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OAQDA Approves Nearly \$217 Million to Support Significant Air Quality Projects Across Ohio

Financing Includes up to \$215 Million for Large Solar Project in Putnam County

COLUMBUS – During this week’s Ohio Air Quality Development Authority (OAQDA) board meeting, the Authority approved projects with bond financing totaling nearly \$217 million to support new air quality technology for small businesses, an expansive utility-scale solar generation facility.

“The approved financing illustrates our commitment to supporting a diverse group of air quality projects by businesses that improves our environment and enhances Ohio’s economy,” said Christina O’Keeffe, the executive director of OAQDA. “Sustainability is good for business, and we look forward to seeing the positive impact from these investments in our communities and for Ohioans.”

Clean Air Improvement Program approved projects include:

Aurora Solar LLC, Powell Creek Solar Project (Putnam County), a subsidiary of [Avangrid Renewables LLC](#), was approved for up to \$215 million in bond financing to assist with the installation of a large solar electric system in Palmer and Liberty Townships. [The 150 MW solar facility](#) is expected to generate 351,302 MWh of clean energy in its first year of operation, providing the equivalent of up to approximately 32,000 households with clean, emission-free renewable electricity. The project also provides local economic benefits to the community, including local revenue and jobs, and has the support from the Board of Commissioners of Putnam County, Miller City-New Cleveland Local School, Liberty Township Trustees (Putnam County), Palmer Township (Putnam County) and the Village of Miller City.

Orion Office Investment, LLC (Delaware County) was approved for up to \$900,000 in financing. Orion Office Investment is a commercial property management firm and is part of [Alterra Real Estate Advisors](#), a property investment and management company with more than

20 years of expertise. Financing will be used to renovate a 57,000-square-foot office building located at 8740 Orion Place in Columbus. The project will include replacing or upgrading building systems, as well as the addition of a solar array. This project is expected to result in air emission reductions and energy savings of at least 15 percent.

The financing for the above projects is provided through OAQDA's Clean Air Improvement Program (CAIP), which supports clean air facility improvements statewide by providing financial support through its bond financing and related tax benefits.

Clean Air Resource Center approved projects include:

Ohio Truck Sales (Sandusky County) is a used semi-truck dealership with 11 years of experience in buying, fixing and reselling trucks and trailers. The company was approved for up to \$966,000 in financing. A \$20,000 grant was also awarded for the project to offset upfront capital costs. Ohio Truck Sales is in the process of moving from its current Sandusky (Erie County) location to a new 80,000-square foot facility Clyde, Ohio (Sandusky County), which will quadruple its size. The project will improve employee health and reduce air emissions by installing two custom spray paint booth systems into the new facility. As a result of this project, 40 new jobs will be created.

CARSTAR iGear Auto Body & Frame, LLC (Cuyahoga County) is a Cleveland-based automobile collision repair shop, providing Cuyahoga County with unibody and frame repair equipment, expert color matching, accident support and towing assistance. The company was approved for up to \$121,000 in financing, along with a \$20,000 grant. With OAQDA's financial assistance, the company will install a second custom spray paint booth to support the growth of the business, including the creation of two jobs and retention of 10 positions.

The financing for the above projects was provided through OAQDA's Clean Air Resource Center (CARC), which makes clean air compliance easily accessible and affordable for Ohio small businesses. Through this program, OAQDA offers financing packages that are structured to suit the needs of individual projects, which are incentivized with tax benefits using conduit bonds and grants to help small businesses cover a portion of project costs.

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The Ohio Air Quality Development Authority (OAQDA), which is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2021, is a non-regulatory government agency created to help Ohio businesses comply and go beyond clean air regulations. Since its creation in 1970, OAQDA has worked to improve air quality by supporting businesses, creating jobs and improving communities while enhancing the health and safety of all Ohioans. To date, OAQDA has awarded more than \$8 billion to finance air quality projects. For more information about OAQDA and its services, please visit ohioairquality.org.