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**SUMMIT COUNTY GREEN POLICY TASK FORCE SUBMITS REPORT
Sub-Committees Work To Continue In 2010**

The Summit County Green Policy Task Force recently submitted a “White Paper” report to Summit County Council, outlining the efforts of its three sub-committees dedicated to environmental initiatives related to Green Business Certification, Deconstruction and Demolition, and Community Engagement and Education. The sub-committees were an outgrowth of recommendations by the Green Policy Task Force.

In 2008, the Green Policy Task Force was established to recommend to the County Council and County Executive Russ Pry environmental policies that would create jobs promote entrepreneurial partnerships and expand green business opportunities for those who live and work in Summit County. After an initial six month time frame, several recommendations were submitted to the Council and Executive for approval, including extending the task force for another 24 months. With the Council and Executive’s approval, the task force has continued to investigate ways that the County can adopt environmental awareness, education, and incentive strategies that reduce the use of natural resources through energy efficiency, water conservation and sustainable land use, while promoting the highest quality of life for Summit County residents.

The sub-committees met regularly throughout 2009 and worked on developing objectives and high level action plans to report back to the Summit County Green Policy Task Force through Task Force members who participated on each sub-committee.

Some initiatives suggested by the sub-committees in the “White Paper” included:

- The development of a comprehensive Summit County Green Website
- Adopting legislation incorporating into the County’s procurement process either requirements or preferences for vendors with the County to recycle Construction and Demolition Debris (C&DD) in County related projects for the Department of Administrative Services, Department of Environmental Services (DOES) and the Engineer’s Office.

- Completing a Green Business Survey to determine the current level of environmental practices among businesses ranging from 5 to 500 employees in Summit County, and developing an on-line Green Business Certification program.

“I was very encouraged by the enthusiasm and engagement level of each of our sub-committees throughout the year,” said Green Policy Task Force Chair, Councilwoman Ilene Shapiro, Summit County Council Member at Large. “There was a tremendous amount of knowledge and expertise at the tables and we were able to share and discuss some ideas that should lead to establishing programs and resources that will benefit this community for generations to come. I began this process as a very “light shade of green” in my familiarity with sustainability issues, and I’m progressively learning more as we go along. Our plans and recommendations will be good for the entire community – businesses, residents, developers, students – we want everyone to be more informed to make a difference,” she concluded.

The Summit County Green Policy Task Force will continue to meet in 2010 with the sub-committees continuing to participate as needed. The Task Force White paper is available on the Summit County Go Green page at www.co.summit.oh.us.

For more information, please contact the Summit County Council Office at (330) 643-2725.

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