



# News Release

Russell M. Pry – Summit County Executive

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Jill Hinig Skapin  
Director of Communications  
330-643-2627  
[jskapin@summitoh.net](mailto:jskapin@summitoh.net)

## Summit County Executive Russell M. Pry Encourages Citizens to Participate in Earth Day Event, LightsOut Ohio!

On Wednesday, March 25, 2009, Summit County Executive Russell M. Pry and City of Akron Mayor Donald Plusquellic jointly announced they will be serving as honorary chairmen of LightsOut Ohio! The pledge was made during a press conference held at the METRO RTA Transit Center, located in downtown Akron.

LightsOut Ohio! is an energy conservation initiative that is being sponsored by the Portage Trail Chapter of the Sierra Club. The purpose of the event is to raise awareness about energy conservation and encourage citizens to practice environmental friendly habits in their everyday lives.



“I take great pride in co-chairing this Earth Day centered initiative,” stated Summit County Executive Russell M. Pry. “Energy conservation is, and always will be, a top priority for my administration.”

Under Pry’s leadership, the County of Summit has made significant progress in protecting the local environment. The most noteworthy accomplishments include:

- ❑ Establishing, in cooperation with Summit County Council, a GOING GREEN Policy Task Force, a government unit committed to adopting environmental awareness, education and incentive strategies that reduce the use of natural resources through energy efficiency, water conservation and sustainable land use.

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- ❑ Collaborating with the Northeast Ohio Four County Regional Planning and Development Organization to sponsor two riverbank clean-up events along the newly restored banks of the middle Cuyahoga River.
- ❑ Enrolling the County of Summit in the National Association of Counties (NACo) ENERGY STAR Courthouse Campaign, a program open to counties wishing to evaluate their energy usage and implement energy-saving projects. The primary focus of the ENERGY STAR challenge is to enhance the energy efficiency of all county government buildings by 10% within the next seven years.
- ❑ Commissioning the construction of a new, \$2.96 million Animal Control facility to be located at 250 Opportunity Parkway in south Akron. The 3.71 acre industrial site will be renovated into a state-of-the-art, LEED certified building. LEED is a third-party certification program that serves as the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings.
- ❑ Providing the Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition with a \$125,000 community matching grant to be used to support the Summit County Trail & Greenway Plan, an on going project that preserves area greenways, protects the local wildlife habitat and creates an infrastructure of multi-use trails throughout the region.

“I would like to encourage all citizens to participate in LightsOut Ohio!” added Executive Pry.

“Together, we can make a difference!”

County government office buildings will be observing the occasion between 8 and 9 a.m. on Earth Day, Wednesday, April 22, 2009. Private citizens are being asked to switch-off their non-essential lighting from 8 to 9 p.m.

For more information on LightsOut Ohio, visit [www.lightoutakron.org](http://www.lightoutakron.org).

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