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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**City and County Partner with University of Toledo  
To Reduce Carbon Emissions in Public Buildings**

Toledo, Ohio – With the help of students at the University of Toledo, city and county officials will soon learn the carbon footprint of their public buildings.

In partnership with the civil engineering department at UT, students taking Dr. Defne Apul's graduate level sustainability engineering class will be conducting the first greenhouse gas inventory for city and county facilities this fall. Students will work with local officials in collecting and interpreting the data.

"I am very excited about this collaboration which will help reduce our community's carbon footprint. This is an excellent opportunity for our students to learn about life cycle assessment and carbon footprint analysis and put these skills to good use toward making our community more sustainable," said Dr. Apul.

Approximately 10 students are expected to enroll in class. Students will work as a team to estimate the emissions resulting from gas consumption, electricity and water use, and transportation associated with the buildings. Waste produced from the buildings will also be considered.

"In a time of dwindling resources, this student-led effort will give us a baseline on our facility inefficiencies and hopefully lead to efforts to reduce energy consumption and save taxpayer dollars," said Commissioner Tina Skeldon Wozniak.

"This is a great opportunity to partner with the University of Toledo for a better understanding of the energy usage in our city facilities. Hopefully we can use the data to upgrade our facilities and make them more energy efficient in the long-term," said Mayor Mike Bell.

Last spring, Dr. Apul taught a similar project-based class at the undergraduate level where students conducted the first greenhouse gas inventory for the University of Toledo. "We now know that the University of Toledo's annual greenhouse gas emissions are approximately 82,000 metric tons of CO2 equivalent. Most of these emissions come from electricity consumption and commuting," said Dr. Apul.

Jeff Grabarkiewicz, Chair of the Toledo-Lucas County Sustainability Commission, has played an important role in identifying the project. "Our ultimate goal is to estimate the entire energy consumption and carbon emissions from Lucas County and the City of Toledo," he said. "Facilities data will give us a good start."

Persons interested in participating in this carbon footprint analysis project should contact Dr. Defne Apul ([defne.apul@utoledo.edu](mailto:defne.apul@utoledo.edu); 419 530 8132).