



Contact: Laura Koprowski
Cell Phone: 614-626-1116
Email: lkoprowski@morpc.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MORPC Green Summit Features Zoo's Jack Hanna and Other Top Speakers

(Columbus—October 5, 2009) The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) Summit on Sustainability & the Environment will feature top speakers addressing dramatic changes in our economy and national leadership on the issues of sustainability. **The Summit will take place tomorrow, Oct. 6 beginning at 9 a.m. at COSI.** Around 400 guests are expected at this third annual event. A few of the many dynamic speakers and topics are highlighted below:

Jack Hanna, Director Emeritus of the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, will kick-off the event at 9:30 a.m. and reveal insights gained from his extensive travels on how the world is changing. Hanna will also include several animals from the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium in his keynote remarks.

A lunch panel from 12:45 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. consisting of AEP's Dennis Welch, Battelle's Don McConnell, Amy Malick from International Council for Local Environmental initiatives, and Patrick Terrien from Columbus Council on World Affairs will discuss the global impact of local initiatives by businesses and government. Following the luncheon panel, Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman will give remarks and be presented with an award from MORPC Executive Director Chester Jourdan for the new Columbus User Bike Map.

Morning and afternoon break-out speakers will cover a variety of topics such as Susan Tomasky and Karen Sloneker from American Electric Power will discuss transmission systems and "smart grid" technology. Jennifer Klein from the Ohio Chamber of Commerce will discuss federal legislation that addresses global climate change. Ohio Department of Agriculture Director Robert Boggs will address the supply of locally-grown food and the implications for Ohio's economy. June Williamson, co-author of *Retrofitting Suburbia: Urban Design Solutions for Redesigning Suburbs* and recognized national speaker, will discuss how suburbs can get in the sustainability game.

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Working to Build a Better Region

111 Liberty Street, Suite 100
Columbus, Ohio 43215-5222
Phone (614) 228-2663 Fax (614) 621-2401
www.morpc.org

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Cleve Ricksecker with Capital Crossroads Special Improvement District will address recycling in workplaces while Dave Rinebolt with Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy and Ray Foeller, from the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel discusses how government funded weatherization programs provide multiple benefits.

Designated as central Ohio's metropolitan planning agency, MORPC is a voluntary association of 47 local governments. The Center for Energy & Environment at MORPC serves as a community resource in the region by offering a variety of services including: daily air quality forecasts, trail coordination, educational presentations, watershed planning, home weatherization, government carbon footprint analysis and more.