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## **MORPC Recognizes Communities Leading on Sustainability**

*Dublin, Gahanna, Genoa Township, Lockbourne and Upper Arlington Certified as Sustainable2050 Communities*

(Columbus – Oct. 15, 2018) The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) has certified five local governments as the first set of Sustainable2050 communities to achieve an elevated status for their actions to promote sustainability.

Sustainable2050 is a program that supports communities' sustainability efforts through direct technical assistance, collaboration, and recognition. Each member's tier status is determined by the number of eligible activities it carries out in five categories corresponding to MORPC's Regional Sustainability Agenda.

"These communities are dedicated to improving the quality of life of their residents in sustainable ways, and that should be celebrated," MORPC Planning & Environment Director Kerstin Carr said. "Through Sustainable2050, we are not only recognizing their commitment to sustainability, but ultimately assisting them, through access to resources, to do even more."

Dublin, Gahanna, Genoa Township, Lockbourne, and Upper Arlington comprise the first five certified Sustainable2050 members, with each being designated as *Bronze, Silver, Gold or Platinum* status.

The **City of Dublin** completed 48 eligible activities across five categories, achieving the *Platinum* designation. Highlights from Dublin include:

- A commitment to energy through its efforts to increase the percentage of fleet vehicles using alternative fuels
- Efforts to minimize greenfield development through its innovative code and master plan for the Bridge Street District
- A Green Purchasing Policy in place since 1998 to increase economic opportunity
- The Dublin Bikeway Plan that was recognized as a tool the city uses to serve a higher number of residents and workers

The **City of Gahanna** completed 14 eligible activities in four categories, achieving the *Silver* designation. Highlights from Gahanna include:

- Collaboration with private partners to host public alternative fuel stations
- An innovative stormwater credit incentive that encourages implementation of green stormwater infrastructure and reduction of peak flow runoff

**Genoa Township** completed 16 eligible activities in four categories, achieving the *Silver* designation. Highlights from Genoa Township include:

- Spreading the word about air quality, and promoting behavior change among its staff on Air Quality Alert days
- A commitment to Sustainable Neighborhoods by prioritizing maintenance and improvements to its multipurpose trails such as the Genoa Trail, which is a Central Ohio Greenways route and part of the Ohio to Erie Trail.

The **Village of Lockbourne** completed 17 eligible activities in five categories, achieving the *Silver* designation. Highlights from Lockbourne include:

- Actively reaching out to the community with information and education for its residents on air quality via social media and its Village View newsletter
- Preserving sustainable neighborhoods by promoting available home weatherization services and programs to its residents

The **City of Upper Arlington** completed 43 eligible activities across five categories, achieving the *Platinum* designation. Highlights from Upper Arlington include:

- A commitment to reducing the number of vehicle miles traveled, in part through its Complete Streets policy. It is one of only a handful of Central Ohio communities to have officially adopted a policy; theirs has been in place since 2014.
- A zoning code and master plan that focus on infill opportunities, which help the city to minimize greenfield development
- Promoting the Green Spot program, helping to increase the number of businesses and homes that carry out their own sustainability practices
- A commitment to Sustainable Neighborhoods by prioritizing the number of people and jobs it serves through its bike and pedestrian infrastructure. The Upper Arlington bikeways continue to expand, removing bike and pedestrian network gaps within the community.

More than 30 local communities committed to work toward more sustainable practices through MORPC's Sustainable2050 initiative, meaning more communities will be certified in the near future.

Additional information on the Sustainable2050 program can be found at [morpc.org/sustainable2050](http://morpc.org/sustainable2050).

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*The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) is a voluntary association of local governments and regional organizations that 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 more information, please visit [www.morpc.org](http://www.morpc.org).*