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MORPC Announces 2015 Green Region Award Winners

(Columbus – October 5, 2015) The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission's (MORPC's) 2015 Summit on Sustainability took place October 2 at the Hilton Columbus Downtown. The inspiring event featured a variety of educational sessions about Public Policy, Energy, Environment, Land-Use, and Transportation. The event also marked the addition of a new award, the Green Mobility Award, in honor of the late William (Bill) A. Lewis, Jr., former City of Columbus Chief Mobility Engineer.

The 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. This 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.

Mount Carmel Health System was presented with the Green Leader Award. The **Green Leader Award** recognizes an individual or entity exemplifying outstanding leadership and innovation in seeking comprehensive sustainability solutions to address key challenges facing the region. Mount Carmel is a leader in the healthcare industry related to environmental sustainability activities. A hospital system Green Team was established and in the past two years pledged to pursue the following Healthier Hospital Initiatives: Healthier Food, Leaner Energy, Less Waste, Safer Chemicals, and Smarter Purchasing. 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.

Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed (FLOW) was presented the Green Collaborative Achievement Award. **The Green Collaborative Achievement Award** recognizes a group of entities or individuals who have shown effectiveness in producing environmental accomplishments through a collaborative effort. FLOW and their partners have created a foundation of success for several ongoing and new initiatives that support the fulfillment of FLOW's mission - to keep the Olentangy River and its tributaries clean and

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Working to Build a Better Region

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safe for all to enjoy, through public education, volunteer activities, and coordination with local decision makers. 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. Also entrenched in the spirit of collaboration are the ongoing initiatives for education and advocacy through installing rain barrels, rain gardens, and restoring the tributaries and river corridors of the lower Olentangy through invasive species removal, litter clean-ups, and native plantings.

Award videos can be found 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.