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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Columbus *Regional Energy Action Plan* Released by  
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission and  
National Association of Regional Councils**

*Plan Provides Assessment of Economic, Social, and Policy Energy Realities of Region*

**(Columbus – July 14, 2014)** Today, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) and the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) released the first-of-its-kind *Regional Energy Action Plan*. Made possible through support by The Energy Foundation, the *Regional Energy Action Plan* provides an assessment of the economic, social, and policy realities related to the development and use of energy throughout the 12-county Columbus, Ohio region. The plan also identifies recommendations that may lead to a more prosperous regional economy and enriched environment.

Energy is key to the economic growth and success of the Columbus region, which is the country's second-fastest growing, large metro in the U.S. with more than 675,000 people and 625,000 jobs added. The changes in federal and state policies, rising energy demand and price, and shifts in the traditional mix of energy supplies are impacting the regional level. To analyze these issues, MORPC, NARC, EWI, and the Colorado Energy Group (CEG) set out in 2013 to assess the state of energy in the Columbus region and to develop a set of recommendations for the region's future. The final step in 2014 was a peer review by a diverse set of regional experts in local and state policy, economic and workforce development, utility regulation, energy and resilience, and alternative energy that resulted in a robust plan with findings that provide a strategic focus for regional investments in the balanced use and production of energy that is more reliable, cleaner and creates jobs.

"NARC is pleased to have partnered with MORPC, EWI, and CEG on this ground-breaking effort to research, map, and assess the energy portfolio in the Columbus region," said NARC President Gary Moore, Judge/Executive, Boone County, KY. "At a time when the state of our nation's energy development/sourcing cannot be ignored, this plan provides timely information and recommendations that can be replicated across the country, allowing regional planning organizations to take strides towards creating energy secure and prosperous regions."

For NARC, the next phase of the report includes outreach to regions nationwide about the importance of this work and assisting other regions in completing their own *Regional Energy Action Plans*. For MORPC, the next phase of the effort is to gain consensus with its local government members and key stakeholders on prioritizing recommendations and implementing actions within a regional energy roadmap.

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*Working to Build a Better Region*

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“In these times with changing and uncertain federal and state policies on energy, regions need tools and resources like the *Regional Energy Action Plan*,” said MORPC Board Chair Eric Phillips, Economic Development Director of the City of Marysville and Union County, OH. “Energy is key to the economic growth and success of the Columbus region and this innovative plan will allow our local communities to be able to chart their own path and MORPC looks forward to assisting them along the way.”

Click [HERE](#) to access the *Regional Energy Action Plan* for the Columbus 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. For additional information, please visit [www.morpc.org](http://www.morpc.org).*

*The National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) serves as a national voice for regionalism by advocating for regional cooperation as the most effective way to address a variety of community planning and development opportunities and issues. NARC's member organizations are composed of multiple local governments that work together to serve American communities – large and small, urban and rural. For additional information, please visit [www.NARC.org](http://www.NARC.org).*