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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MORPC Forum *Be Air Aware* Kicks Off Ozone Season in Central Ohio

(Columbus – April 24, 2014) The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) will host for local governments, businesses and individuals a Regional Education Forum titled *Be Air Aware and Act to Protect Your Health* on Wednesday, April 30, 2014 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. This forum will feature:

- MORPC - Air Quality Alerts
- Columbus Public Health - Air Quality Action Days: How Columbus Responds
- Breathing Association - Struggling for Air on a Bad Air Day: How Air Quality Affects People with Respiratory Disease
- MORPC - RideSolutions Program Finds a Better Way to Get to Work
- Car2Go – Carshare in Central Ohio
- COGO – Bikeshare in Central Ohio

Lunch will be provided free of charge thanks to support from Car2Go. Please RSVP by Monday, April 28, 2014 by replying to amceldowney@morpc.org or calling 614-233-4112.

April 1st marked the start of ozone season that runs through October. Ground-level ozone is a focus this summer since it forms in the presence of sunlight. It is a colorless, odorless gas produced from emissions from vehicles and lawn equipment. Particle pollution is also monitored but does not need the presence of sunlight to reach unhealthy levels. It is a mixture of solids and liquid droplets emitted from motor vehicle exhaust, construction activity, power plants, industrial facilities and residential fireplaces.

The public is encouraged to sign up online at airquality.morpc.org to receive Air Quality Alert notifications delivered through email when an alert is issued for the day's forecast. Residents can do their part to reduce air pollution by taking COTA, walking, biking, or sharing a ride. MORPC's RideSolutions program can assist residents in forming arrangements by calling 1.888.742.RIDE (7433).

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MORPC is a voluntary association of local governments in Central Ohio serving the region through planning, direct service, public policy information and innovative programming, and intergovernmental coordinating services in the areas of transportation, land use, energy conservation, the environment and housing.

Working to Build a Better Region

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