

*Helping communities and businesses access compliance, technical
and financial assistance for their environmental needs*

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As a courtesy, please contact Helen Miller at
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Asbestos Notification Requirements for Demolition and Renovation Contractors

Asbestos exposure can lead to serious health problems, so it is important for demolition and renovation contractors to be aware of and in compliance with Ohio EPA's asbestos requirements. This article provides an overview of some of the key asbestos requirements that you need to be aware of as a contractor.



Ohio EPA's asbestos requirements apply to demolition and renovation activities that are conducted at a facility. A facility is any institutional, commercial, public or industrial structure, or any operation involving the demolition of multiple residential structures within a scheduled period of time. In addition, a residential structure where a business operated remains subject to **Ohio EPA's asbestos requirements**. Activities at non-commercial residential buildings that have four or fewer dwellings are not subject to Ohio EPA's asbestos requirements, unless the units are part of a larger installation or project.

Depending on the nature of the demolition or renovation project, **Ohio EPA's asbestos rules** require you to:

- have an asbestos survey completed by a licensed asbestos inspector to determine the presence of asbestos;
- have a licensed asbestos abatement professional remove asbestos prior to demolition/renovation;
- submit a notification of demolition activity to Ohio EPA or your local air agency (a notification for renovation activities may also be required);
- use specific work practices to control the generation of asbestos-containing dust and debris; and
- ensure proper disposal of asbestos-containing material.

IMPORTANT

Every demolition project at a facility requires an asbestos survey and notification, regardless of whether asbestos is present.

Failure to comply with the regulations can lead to violations and a penalty for the owners of the facility and the demolition or renovation contractor involved in the project.

A notification is a written notice of the intent to renovate or demolish. It is important for contractors to know that **every** demolition or renovation project at a facility requires an asbestos survey. In addition, every demolition project at a facility requires an asbestos survey and notification, regardless of whether asbestos is present. The notification requirement is different for facility renovation activities and is dependent upon the amount of regulated asbestos-containing material (RACM) at the site. For renovations, a notification must be submitted if the amount of RACM disturbed exceeds 260 linear feet of pipe insulation, 160 square feet of other materials or 35 cubic feet of building debris. Ohio EPA has developed **one notification form** that is used for either demolition or renovation activities. The notification must be sent by mail (postmarked) or hand-delivered at least **10 working days** (Monday-Friday including holidays) before demolition or renovation can begin. An asbestos inspection of the facility must be performed by a **licensed Ohio Asbestos Hazard Evaluation Specialist** in order for a written notification to be considered complete.

The notification form goes to either the **Ohio EPA district office or local air pollution control office** in your area. Phone and fax notifications are not acceptable for original notification. If information in the original notification changes, you may be required to inform the local office of these changes through a revised notification. Usually the asbestos abatement contractor submits the notification, however, the owner of the building or the demolition/renovation contractor can also submit the notification. Regardless who submits the notification, all parties can be held responsible if no notification or an inadequate notification is submitted.

For more information regarding Ohio EPA's asbestos program, please visit epa.ohio.gov/asbestos or call our hotline at (800) 329-7518 for confidential assistance.

Properly Managing Fluorescent Bulbs

Does your business or institution use lamps? If so, it's important that you are aware of Ohio EPA's requirements related to disposal of lamps. Businesses, schools, retail stores, restaurants, offices and other non-household operations that generate waste lamps are subject to Ohio EPA's rules. If you are throwing your lamps in the dumpster, you may be illegally disposing of hazardous waste.

The term lamps encompasses all types of common light bulbs and lamps, including:

- fluorescent;
- incandescent, high-intensity discharge (HID);
- high-pressure sodium;
- metal halide;
- mercury-vapor;
- neon; and
- LED.



Improper packaging of used fluorescent bulbs is a commonly found violation.

Lamps can contain mercury and other heavy metals such as lead, cadmium and barium. If the lamps contain these metals over certain limits in the hazardous waste rules, the lamps, when they are disposed of or recycled, are classified as a hazardous waste. Hazardous waste lamps that are improperly disposed of lead to environmental contamination and pose a threat to public health.

How do you know if waste lamps are hazardous waste?

Before you throw your lamps in the trash, you must evaluate them to determine if they are hazardous. To do this, you can:

- rely on the analytical data provided by the lamp manufacturer; provided that the lamps were tested for all relevant hazardous waste characteristics and the analytical data is current;
- have the lamps tested by a lab to determine if the levels of metals are below the regulatory limits found in OAC rule 3745-51-24; or
- assume that the lamps are hazardous.

