



For Immediate Release  
January 28, 2009

Contact: Jack Shaner  
(614) 487-7506 (office)  
(614) 446-1693 (cell)  
[Jack@theOEC.org](mailto:Jack@theOEC.org)

## OEC Calls on Strickland to Propose “Green-Print” to Invest in Green Collar Jobs in Budget Bills, Forthcoming Jobs Plan

### Eco group also praises proposal to restore passenger rail service linking Ohio’s 3-C Corridor: Cleveland, Columbus, and Cincinnati

Columbus, OH – On the heels of today’s State of the State address, the Ohio Environmental Council is calling on Gov. Strickland to prioritize investments in green collar jobs in the state’s operating and transportation budgets and a separate jobs package. The budgets and jobs bill are expected to be unveiled in the coming weeks.

“The timing is perfect for Ohio to invest in a big green-print for green-collar jobs that can put people to work, improve our economic competitiveness, and protect the environment,” said Jack Shaner, Deputy Director of the Ohio Environmental Council.

The OEC is hoping that Strickland will include incentives in his forthcoming proposals to make Ohio a dominant center for innovation in high-growth technologies that promote clean energy, biotechnology, efficient transportation, pollution control, and land and water conservation.

“Like a smart investor, Ohio should diversify its business portfolio by investing in the sustained growth that can come with clean, green technologies,” said Shaner. “We also can help ourselves and reverse the ‘brain drain’ by making Ohio a more attractive place to live and work by protecting our natural assets—our parks, preserves, and forests.”

Green collar jobs commonly include jobs designing, building, and installing:

- Energy-efficient products, including appliances, hybrid cars, and insulation
- Clean energy systems, including wind turbines, solar panels, and biofuels
- Distributed generation of electric power through rooftop solar panels; landfill, wastewater, and animal waste bio-digesters; and factory combined heat & power
- Biotechnologies that use plant-based polymers in place of petroleum
- Upgraded transportation networks, including more multi-modal intersections of public transit and passenger rail and of water, rail, truck, and air freight delivery
- Land and water conservation projects, including wastewater treatment system upgrades, soil erosion prevention, and wetland and forest restoration

- more -

During his State of the State address today, Strickland promised to introduce a jobs stimulus package “in the coming months.” He said the package will include an expansion of Ohio’s high-tech Third Frontier program, regulatory reform, streamlining measures to assure that Ohio gets its share of federal stimulus funds and can put them to work quickly, and additional investments that will create jobs.

Strickland also committed to restoring passenger rail service between Cleveland, Columbus, and Cincinnati, absent for 40 years. The Governor called it the “first step” toward a rail system linking neighborhoods and cities within Ohio.

“Restoring passenger rail is the perfect start of a big green-print for Ohio. It will build jobs, give travelers more options, and save energy. This is the sort of long-term investment strategy that can leverage all of Ohio’s assets, economic and environmental, alike,” said Shaner.

The “3-C” corridor of Cleveland-Columbus-Dayton-Cincinnati is the backbone of an ambitious proposal to upgrade passenger and freight rail infrastructure in Ohio, called the Ohio Hub Plan. The plan calls for a transportation network linking more than a dozen Ohio cities with daily passenger service with trains reaching 110 mph. According to a study by the Ohio Rail Development Commission, the Ohio Hub would create 16,700 permanent jobs (equivalent to more than 500,000 person years of work) and produce a benefit/cost ratio of 1.8/1.

The OEC’ sounded one warning about Strickland’s brief mention to include “regulatory reform” in his jobs package.

“Any regulatory reform that looks only at a factory’s costs of complying with government standards without factoring in the benefits to the neighboring community’s health and safety is false, one-sided reform. We trust the Governor will insist on protecting human health and safety,” said Shaner.

-end-

The mission of the Ohio Environmental Council (OEC) is to secure healthy air, land, and water for all who call Ohio home. The OEC is Ohio’s leading advocate for fresh air, clean water, and sustainable land use. The OEC has a 40-year history of innovation, pragmatism, and success. Using legislative initiatives, legal action, scientific principles, and statewide partnerships, the OEC secures a healthier environment for Ohio’s families and communities. For more information, visit [www.theOEC.org](http://www.theOEC.org).