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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **MORPC Announces 2016 Green Region Award Winners**

**(Columbus – October 21, 2016)** The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission’s (MORPC’s) 2016 Summit on Sustainability took place today at the Hilton Columbus Downtown. The inspiring event featured a variety of educational sessions about Local Food, Public Policy, Energy, Environment, Sustainability and Air Quality.

**John (JM) Rayburn**, City of Dublin, is the recipient of The William A. Lewis Jr. Green Mobility Award. **The William A. Lewis Jr. 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. Rayburn, through his professional, volunteer and advocacy work with Forge Columbus, the Godman Guild Emerging Leaders Program, the Columbus Green Team and Open Streets, undoubtedly has the passion, commitment and work ethic to be a worthy recipient of the Green Mobility Award.

**Dale Arnold** is the recipient of 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. Arnold is an exceptional leader on energy and agriculture policy in Ohio. Since 1985, he has worked with the Ohio Farm Bureau and currently serves as the Director of Energy, Utility and Local Government Policy. He works with Ohio Farm Bureau leaders and members to create effective energy policy on local, state and national levels, as well as establish programs that help farm, small business, and residential energy consumers control their energy costs.

**Green Columbus, City of Columbus, Green Funds of The Columbus Foundation and Keep Columbus Beautiful** were 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. The group organized a spectacular Earth Day event in April 2016. The theme was “Branch Out” and during one week of volunteer opportunities across central Ohio, over 20,000 trees were planted. In all over 5,200 volunteers participated at 129 locations where they prepared community gardens, cleaned neighborhoods, beautified natural areas and planted trees. In addition to the primary collaborators, dozens of community organizations also participated by hosting service opportunities.

Award videos can be found at <https://vimeo.com/morpc>.

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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.*