How do you manage hazardous waste lamps?

There are two methods for managing your hazardous waste lamps. Ohio EPA recommends that you manage your waste lamps under the Universal Waste Rules (UWR) found in Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) Chapter 3745-273.

The UWR streamlines collection requirements for lamps. Many businesses find managing used lamps under the UWR eliminates many regulatory requirements and is easily implemented as part of their recycling programs. By following the UWR, your business can reduce the financial and regulatory requirements of managing hazardous waste and can help protect the environment. If you do not manage your hazardous waste lamps under the UWR, then you must manage them under Ohio EPA's hazardous waste rules found in OAC Chapter 3745-52.

What are my requirements for managing hazardous lamps under the UWR?

Managing waste lamps as universal waste requires that you store, label and dispose of them in a specific manner. Most businesses are small quantity handlers of universal waste, accumulating less than 11,000 pounds (5,000 kg or approximately 17,000 four-foot lamps) of universal waste at any time. The UWR requires a small quantity handler to:

- store the used lamps in a container that minimizes breakage and is designed to contain a potential release (many businesses use the same packaging in which new lamps are shipped from the manufacturer);
- label the container Universal Waste Lamps, Waste Lamps or Used Lamps;
- keep the container closed unless adding or removing lamps;
- inform all employees who handle or have responsibility for managing waste lamps of the proper handling and emergency procedures for spills and cleanup;
- not store used lamps for more than one year, and
- send or take your used lamps to another UW handler or permitted destination facility.

Who can I send or take my UW lamps to?

You can only send or take your waste lamps to another UW handler or to a permitted destination facility (if in Ohio). Ohio EPA maintains a list of recyclers on our [Fluorescent Lamp website](#). If you transport your own waste lamps to either another universal waste handler or to a universal waste destination facility you must comply with the universal waste [transporter requirements](#).

May I use a lamp crusher to crush the lamps I generate?

If you manage waste lamps under the UWR you are not allowed to crush them. If you want to crush your own lamps you must either manage them under the hazardous waste rules following the generator requirements in OAC Chapter 3745-52, or evaluate the spent lamps to demonstrate that they are non-hazardous.

Read more about proper management of lamps in Ohio EPA's *Managing Fluorescent Lamps* fact sheet, available at epa.ohio.gov/portals/32/pdf/LampGuidance.pdf. Small businesses can also contact the Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention (OCAPP) at (614) 644-3469 or (800) 329-7518 for free help. OCAPP is a non-regulatory office of Ohio EPA with a goal of helping small businesses understand and comply with the environmental requirements.

What to Expect During an Ohio EPA Inspection

Under Ohio's laws, Ohio EPA's district offices and local air agencies have the authority to inspect a company at any reasonable time. Ohio EPA has several different divisions (for example, air, waste and water), each with its own technical and field staff. This means that different Ohio EPA inspectors could visit your company during a year. Ohio EPA also routinely conducts unannounced inspections, so an inspector may arrive at your company without prior notice.

If you have not been through an Ohio EPA inspection, this article will give you a general idea of the inspection process and what to expect if an inspector does show up at your door.

Opening Meeting

An opening meeting is conducted at the beginning of the inspection. During the meeting, the inspector will ask for a description of the company's operations. The inspector will ask about the raw materials used and wastes or discharges from the company. The inspector will review records that relate to environmental regulations. Ohio EPA's inspection authority allows for the inspector to obtain photocopies of records. Some common records reviewed during inspections include:

- permits;
- inspection logs;
- equipment and operating records;

Facility walk-through

The inspector will walk through the facility to observe processes and activities (for example, how the company collects and handles wastes). The inspector will walk around outside the building(s), looking for air emissions, water discharges or to inspect areas where wastes are handled. When an inspector does show up, make sure there is someone at the company who is knowledgeable about the operations and can accompany the inspector. Ohio EPA can request to conduct an inspection even if the business owner is not on-site, so make sure you have someone available who can describe your activities and get any requested paperwork or files to the inspector during the inspection.

During the walk-through, the inspector might ask employees questions about the company's processes or practices. The inspector will take notes during all phases of the inspection, including the walk-through. The inspector might also have a camera and take photographs during the inspection. Typical areas photographed include: process or waste units such as tanks or containers, areas where spills or leaks have occurred, discharges/emissions, etc.

