

# 2011 Outstanding Cooperator Award

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Michael Szuberla and Toledo GROWS were proudly named the Outstanding Cooperator of the Year for Lucas Soil and Water Conservation District for 2011.

Michael has been and continues to be very instrumental and influential in the Lucas SWCD's outreach and vision for the community in establishing rain gardens, retrofitting barrels for rain water, as well as the recycling and reuse of animal waste. The District received a compost turner in connection with a Mercy Health Partners grant through Toledo GROWS to provide compost for numerous community gardens in the Toledo Area. This in turn will provide fresh fruit and vegetables to support healthy families and healthy communities.

Through Michael's efforts, the Juvenile Justice program for at risk youth is involved with the planting rain gardens and fruit trees, and retrofitting rain barrels donated from Coca Cola that previously had been

taken into the landfill. This has all been made possible though the local partnership between Toledo GROWS, Lucas County Commissioners, Lucas SWCD, and several federal partners including the Department of Education and the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

Michael Szuberla and Toledo GROWS' efforts in conservation and public involvement this year have earned the 2011 Outstanding Conservation Cooperator Award.

