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***Clean Air Works! for Six More Employer Partner Worksites
Air quality improvement effort continues to attract top employers region-wide***

(CHARLOTTE – July 7, 2006) *Clean Air Works!* welcomes six new employers to its regional project: two divisions of Carolinas Healthcare System – Carolinas Medical Center and Carolinas Medical Center- Pineville –, the Hospitality Tourism Alliance, PSNC Energy, Quaero Corporation, and the York County Chamber of Commerce will join the regional effort to improve air quality in the region. This brings the number of participating employer partners to 44.

Launched in late May 2006, *Clean Air Works!* is an innovative project of the Regional Air Quality Board that works with employers to improve air quality and provide alternatives to traffic congestion in the eight-county Charlotte nonattainment region.

"The region's employers are rising to the challenge, as we knew they would," said Peter Pappas, chairman of the Regional Air Quality Board and president of Pappas Properties.

"We are particularly pleased by the diversity of the employers signing on to help improve our air quality, which span not only a diverse region, but also a wide spectrum of industries. Employers such as the York County Chamber and the Hospitality Tourism Association can not only encourage their own employees to clean commute, but participation by each sets a positive example for its membership," Pappas continued.

Clean Air Works! offers a free employer service program as part of a multi-tiered effort to improve air quality and reduce traffic congestion throughout the eight-county nonattainment region. Nonattainment status means that many days each year the region has air pollution levels that are unhealthy for some or all of its residents to breathe. *Clean Air Works!* employer Partners are helping to reduce pollution by implementing a variety of measures, such as promoting clean commute alternatives to their employees and retooling operations and maintenance practices.

"Employees at Carolinas Medical Center are committed to CHS's corporate citizenship philosophy and our healthcare mission. Participation in the Clean Air Works pilot is just one indication of how we live out those values. As an organization we are very supportive of our employees' efforts to change their commuting habits and of the evaluation of innovative ideas on how to make a difference in the air quality of this community," said Phyllis Wingate-Jones, Senior Vice President for Operation, Carolinas Medical Center."

"We realize that the issue of air quality doesn't stop at county or state lines and in working towards the effort to clean up our air not only will we improve our quality of life, but the quality of life for the next generation. By participating in this effort the Chamber is also

looking towards the future economic development of York County," said Rob Youngblood, President, York County Chamber of Commerce.

Clean Air Works! outreach coordinators provide on-site program development, ongoing program support through no-cost transportation fairs, marketing tools, training seminars and networking programs. On June 1, participating Partners took the "Clean Air Challenge," a three-month worksite event designed to encourage and reward employees for their clean commuting behavior. Partners also have an opportunity to receive recognition at an awards ceremony honoring the best commute option programs, which is scheduled for October 24, 2006.

About *Clean Air Works!*

Clean Air Works! is a project of the Regional Air Quality Board, a regional entity that brings together businesses, elected officials, and public staff from cities and counties throughout the Charlotte Region to work collaboratively on projects to improve air quality. The project is funded by Mecklenburg County Government and federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Funds ("CMAQ") awarded throughout the Mecklenburg-Union Metropolitan Planning Organization.



Current Employer Partners

ALLTEL
American & Efird
Bank of America
Belk, Inc
BellSouth
Bissell Companies
Bowater
Carolinas Medical Center
Carolinas Medical Center - Pineville
Caromont Health
Central Piedmont Community College
Charlotte Chamber of Commerce
The Charlotte Observer
Charlotte Pipe & Foundry
Citigroup
Coca-Cola Consolidated
Compass Group
Dixon Hughes
Duke Energy
Family Dollar Stores
First Charter Bank
Food Lion
Froehling & Robertson
Harris Teeter
Hospitality Tourism Alliance
Johnson C. Smith University
Johnson & Wales University
Kennedy Covington
Lowe's
Moore & Van Allen
National Gypsum
Northeast Medical Center
Piedmont Natural Gas
PNSC
Quaero
Radiator Specialty Company
Spectra
Springs Industries
Terracon
Time Warner
Tuscan Development
University of North Carolina Charlotte

Wachovia
Winthrop University
York County Chamber of Commerce
York Technical College