Closing meeting

During the closing meeting, the inspector will summarize his or her findings. The inspector cannot always give a complete summary of the inspection, particularly if a situation requires more information or additional research. The inspector will usually describe the general paperwork procedures that follow the inspection such as when to expect the inspection report or follow-up letter.

TIPS TO HELP YOU PREPARE FOR AN OHIO EPA INSPECTION

Understanding the inspection process can help you prepare your company for an Ohio EPA visit and decrease the possibility of violations. Some simple tips on preparing your company for an Ohio EPA inspection include:

- Monitor your company's activities routinely, on your own, so you keep up-to-date and in compliance with the environmental regulations.
- Call your local Ohio EPA office or other environmental professionals if you have questions about the environmental regulations. You can call anonymously and ask questions about the regulations if you are unsure of whether your company is in compliance.
- Make sure your environmental records are up-to-date and in order so you can find them easily during the inspection. Quick access to records makes the inspection go faster.

- waste shipping papers;
- sampling or monitoring data; and
- material safety data sheets.

Written Summary

A report is mailed to the company after the inspection. The report includes a letter or summary of the inspection results. The report will identify any Ohio EPA violations or other problem areas found during the inspection. A copy of the inspector's field checklist might also be included with the report.

If your company receives a Notice of Violation (NOV) letter after an inspection, keep in contact with the inspector to understand the violations and the possible ways to correct them. Keep the inspector informed of your progress and ask for additional time to respond, if warranted. Many violations can be resolved locally and do not result in escalated enforcement.

Call your local Ohio EPA district office if you have questions about Ohio EPA. Small businesses can also contact the Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention (OCAPP) at (614) 644-3469 or (800) 329-7518 for free help. OCAPP is a non-regulatory office of Ohio EPA with a goal of helping small businesses understand and comply with the environmental requirements. For more information, see Ohio EPA's *Preparing Your Business for an Ohio EPA Inspection* fact sheet at epa.ohio.gov/portals/41/sb/publications/PrepforInsp.pdf.

DEFA Helps Protect the Glen Helen Nature Preserve



The Glen Helen Nature Preserve (aka the Glen) in Yellow Springs is one of Southwest Ohio's most popular natural areas because of its natural features like rolling wooded hills, numerous small streams, a significant portion of frontage along the National and State-designated Scenic Little Miami River, and a multitude of diverse flora and fauna, including several endangered species. In addition, the diversity of the area provides important educational and recreational opportunities, providing programs for both children and adults that seek to develop their appreciation of the natural world and an awareness of environmental problems along with the ecological principles that influence them.

Several years ago, the Tecumseh Land Trust and other partners negotiated conservation easements and fee-simple land purchases to protect approximately 1,000 acres of the preserve. Two partners in this project were Ohio EPA's Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance through our Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program, and Warren County, sponsoring the project as part of the loan funding package associated with their major wastewater treatment facility upgrade. Combining forces, DEFA and Warren County contributed more than \$1.3 million toward the total \$3 million protection project cost.

The hard work and dedication of all the project partners was celebrated at the Glen in a ceremony on Nov. 8, 2015. Ohio EPA DEFA is proud to be part of the effort that will protect the Glen Helen Nature Preserve and its valuable water resources for the enjoyment of both present and future generations. If you would like more information about our various funding assistance opportunities, please call us at (800) 329-7518.

Ohio EPA's Partnership Contributes to Successful Grand Opening of the Scioto River Greenways Project

In November 2013, work began to remove the Main Street Dam across the Scioto River in downtown Columbus. This marked the beginning of a major capital improvement project to help restore the Scioto River to a more natural, free-flowing channel through the heart of the city's riverfront.

Known as the Scioto Greenways project, this massive undertaking involved many partners that provided technical and financial assistance, along with contractors and other professionals to design, implement and administer the project.

Ohio EPA was part of this effort, providing permit assistance and financing for the project. Agency staff also joined the volunteer effort to relocate resident mussel populations from exposed river bottoms during dam removal to upstream habitat. The total cost of the dam removal and river restoration effort was in excess of \$30 million. Ohio EPA provided \$300,000 in federal Clean Water Act, Section 319 grant funds toward the removal and \$5 million in Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program (WRRSP) money for reshaping the river channel, restoring the banks, and planting trees, shrubs and other riparian vegetation. The WRRSP monies for this project were made possible by the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati and Hamilton County, who used three separate Ohio EPA-funded loan projects for sponsorship.

