



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**TODAY'S CATCH – FRESH FROM THE MAUMEE RIVER?**  
*Local Food Service Plays an Important Role in a Clean Water Supply*

NORTHWEST OHIO, Ohio, February 6, 2006 – Fresh food, good service and a clean environment are the cornerstones of a successful food service business. Protection of storm drains, proper cleaning of equipment and paved surfaces, dumpster and loading dock maintenance, suitable grease handling and disposal, inventory storage and landscape maintenance all play an important role in protecting our waterways and can save food service establishments time and money.

Through a collaborative partnership, the *Give Water a Hand* program for food service business owners of Northwest Ohio is about water conservation, proper site maintenance and waste disposal procedures that ultimately protect our streams, rivers and lakes. “Food service establishments rely on the environment for production of the essential ingredients for the fare they serve,” says Kurt Erichsen, Give Water a Hand Project Manager. “Our waterways play a vital role in a healthy food chain.”

The *Give Water a Hand* business campaign is the first water quality education program in our region to focus entirely on helping businesses save money, time and resources while protecting our area’s lakes, rivers and streams. This voluntary program provides business owners and managers information and assistance to help them save money and prevent pollution. Through use of a FREE guidebook with tips pertaining specifically to food service establishments, completion of the self-assessment form and a complimentary site visit by a local Give Water a Hand Partner, businesses are encouraged to implement money saving and water protection practices.

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Give Water a Hand is a cooperative education effort among the following:

Maumee RAP (419-241-9155)  
Toledo Metropolitan Area Council  
of Governments (419-241-9155)  
Lucas County (419-213-4500)  
City of Northwood (419-693-9327)  
City of Oregon (419-698-7047)

Village of Haskins (419-823-1911)  
Village of Holland (419-865-7104)  
Village of Millbury (419-836-9671)  
Village of Ottawa Hills (419-536-1111)  
Village of Waterville (419-878-8100)  
Village of Whitehouse (419-877-5383)

Township of Jerusalem (419-836-8921)  
Township of Monclova (419-865-7862)  
Township of Spencer (419-865-2883)  
Township of Springfield (419-865-0239)  
Township of Sylvania (419-882-0031)  
Township of Washington (419-726-6621)

Township of Waterville (419-878-5176)  
Ohio Environmental Education Fund  
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency  
Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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Some benefits to participating businesses include: saving time and money, FREE recognition for participation through window static sticker, web sites, news articles and paid advertisements provided by the program, FREE technical assistance to identify opportunities for preventing pollution, and possible storm water tax credit depending on your community. Not to mention the personal satisfaction that your business is doing something to help protect the environment.

The *Give Water a Hand: You Can Make a Difference* campaign is a cooperative educational effort focused on educating residents and business owners of Northwest Ohio about storm water and other water quality issues. The average citizen and business owner does impact water quality and can make a positive difference. The Maumee RAP (Remedial Action Plan) and Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) are partnering with local cities, villages, and townships to educate the region about improving water quality and managing water quantity. The following jurisdictions are participating in the program: Lucas County, Cities of Toledo, Northwood and Oregon; Villages of Haskins, Holland, Millbury, Waterville; Townships of Monclova, Springfield, Sylvania and Washington.

Food service businesses located in participating areas are eligible to become a Give Water a Hand Partner. For more information about the *Give Water a Hand* program, please call 419-241-9155 or visit us at [www.MaumeeRAP.org](http://www.MaumeeRAP.org).

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