



**For Immediate Release:**

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**Contact:** Mark R. Shanahan  
OAQDA Executive Director and the Governor's Energy Advisor  
614-224-3383

**OAQDA Observes 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Service to Ohio**  
*Agency created in 1970 to address growing concerns about air pollution*

Columbus – With this month marking the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its creation, the Ohio Air Quality Development Authority (OAQDA) observed “business as usual” at its monthly meeting today in its ongoing work to support and finance clean energy projects around the state.

OAQDA's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary was recognized today by resolutions from the offices of the Governor and Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives and by a letter from the President of the Ohio Senate.

OAQDA was created by the Ohio General Assembly in June 1970 amidst mounting concern nationwide about the dangers of air pollution, as underscored by the passage of the federal Clean Air Act of the same year. Since then, the Authority has awarded more than \$7 billion in project financing to help small and large Ohio businesses, utilities, state agencies and other organizations with the construction and installation of air pollution abatement and prevention equipment and facilities.

In 2003, the General Assembly transferred Ohio's coal research program – the Ohio Coal Development Office – to OAQDA. Subsequently, over the past seven years, OAQDA has awarded 91 grants totaling more than \$46 million in support of clean coal technology research at Ohio universities.

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Governor Ted Strickland expanded the duties of OAQDA further in 2007 when he established the Office of the Governor's Energy Advisor within OAQDA. The agency's duties expanded again in 2008, when the Authority was tapped by the Ohio General Assembly to administer the \$150 million Ohio Advanced Energy Job Stimulus Program.

"We are proud that the Governor and legislature have had the confidence in OAQDA to expand its role and responsibilities over the years. But we are most proud of the fact that we have remained true to our original mission, which is to preserve the environment by helping keep Ohio's air as clean as possible. That we are now engaged in helping create the advanced energy jobs of the future is an added honor," said Gayle Channing Tenenbaum, OAQDA chair and the longest-serving member on any state board or commission in Ohio history.

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The Ohio Air Quality Development Authority (OAQDA) is a non-regulatory government agency created to help Ohio businesses comply with clean air regulations. Through its Ohio Coal Development Office, OAQDA also oversees the State of Ohio's coal research, development and technology deployment efforts. Since its creation in 1970, the Authority has provided technical and financial help to hundreds of large and small Ohio businesses, awarding more than \$7 billion to finance air quality projects. In addition, the OAQDA executive director was appointed the Governor's energy advisor in January 2007. Subsequently, in 2008, OAQDA was named as administering authority for the \$150 million Advanced Energy Job Stimulus Program. For more information about OAQDA and its services, please visit its web site at [www.ohioairquality.org](http://www.ohioairquality.org).