As a result, what was once a stagnant, concrete-lined, uninviting stretch of river is now a vibrant, attractive, heavily-used focal point in Ohio's capital city. The century-old low-head dam is gone, as is the debris-filled lake behind it. In their place are 33 new acres of greenspace, with trails, trees, scenic overlooks and a more naturally flowing and functioning river. We join the greater Columbus area in celebrating this major water quality restoration accomplishment. If you would like more information about our various funding assistance opportunities, please call us at (800) 329-7518.



The Scioto Greenways Project today.
Photo Source: sciotogreenways.com

Ohio EPA's Web Resources for Pollution Prevention (P2)

Ohio EPA's **Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention** offers non-regulatory pollution prevention assistance to help Ohio businesses save money and benefit the environment. P2 means avoiding pollution at the source rather than trying to control it afterward. To learn more, go to our online training **Pollution Prevention: The Basics**, or **Pollution Prevention: The Basics** fact sheet. To learn how to set up a P2 or sustainability program, go to our **Pollution Prevention-Getting Started** fact sheet.

OCAPP publishes many fact sheets on P2. They can be accessed from Ohio EPA's publication catalog at <http://ohioepapubs.custhelp.com>. You can browse the topic categories or search with keywords. For example, there are 22 P2 case studies listed, and a search of green buildings turned up 16 links on this topic.

We also offer training sessions, including webinars. You can access archived training in our Training Catalog at: <http://ohioepatrainingscatalog.custhelp.com>. You can browse by topic or search with keywords. Some training examples are: **Baseline Sustainability Training**, which reviews the basic concepts of sustainability and how P2 is an integral part of sustainable practices; and **Green Chemistry Training**, which helps businesses identify P2 and cost-saving opportunities through Green Chemistry.

To learn about recycling, visit epa.ohio.gov/ocapp/recycling.aspx. Ohio EPA also maintains a vendor database to help you find recycling and other service providers. We also maintain mailing lists providing resources such as division newsletters, fact sheets, training announcements, information about funding opportunities, etc. To subscribe to Ohio EPA's electronic mailing lists, visit <http://ohioepa.custhelp.com/ci/documents/detail/2/subscriptionpage>. For P2 related topics, subscribe to the Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance (DEFA) lists. Ohio EPA's **FAQ** (formerly Answer Place) provides answers to many questions that have been asked before. You can also submit your own questions there.

In addition to P2 assistance, OCAPP also provides free and confidential assistance to help small businesses comply with Ohio's environmental requirements. For more information about OCAPP's services, please call (800) 329-7518.

Free Pollution Prevention (P2) On-Site Assistance Saves Money and Reduces Waste

Are you interested in increasing profits, productivity and efficiency while reducing costs? Businesses and other organizations interested in waste reduction and sustainable practices can get free, confidential on-site assessments to help identify these opportunities from the Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention (OCAPP).

A second set of eyes on your operations by our P2 specialists may help you uncover opportunities to reduce waste and save money. Our goal is to provide an on-site assessment that focuses on areas with the greatest potential for waste reductions and cost savings. This could include help meeting your sustainability, environmental management system or zero waste goals.

How It Works

OCAPP staff will spend 2-4 hours visiting your organization at a date and time convenient to you. The visit consists of an opening meeting to review background information; a tour of your business to examine processes and operations; and a closing meeting to collect additional information and review initial suggestions to help you reduce waste and save money. The site visit is NOT a compliance or regulatory inspection, rather a technical assistance visit to help you improve your operations through waste minimization and other sustainable practices.

What You Get

Within 30 days after the site visit, you will get a report detailing recommendations on ways to prevent pollution. The report includes recommendations on improving operation practices, material substitutions, process modifications and recycling opportunities. The recommendations may range from simple steps to implement P2/sustainable practices to more substantial modifications. Case studies, white papers and vendor information are provided to support assessment recommendations and make it easier for you to implement the recommendations you choose.

You are not obligated to implement the recommendation in the final report. It's strictly a tool for you to use while evaluating process improvements at your organization. If you would like to schedule a visit or find out more, please call one of our environmental specialists at (800) 329-7518 or visit epa.ohio.gov/ocapp/assst.aspx.

