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## MORPC Receives Exceptional Nominees for Green Region Awards

**(Columbus – September 23, 2014)** The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) received many exceptional nominees 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 & the Environment on October 10 at Hilton Columbus Downtown. For more information on the Summit visit [www.morpc.org/summit](http://www.morpc.org/summit).

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 nominees include:

**The Discovery District Civic Association (DDCA) Sustainability Program** - initiated two mutually supporting programs in 2014 to encourage sustainability in the district. DDCA met their goal of 100 new participants in the AEP Energy Saving Program, and partnered with the City of Columbus GreenSpot Program in the development of a pilot program for a Neighborhood GreenSpot Membership category.

**Erin Miller, Get Green Columbus** – focuses internally on city operations as well as externally partnering with stakeholders from throughout the community. After launching RecyColumbus, the most celebrated project in the history of the Get Green Columbus initiative, the City was challenged to continue this great progress into 2014 with the launch of CoGo Bike Share, car sharing services and announcement of the expansion of the residential recycling program among other successes.

**Jack Knapp, Accurate IT** - Knapp has been instrumental in setting up community recycling programs for Dublin and Worthington. Both of these programs are run at no cost to the tax payers. Knapp also started programs with several charities to help educate people while giving back to their programs.

**Jerry Rampelt, Ohio-to-Erie Trail Executive Director** - Rampelt, executive director of the Ohio to Erie Trail Fund since 2004, works tirelessly to raise funds, generate support, and acquire corridor in his quest to complete what promises to be one of the country's premiere trail systems upon completion. Of the 300-mile length of the Ohio to Erie Trail, only 30 miles of the route remains to be acquired.

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*Working to Build a Better Region*

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**The Kroger Company, Columbus Division** promotes a culture of “reduce-reuse-recycle” throughout all stores. In 2013 Kroger diverted 145,549,000 pounds (72,774 tons) of recyclable material through their programs of cardboard recycling, organic material diversion, customer and store plastic bag recycling, plastic stretch film diversion, as well as paper, plastic bottle, aluminum can and glass recycling.

**Mayor Michael B. Coleman** - Mayor Michael B. Coleman established the Get Green Columbus initiative in 2005. Mayor Coleman’s hallmarks include his ability to call diverse stakeholders to action and provide the leadership to accomplish much through a public and private partnership that benefits all of Columbus. This is the foundation for a City of Columbus that is greener and more sustainable with greater transportation options, and a national leader in preserving and protecting the environment.

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. The nominees include:

**Central Ohio Greenways & Trails, Rails-to- Trails Conservancy, Franklin County Metro Parks, City of Columbus, and Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission** - The Central Ohio Greenway initiative was formed through collaboration between Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, MORPC, the City of Columbus, and Franklin County Metro Parks to benefit the residents of Franklin County and immediate outlying communities by helping them explore funding sources, enhance partnerships, and develop comprehensive regional trails plans.

**City of Columbus Departments of Public Services, Finance & Management, and Technology** - The Department of Public Service, with assistance from the Departments of Finance & Management and Technology, has launched new e-bidding and e-proposal services and processes for construction and professional service contracting. Since introducing the new e-bidding services in 2011 and new electronic proposal submissions in 2013, the Department of Public Service has awarded 106 construction contracts and 40 professional service contracts totaling \$170.4 million in public infrastructure investments.

**Franklin County Green Team** - The Green Team, a Commissioner initiative, is led by Franklin County Public Facilities Management and includes members from several County departments and agencies. Members have worked to educate Franklin County employees about natural resource issues by holding lunch-and-learn presentations, putting tips on the County Web portal, and sponsoring outreach events throughout the year. The Green Team has worked to increase recycling throughout county facilities, including the courthouse, the Franklin County Corrections Centers, Children Services and Fleet Management.

**Genoa, Liberty, and Orange Township Board of Trustee** - In June of 2014, the Boards of Trustees of all three townships awarded a 3 year contract to Rumpke Waste and Recycling Services. This collaboration united the most densely populated area of Delaware County on one contract. An estimated 22,900 households will save about \$4,735,923.00 over the contract life. The monthly rate awarded was \$12.95, the lowest rate in Central Ohio for unlimited curbside recycling and waste services.

**Momentive Specialty Chemicals and OSU Sustainable Business Practices Spring 2014 Class** - Tanis Marquette and Neil Drobny collaborated to present one of the most innovative sustainable business courses offered this year at The Ohio State University. The unique approach won recognition earlier in 2014 in the Environmental Leader and has been promoted within academic circles as a best practice in stakeholder engagement.