



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**COMMISSIONER BROOKS APPOINTED VICE CHAIR OF NACo GREEN
GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE ADVISORY BOARD**

Franklin County Commissioner Paula Brooks has been appointed vice chair of the National Association of Counties (NACo) Green Government Initiative Advisory Board.

NACO's Green Government Initiative is a national effort launched in 2007 to assist the nation's counties in developing and implementing environmentally sound, cost effective programs and practices. It serves as a comprehensive resource for local governments on all things green, including energy, green building, air quality, transportation, land use, water quality, purchasing and recycling.

"I am proud of the efforts Franklin County has made to ensure that our footprint in this community is environmentally sustainable," said Commission President Marilyn Brown. "Commissioner Paula Brooks will provide excellent leadership and a wealth of experience and knowledge which will benefit other counties and help them to achieve their green potential."

In 2006 Franklin County Commissioners approved Resolution #683-06 aimed at balancing the mutually compatible goals of environmental sustainability and economic development.

Last year, Commissioners supported efforts to upgrade existing buildings in the County's downtown complex to increase energy efficiency. New florescent lights and ballasts, and occupancy sensors were installed and are expected to reduce CO₂ emissions by 1,400 tons annually. Low-flow faucets and toilets are expected to save over 31.6 million gallons of water. Solar panels and a decentralized cooling system will tie together the County's downtown complex to save energy and tax dollars and increase operational efficiency and a 'green roof' was installed on the Courthouse Annex located at 410 South High Street.

And, later this year, Commissioners will open the first newly constructed LEED Certified Courthouse in Ohio. Throughout the building process the commissioners insisted that sustainable materials, included those locally recycled, be used in the construction. The building features a number of green technologies including a roof to help reduce storm water runoff, a 25-percent increase in energy efficiency and water conservation systems that are projected to save a million gallons of water each year compared with a comparable new code compliant building. The use of these energy efficient technologies will pay for themselves in nine years or less.

”Through collaboration and scientific advances, we have ways to prosper that we never imagined in recent history,” said Commissioner Paula Brooks. “I’m confident our public/private Green Government Advisory Committee will work together to ensure integrity in achieving a healthy economy, creating good, green jobs that save money too!”

“Commissioner Brooks will make an excellent addition to NACo’s Green Advisory Board,” said Commissioner John O’Grady. “She has a solid track record of working collaboratively with the public and private sectors to implement changes and introduce new technologies, like solar panels on buildings and hybrid vehicles in County Fleet that will benefit all of Ohio and the Nation.”

The Green Government Advisory Board consists of 21 corporate partners and 21 county leaders in sustainability that shapes the direction of the initiative to assist counties in ‘going green.’

For more information about the NACo Green Government Initiative visit the NACo website at www.naco.org.