P2 ASSESSMENT SUCCESS STORIES

An Ohio cabinet manufacturer generated large quantities of hazardous and solid waste, including used solvents, coatings, sawdust and industrial wastes. After implementing several process changes suggested by OCAPP, they saved more than \$1.5 million and reduced annual emissions by more than 31 million pounds.

An Ohio engine remanufacturer generated large quantities of waste from using individual cans of WD-40® penetrating oil at every manufacturing station. After purchasing WD-40® in bulk with refillable/reusable spray containers based on a suggestion by OCAPP, they saved nearly 60 percent on purchasing and waste disposal costs.

An Ohio auto part supplier had high wastewater treatment costs related to their electrodeposition coating lines. After implementing several suggestions by OCAPP, they reduced their flow rates by 9,000 gallons per day and saved nearly \$15,000 per year in lower water/sewer fees, chemical costs and sludge disposal.

Encouraging Environmental Excellence (E3) - The Cleveland Indians and Progressive Field Case Study - Demonstrating leadership in waste reduction, energy conservation and recycling

On Sept. 18, 2015, against the backdrop of beautiful Progressive Field in Cleveland, Ohio EPA Director Craig W. Butler presented 10 Ohio organizations with the agency's Encouraging Environmental Excellence (E3) Awards. Ohio EPA's E3 Awards program recognizes businesses, non-profits and government agencies in the Buckeye State for going above and beyond to demonstrate environmental excellence. The E3 program provides three recognition levels: Achievement, Silver and Gold. Silver recipients demonstrate a commitment to exceed regulatory compliance obligations and have exceptional achievements in environmental stewardship. Gold recipients exceed regulatory compliance obligations and commit to long-term achievements in environmental stewardship.

"These organizations are leaders in environmental stewardship. Their activities are conserving energy and water, and keeping reusable materials out of landfills, thereby improving Ohio's water and air quality. At the same time, these activities are reducing long-term operating costs, proving that good environmental policy is good economic policy."

Ohio EPA Director, Craig W. Butler

However, unknown to the host of this event, a special recognition was prepared to highlight their environmental achievements and welcome them into the E3 Gold Level program along with the other awardees.

The Cleveland Indians have partnered with Ohio EPA, U.S. EPA and the City of Cleveland to implement a wide array of environmental stewardship activities. They have pioneered efforts to green sports venues and have successfully implemented several waste reduction, energy conservation and recycling projects resulting in significant environmental and economic benefits. In addition, they have used these projects to engage the community by participating in a number of sustainability based initiatives in the Cleveland area. They have also used their successes to educate their fans on the benefits of going green and completed a number of outreach and education activities to encourage the broader public to become involved in improving the environment.

Green Venues Pledge – Progressive Field, previously known as Jacobs Field, opened in 1994 as a part of the Gateway Sports and Entertainment Complex. Jacobs Field was the first baseball-only facility used regularly by the Cleveland Indians since 1947. Progressive Field has a seating capacity of just over 43,000. In 2011, the Cleveland Indians signed the Cleveland Green Venues Pledge to take steps to protect the air and water, preserve natural resources, increase green space, reduce consumption of raw materials and support the local economy.

This pledge focuses on:

- waste reduction, reuse and recycling through materials management;
- water conservation and efficiency;
- energy conservation and efficiency;
- environmentally preferable purchasing;
- transportation and air quality; and
- community connections.

Another key component of this pledge is to reach out to fans, patrons and the community at large to teach the value and practice of sustainable living.

Recycling – Progressive Field implemented a sustainability program in 2007, when they realized the cost of trash pickups. A key part of this program focused on recycling with a goal to provide opportunities and education for both the fans and staff to participate in the recycling of aluminum cans, plastic bottles, office paper and cardboard. During an 81-game season, 1,300 tons of trash was generated, requiring 300 trash pickups for a 36-yard compactor. The initial recycling program was not single-stream and required the staff to separate the recyclables, which was both labor- and cost-intensive. The recycling program has expanded and the stadium now has two balers for aluminum and cardboard, and gaylords for paper. By increasing the diversion rate for trash in the landfill, they experienced significant savings in trash haul expenses and continue to reduce their waste footprint. This is accomplished with a partnership with Republic Waste and Gateway Recycling. Since the start of the recycling program, Progressive Field saves anywhere from \$37,000-\$57,000 annually. Implementation of commingled recycling decreased the amount of labor required by the stadium.

