

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION...

General Businesses & Material Storage Facilities Thrive With Clean Waterways

NORTHWEST OHIO, Ohio, May 5, 2006 – Much thought and energy go into choosing a logical, attractive and successful location for a business. Equally, as much consideration should go into how that site is beautified, maintained and protected. Good housekeeping stems from pride and commitment to the maintenance of a businesses owner’s largest investment. General businesses and material storage facilities make a huge impact on the environment in which they reside. The protection of storm drains and sewers, maintenance of landscaping and green space, careful inventory storage & disposal procedures, dumpster and loading dock maintenance, proper cleaning of tools and parts, are all vital components for defending a clean water supply and can potentially save businesses time and money.

Through a collaborative partnership, the *Give Water a Hand* program for businesses & material storage facility owners of Northwest Ohio is about water conservation, proper site maintenance and waste disposal procedures that ultimately protect our streams, rivers and lakes. “It’s important to educate businesses throughout our area about the simple things they can do to defend our waterways.” says Kurt Erichsen, *Give Water a Hand* project manager. “Each and every step taken toward good pollution prevention practices impacts our environment, sets an example for success in business and in the protection of our surroundings.”

The *Give Water a Hand* business campaign is the first water quality education program in our region to focus entirely on helping businesses save money, time and resources while protecting our area’s lakes, rivers and streams. This voluntary program provides business owners and managers information and assistance to help them save money and prevent pollution. Through use of a FREE guidebook with tips pertaining specifically to general businesses & material storage facilities, completion of the self-assessment form and a complimentary site visit by a local *Give Water a Hand* partner, businesses are encouraged to implement money saving and water protection practices.

(more)

Give Water a Hand is a cooperative education effort among the following:

Maumee RAP (419-241-9155)
Toledo Metropolitan Area Council
of Governments (419-241-9155)
Lucas County (419-213-4500)
City of Northwood (419-693-9327)
City of Oregon (419-698-7047)

Village of Haskins (419-823-1911)
Village of Holland (419-865-7104)
Village of Millbury (419-836-9671)
Village of Ottawa Hills (419-536-1111)
Village of Waterville (419-878-8100)
Village of Whitehouse (419-877-5383)

Township of Jerusalem (419-836-8921)
Township of Monclova (419-865-7862)
Township of Spencer (419-865-2883)
Township of Springfield (419-865-0239)
Township of Sylvania (419-882-0031)
Township of Washington (419-726-6621)

Township of Waterville (419-878-5176)
Ohio Environmental Education Fund
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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Some benefits to participating businesses include: saving time and money, FREE recognition for participation through window static sticker, Web sites, news articles and paid advertisements provided by the program, FREE technical assistance to identify opportunities for preventing pollution, and possible storm water tax credit depending on your community. Not to mention the personal satisfaction that your business is doing something to help protect the environment.

The *Give Water a Hand: You Can Make a Difference* campaign is a cooperative educational effort focused on educating residents and business owners of Northwest Ohio about storm water and other water quality issues. The average citizen and business owner does impact water quality and can make a positive difference. The Maumee RAP (Remedial Action Plan) and Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) are partnering with local cities, villages, and townships to educate the region about improving water quality and managing water quantity. The following jurisdictions are participating in the program: Lucas County, Cities of Toledo, Northwood and Oregon; Villages of Haskins, Holland, Millbury, Waterville; Townships of Monclova, Springfield, Sylvania and Washington.

Businesses & material storage facilities located in participating areas are eligible to become a *Give Water a Hand* partner. For more information about the *Give Water a Hand* program, please call 419-241-9155 or visit us at www.MaumeeRAP.org.

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