



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Commissioners Honored as American Planning Association's
2009 Public Officials of the Year**

During Tuesday's General Session meeting, Franklin County Commissioners accepted the 2009 Public Officials of the Year Award, which is granted to officials who demonstrate outstanding leadership, foresight and adherence to good planning principles. The award was presented by the American Planning Association – Central Ohio Chapter.

The award recognizes Franklin County Commissioners for their demonstrated leadership in energy efficiency and environmental sustainability for recent capital projects, specifically Huntington Park, the Franklin County Common Pleas Courthouse, and the Franklin County Animal Care and Control Dog Shelter and Adoption Center.

Franklin County Commissioners have used a combination of capital improvements and policies to measurably increase energy efficiency throughout Franklin County including construction projects which incorporate extensive energy efficiency standards and the anticipation of LEED certification.

Nominees were judged based on innovation, transferability and the quality of their projects and initiatives. Projects and initiatives should demonstrate creative problem solving by using an innovative approach. They should also be useful models for other jurisdictions, elected officials and planning professionals while demonstrating appropriate, applicable solutions to common issues and be well presented and of high quality to successfully communicate the ideas.

This is the first year for the American Planning Association – Central Ohio Chapter to recognize the planning and community sustainability efforts led by public officials.

“Sustainable planning is a common sense way to preserve our resources, and it is a fiscally prudent way to do business,” said Commissioner Paula Brooks. “These sustainable practices not only save taxpayer dollars, but they create good jobs and a bright future for our children and future generations.”

“In Franklin County we value the importance of innovative leadership and planning that is sustainable,” said Commissioner Marilyn Brown. “The Board of Commissioners thanks the American Planning Association – Central Ohio Chapter for this honor.”

“I’m proud of the work we accomplish in Franklin County,” said Commissioner John O’Grady. “The Board of Commissioners will continue to work every day to advance the priorities of our community.”