



COUNTY OF SUMMIT  
EXECUTIVE RUSSELL M. PRY



CITY OF AKRON  
MAYOR DONALD L. PLUSQUELLIC

**Immediate Release**

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**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Summit of Sustainability Awards Program Highlights New Categories, Format**  
*Calling on Local Companies to Compete*

**May 7, 2013 (Akron, Ohio)-** Today, Summit County Executive Russ Pry and Akron Mayor Don Plusquellic announced the second annual county-wide awards program that will showcase the best examples of commercial energy efficiency, waste reduction and involvement of employees. The ***Summit of Sustainability*** awards program will culminate in an awards breakfast on Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at The University of Akron’s Quaker Station, showcasing the five winners.

“Last year we engaged the community-at-large in creating and implementing sustainability plans of their own, and it was a tremendous success,” said Mayor Plusquellic. “This year two new categories were added to the sustainability contest,

widening the sustainability umbrella and boosting awareness and sustainability efforts in our entire community. I think our local leaders are beginning to understand that to be sustainable is to balance economic, environmental and social concerns, and to think about how actions today will affect future generations.”

The Founding Members of the Summit of Sustainability Awards program are the City of Akron, County of Summit, Keep Akron Beautiful, Greater Akron Chamber of Commerce and ReWorks, formerly known as the Summit Akron Solid Waste Management Authority. Many generous sponsors have also stepped forward to launch this awards program that will provide local sustainable best practices and mentors for businesses as the community works together to be more responsible stewards of its shared environment.

This year’s award categories will include: Small Business (25 employees or less), Medium Business (26 to 249 employees), Large Business (250 employees or more), Non-Profit/Community, and Public Sector (Governmental/Schools). This is a slight change from last year’s program which saw only two categories for business and none for the public sector.

Applicants will also have the opportunity to attend one of two Sustainability Symposiums being held this year in conjunction with the awards program. The first event is scheduled for Wednesday, May 29, 2013 from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Bridgestone Technical Center in Akron, while the second event will take place at Visual Marking Systems in Twinsburg on June 11, 2013. Bridgestone Americas and Visual Marking Systems were 2012 Summit of Sustainability Award winners. [Registration](#) is required for both events.

“The response to last year’s program was outstanding,” noted Summit County Executive Russ Pry. “By adding two new categories to this year’s program, we have

created an opportunity for more businesses, community and nonprofit groups, and public sector partners, such as schools, to be recognized for their commitment to sustainability and social responsibility.”

Sponsors of the Summit of Sustainability Awards Program include:

Sustainable Champions - Metro RTA, Sterling Jewelers, Inc., and the Akron Zoological Park

Conservation Leaders - Dominion Foundation, *FirstEnergy* Foundation, The University of Akron, River Valley Paper Company, Hasenstab Architects, and Waste Management’s Greenstar Recycling

Resource Guardians - Affinity Consultants, Bridgestone Americas, and Visual Marking Systems

Media Sponsors - The Summit, 91.3FM, Smart Business Network and Lockett Media

Applications for the Summit of Sustainability Awards are due Sunday, September 1, 2013. Companies seeking to apply must be located within Summit County. Applications and more information are online at [www.SummitOfSustainability.org](http://www.SummitOfSustainability.org).

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