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Ohio EPA Attends a Cleveland Sustainability Summit

Ohio EPA will participate today in recognition of the Cleveland Green Venues Initiative at Sustainable Cleveland 2019, an annual event designed to enhance the economic, social, and environmental well-being of the region. Ohio EPA is one of several organizations to help launch and provide support for the Green Venues effort.

Other sponsoring agencies include the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management District, the City of Cleveland Sustainability Office, and U.S. EPA Region 5. These agencies will continue to support this effort by hosting workshops and providing technical assistance to participating venues.

Since 2009, Cleveland-area venues have convened quarterly to learn from sustainability experts and promote information sharing among participants. Workshop topics have included recycling, energy efficiency, water conservation, stormwater management, and building green. Through the Cleveland Green Venues Initiative, organizations have pledged to develop action plans that include measurable goals in environmental sustainability principles. In addition, venues will communicate their sustainability efforts to their fans and guests through various community engagement methods.

The venues in the partnership include:

- Aramark;
- Cleveland Botanical Gardens;
- Cleveland Browns Stadium;
- Cleveland Metroparks Zoo;
- Cleveland Museum of Natural History;
- Cleveland Museum of Art;
- Cleveland Orchestra at Severance Hall;
- Progressive Field; and
- Quicken Loans Arena.

Recently, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo opened the country's largest LEED-certified exhibition facility for the African Elephant exhibit, which reduced energy and water consumption considerably. Ninety percent of the construction and demolition debris was recycled during the project, one-third of the construction material was from recycled resources and water usage was reduced by 72 percent. Progressive Field is planning a vegetative roof and wind turbine for its 2012 season, and Browns Stadium, Aramark/Quicken Loans Arena, Progressive Field and Cleveland Metroparks Zoo send food scraps to local composting facilities.

Venues in other Ohio cities, including the Cincinnati Reds, Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden and Columbus Zoo, also have adopted cultures that support environmental stewardship. These community leaders have the opportunity to demonstrate the benefits of environmentally sustainable practices through action and outreach, which can influence the cultural and behavioral evolution needed to embrace environmental stewardship.

