



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*Tuesday, March 17, 2015*

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## **DAYTON ENERGY FORUM FOCUSES ON SUSTAINABILITY, SECURITY AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF CLEAN ENERGY**

*Businesses, public health officials, military officials and community members among the more than 100 in attendance at third stop on statewide tour*

Dayton, OH – A crowd of more than 100 clean energy stakeholders and interested parties gathered Tuesday evening at the University of Dayton for the third in a series of regional forums focused on the future of energy in Ohio. The forum, co-sponsored by the newly created Hanley Sustainability Institute at the university, featured panel discussions on the business of clean energy and building a sustainable future.

“Dayton has a robust clean and renewable energy industry and the region is clearly embracing this new energy future,” said Jane Harf, spokesperson for the tour. “Our panelists spurred an energetic dialogue on a variety of issues including sustainable design, economic development, investment community, cost savings and regional leadership in clean energy.”

Harf said the tour is an effort to ensure that citizens and stakeholders have an opportunity to help shape the future of energy policy in Ohio. State legislators are currently reviewing the state’s clean energy standards and the requirement to develop a plan to comply with USEPA’s Clean Power Plan.

Welcoming remarks were provided by Mayor Nan Waley who highlighted a few examples of what the city was doing to embrace a cleaner energy future, including an electric community aggregation initiative to procure more clean energy for city and save residents money on their utility bills.

The forum was moderated by John Seryak, Founder and CEO, Go Sustainable Energy and University of Dayton graduate and featured two panels:

- **The Business of Clean Energy: Creating jobs, reducing costs and driving innovation**  
(Panelists: Michael Berning, Heapy Engineering; Stu Dalheim, Calvert Investments; Greg Smith, Energy Optimizers; Nadja Turek, Woolpert Inc.; Mark Wiley, Kastle Solar)
- **Building a Sustainable Future: Energy as the catalyst for a robust and resilient region**  
(Panelists: Robert Brecha, Hanley Sustainability Institute, University of Dayton; Leanne Jablonski, University of Dayton; Eileen Moran, Regional Air Pollution Control Agency; Jackson Morris, NRDC; Leslie Perkins, Air Force Research Laboratory; Jerry Renfrow, Kettering Health Network – Grandview Medical Center)

Stu Dalheim, Vice President, Calvert Investments, talked about how many Fortune 100 companies are starting to invest directly in clean energy. For example, companies like Amazon, Facebook, Google and ebay, when they construct data centers are now looking to power those centers with renewable energy. These same companies want greater choice, resilience, savings and flexibility when considering purchasing electricity.

*Paving the way to a new energy vision*

Michael Berning, Greg Smith, Nadja Turek and Mark Wiley discussed, from a business perspective, how they approach projects and save the customers money on everything from lighting retrofits, new construction and distributed generation. Woolpert Inc. helped a local school district save over \$100,000 per year on their electricity bill. They also stated that Ohio's clean energy standards were working effectively prior to the freeze and questioned the need to review the standards for this extended period since they were helping lower costs and create jobs.

Much of the conversation focused on the regional opportunities and planning for the future, where Bob Brecha and Leanne Jablonski highlighted the work around clean energy and sustainability at the University of Dayton, citing the university's effort to divest from all fossil fuel interests. Jackson Morris discussed the USEPA Clean Power Plan and the role that Ohio renewable energy and energy efficiency standards could have played in compliance until the freeze was instituted. Unless the standards return, developing a plan for the state will be more difficult and costly.

The statewide tour is organized by a collaboration of businesses, trade associations, nonprofits and local governments and is intended to spark a dialogue with stakeholders in an effort to help develop a new energy vision for Ohio. The forums provide an opportunity for energy experts, community leaders and the general public to offer their insights in the positive impacts renewable energy, energy efficiency and other technologies are having in their local communities.

Future forums are planned for Toledo, Cincinnati and Southeast Ohio. The forums will highlight the unique contribution of the various regions of the state to help provide a path forward for developing an energy vision that returns Ohio to a position of national leadership. Upon completion of the tour, a compilation of ideas and recommendations will be submitted to policymakers. For tour dates and information, visit [www.ohioenergyfuturetour.com](http://www.ohioenergyfuturetour.com).

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