



COUNTY OF SUMMIT
EXECUTIVE RUSSELL M. PRY



CITY OF AKRON
MAYOR DONALD L. PLUSQUELLIC

Immediate Release

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Summit of Sustainability Awards Program
Calling on Local Companies to Compete

April 12, 2012 (Akron, Ohio)- Today, Summit County Executive Russ Pry and Akron Mayor Don Plusquellic announced the first year of what will be an annual county-wide awards program that will showcase the best examples of commercial energy efficiency, waste reduction and involvement of employees, in companies with over 250 employees, companies with less than 250 employees and nonprofits. The **Summit of Sustainability** awards program will culminate in an awards luncheon on Thursday, October 25th at The University of Akron's Student Center Ballroom, showcasing the three winners.

“This is the next step for implementing the ***Greenprint for Akron*** sustainability and climate change plan - engaging the community-at-large in creating and implementing sustainability plans of their own,” said Mayor Plusquellic. “Leaders nationwide understand that to be sustainable is to balance economic, environmental and social concerns, and to think about how actions today will affect future generations. In reality, it is about helping our community save energy and money, create more transportation choices, preserve clean air and bring economic prosperity in the process.”

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 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.

"Summit County communities, businesses and nonprofit organizations continue to raise the bar for sustainability," noted Summit County Executive Pry. "This program provides us with an opportunity to recognize their efforts. It allows us to showcase local organizations whose commitment to sustainability has empowered them to evaluate the decisions they make through a filter of corporate responsibility and sustainability in a way that still makes good business sense."

Sponsors of the Summit of Sustainability Awards Program include:

Sustainable Champions - Metro RTA and Sterling, Inc.

Conservation Leaders - Dominion Foundation, *FirstEnergy* Foundation, The University of Akron, River Valley paper Company, Smart Business magazine, Hasenstab Architects, and Greenstar Recycling

Resource Guardians - Affinity Consultants

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

Entries for the Summit of Sustainability Awards are due September 10, 2012. Companies seeking to apply must be located within Summit County. Applications and more information are online at www.SummitOfSustainability.org.

Also announced at the press conference were *three* other upcoming “Green” events.

April 21-April 28th is “[Clean Up Akron Week/Great American Cleanup®](#).” This is a great community service opportunity where all volunteers will be able to clean up public property in the City of Akron and receive **free** clean up supplies and trash disposal. To register for a cleanup site, call Keep Akron Beautiful at 330.375.2116 or register through www.keepakronbeautiful.org. This event is sponsored by Keep Akron Beautiful as part of the national Great American Cleanup™.

On Friday, May 4, there are two exciting events happening at Lock 3 and throughout downtown: “[Green & Clean](#)” Day and the [Green Fair](#).

Downtown Akron Partnership (DAP) is recruiting volunteers to take part in its fifth annual “Green & Clean” Day, an event devoted to promoting and building a vibrant and valuable Downtown. “Green and Clean” Day provides an opportunity for downtown employees, residents, students and administrators to take ownership of their downtown neighborhood through volunteerism.

Volunteers will be assigned tasks (painting, landscaping and cleaning) that provide a connection to the environment and the daily work of the DAP ambassadors. Volunteers may choose to work the morning shift from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., the afternoon shift from 1 p.m.-4 p.m., or both. Each volunteer will receive a t-shirt and goodie bag,

with lunch being served between noon and 1 p.m. Lunch time festivities will include entertainment and door prizes.

Last year, this event attracted more than 300 volunteers, who swept 40 blocks of sidewalk, cleaned 18 parking lots, and filled more than 110 trash bags, among other jobs.

“We are looking forward to a busy day tackling projects like painting and refinishing fixtures that are outside of the scope of an Ambassador’s daily work,” said Suzie Graham, DAP president. “This year we are also revitalizing a green space for public use by employees and visitors Downtown.”

The **Green Fair**, occurring simultaneously with “Green and Clean” Day, is a great opportunity for local companies to learn more about environmentally safe products. Green Fair will take place at **Lock 3 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.** Local companies are encouraged to send their purchasing department employees and buyers to view, test, and sample new green products from area vendors. The green product lines available that day are examples of local products that are offered to companies who are seeking to switch to greener, safer, less hazardous products and products that are recycled or recyclable.

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