businesses, and individuals in going green. The event brings hundreds of people together to explore and share sustainable solutions.

Visit www.morpc.org/summit for more information on registration, sponsorship opportunities and award nominations, or contact Amanda McEldowney, amceldowney@morpc.org or 614.233.4112.

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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.