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## **OHIO STATE STUDENT TEAM UPS WITH CITY OF COLUMBUS, MORPC, AND SWACO TO TACKLE TRASH**

Ashley Hicks, an undergraduate student in the Public Policy minor program at Ohio State, has joined forces with Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), and the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO) to explore ways to help increase business recycling in the central Ohio community.

"Understanding the economic and political realities of environmental policymaking is the first step in developing workable policy choices," says Alan Wiseman, assistant professor of political science and director of the Public Policy minor at Ohio State. Ashley will step outside the classroom to learn first-hand the challenges involved in getting local businesses to do more recycling. Under professor Wiseman's direction, she will be looking at other cities for possible legislative solutions. At the end of spring quarter, Ashley will present her suggestions to the City, SWACO and MORPC for inclusion in a study that SWACO already has underway. The SWACO study is a much-broader analysis of recycling alternatives for Central Ohio.

Mayor Coleman has placed increasing emphasis on projects aimed at transforming Columbus into a sustainable city with the launching of his 'Get Green Columbus' initiative. "We are committed to protecting our environment and ensuring that future generations are left with a city that is cleaner and healthier," says Susan Ashbrook, Environmental Steward for the city. "Working with SWACO, MORPC and Ohio State to tackle the challenge of expanding and enhancing our recycling options is another step in that process and one that we are delighted to be a part of." Chester Jourdan, executive director of MORPC believes as well in the power of collaboration. "Participating in this kind of research project, with varied perspectives but all great contributors, is just one of the many ways MORPC brings people together to tackle environmental challenges facing our community."

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