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## **Lansing Man Singled Out for Environmental Leadership *Honoree Receives Audubon/Toyota TogetherGreen Fellowship***

New York, NY, November 19, 2009-A Lansing, Michigan man is the recipient of a national fellowship designed to advance the work of individuals with outstanding leadership potential to help shape a brighter environmental future.

Tremaine Phillips is one of 40 individuals nationwide selected as a 2009 *TogetherGreen* Fellow. The *TogetherGreen* Fellowship offers specialized training in conservation planning and execution, the chance to work and share best practices with gifted conservation professionals, and assistance with project outreach and evaluation. Each Fellow receives \$10,000 towards a community-focused project to engage local residents in conserving land, water and energy, and contributing to greater environmental health.

For his fellowship, Phillips will partner with local utilities, non-profits and the religious community to promote energy efficiency and conservation efforts in the city of Lansing. Phillips will also look to organize instructive energy efficiency and conservation trainings for local churches, allowing them to reduce their utility bills and, in turn, invest more in community programs.

Phillips is currently the Energy Program Associate for the Michigan Environmental Council. In that capacity, he works to implement local, state and federal policies that promote energy efficiency and renewables, mitigate heat trapping emissions, encourage environmental justice and support the creation of good paying, green jobs.

“Tremaine is the kind of person who can make a real difference in the health of our environment and the quality of our future,” said Audubon President John Flicker. “Each of our *TogetherGreen* Fellows demonstrates exceptional environmental understanding and commitment, combined with tremendous potential to inspire and lead others. Together, they represent the talented and diverse leadership the environmental community will need to tackle the huge challenges and opportunities confronting us now and in the years to come.”

“With the financial crises currently gripping Michigan and the impacts of abrupt climate change on the horizon, there is no better time than now for Lansing and other cities throughout Michigan to invest in energy efficiency. Energy efficiency is the most affordable and the cleanest of all energy resources; I’m thrilled to know that Audubon, through the *TogetherGreen* program, recognizes this and is encouraging Michigan to move forward to a more energy secure future.” said Phillips.

Phillips has been affiliated with the Michigan Environmental Council since 2008. Half of the *TogetherGreen* Fellows come from within Audubon's far-reaching national network; half channel their environmental efforts through other organizations.

Phillips received his Bachelors degree in environmental economics and policy from Michigan State University. A dedicated conservationist, Phillips has previously worked for the Oakland County Planning and Economic Development Department and Michigan State University's Costs and Returns for Environmental Stewardship Team.

A distinguished advisory committee - composed of conservation professionals and experts in environmental education, communications, outreach, and conservation planning - selected the fellowship beneficiaries from a competitive pool of scores of highly qualified individuals. Qualified applicants must have at least six years of experience in conservation, environmental education, policy, or environmental issues, as demonstrated through current and past work experience, academic studies related to conservation, and/or volunteer work. Candidates must have a passion for conservation, the desire to learn and grow, and demonstrate a proven ability in reaching previously unengaged audiences.

"We must engage the best and brightest leaders representing the broadest and most diverse communities in this country to solve our ever more complex conservation challenges," said Diane Wood, President, National Environmental Education Foundation. "*TogetherGreen* is a creative program that uncovers such leaders, nurtures their talents, supports their dedication to conservation and holds them up to inspire others to follow."

A complete list of the 2009 *TogetherGreen* Fellows can be found at [www.TogetherGreen.org/fellows](http://www.TogetherGreen.org/fellows).

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#### **About *TogetherGreen***

Audubon and Toyota launched the five-year *TogetherGreen* initiative in 2008 to build the promise of a greener, healthier future through innovation, leadership and volunteerism. To date, 80 environmental leaders-half from within Audubon and half from outside organizations-have received *TogetherGreen* Fellowships to protect land, water, and energy resources nationwide. For more information, visit [www.togethergreen.org](http://www.togethergreen.org).

#### **About Audubon**

Now in its second century, Audubon connects people with birds, nature and the environment that supports us all. Our national network of community-based nature centers, chapters, scientific, education, and advocacy programs engages millions of people from all walks of life in conservation action to protect and restore the natural world. Visit Audubon online at [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org).

#### **About Toyota**

Toyota (NYSE: TM) established operations in the United States in 1957 and currently operates 10 manufacturing plants. Toyota is committed to being a good corporate citizen in the communities where it does business and believes in supporting programs with long-term sustainable results. Toyota supports numerous organizations across the country, focusing on education, the environment and safety. Since 1991, Toyota has contributed more than \$464 million to philanthropic programs in the U.S. For more information on Toyota's commitment to improving communities nationwide, visit [www.toyota.com/community](http://www.toyota.com/community).