Recycling amounts for 2014 were:

- Aluminum/Plastic – 35 tons
- Paper – 63 tons
- Cardboard – 137 tons
- Fry Oil – 14,550 pounds recycled and converted to biofuel
- Food Recycling – 5,918 pounds donated to Food Bank

Energy – In 2007, the Indians became the first American League Ballpark to install solar panels. Green Energy partnered with Doty and Miller Architects to design and install 42 GE solar panels. The panels generate 15,000 kWh of energy per year. The stadium has also reduced its energy usage through conservation. The staff turn off heat and electricity in areas that are not used, including sections of the stadium during games depending on ticket sales.

Through educating staff and changing habits, Progressive Field’s energy usage has been reduced from 23 million kilowatts per year to 17 million kilowatts per year. The Indians have begun the process of retrofitting the lighting in the Ballpark with LED lights during the past two years. The goal is to have all lights changed to LED by 2017, including the field lights for Progressive Field. This lighting change out will result in a reduction of nearly 20 to 30 percent of the overall energy consumption for the ballpark.

Composting – During 2014, the Indians partnered with Emerson Solutions and Grind 2 Energy to assist with the composting of food waste at Progressive Field. Food was diverted from the landfill to anaerobic digestion, which creates methane gas that is sold to a local power company. The leftover organic product is used as a fertilizer for fields in Northeast Ohio. Over the past year, Grind 2 Energy has transformed 86 tons of food scraps into renewable energy. This equals enough natural gas to heat 46 homes for one month or enough electricity to power 32 homes for one month. This also eliminated greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to 139,447 automobile miles and created 12,133 pounds of nutrient-rich fertilizer.



Ohio EPA Director Craig Butler and Jerry Crabb, Senior Director of Ballpark Operations, Cleveland Indians



Jerry Crabb, Senior Director of Ballpark Operations, Cleveland Indians



Ohio EPA Director Craig Butler and Dan Hanna, VP Operations and General Manager at PEL America Waste Reduction and Recycling Equipment with bottle crusher.

New Initiatives – The Indians are continuing their sustainability journey by exploring and identifying new opportunities to improve their environmental stewardship efforts. They continue investment in low-flow appliances to conserve water and increase awareness of the stadium’s green initiatives. They have investigated the use of wind turbine technology to expand their alternative energy generating capabilities. They are working with local partners to install a garden on the patio portion of their stadium. The garden will grow vegetables used by the concessionaire for a variety of foods at the ballpark. It will also provide a platform for educating fans on the sustainability efforts of the team. A portion of the garden was in place by September 2015. They are also working in conjunction with the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District to potentially install water capturing cisterns on the top of concession stands in the Upper Deck in 2016. These cisterns will capture water from the stadium and be used to help power-wash the Ballpark after each event.

Interested in applying for recognition for your organization under the E3 Program? If so, please visit epa.ohio.gov/ohioE3.aspx or call (800) 329-7518. We would be glad to help guide you through the process and get your organization the recognition it deserves.

Encouraging Environmental Excellence (E3) — Achievement Level: Recognizing organizations completing environmentally beneficial activities

Ohio EPA’s Encouraging Environmental Excellence (E3) Program recognizes an organization’s exceptional achievements in environmental stewardship. Any business, industry, trade association, professional organization or local government of Ohio can be recognized for their commitment to environmental excellence.

The program has three-tiers to recognize Ohio organizations completing environmentally beneficial activities beginning with an achievement level award for a specific project to a higher level silver or gold level to recognize those exceeding regulatory requirements and making a long-term commitment to environmental stewardship goals.

The E3 Achievement Award recognizes any organization completing environmentally beneficial activities. The Achievement Award is open to any business, industry, trade association, professional organization or local government of Ohio. Applications are evaluated using environmental stewardship criteria developed by Ohio EPA. Applications are accepted on a continual basis throughout the year. Applicants must be in compliance with environmental laws and regulations. Achievement level participants must have demonstrated significant progress in one of the following main criteria:

- Reducing impact to the environment (toxics and/or waste reduction)
- Resource conservation (recycling, reuse and/or use of renewable materials)

Achievement level participants must also demonstrate some level of progress in at least six of the additional criteria below and submit a general statement indicating the applicant is in compliance with environmental laws and regulations:

- Management commitment
- Impact to the environment (if not addressed as main criteria)
- Employee involvement
- Improvement in environmental performance
- Continuous improvement
- Storm water best management practices
- Environmental management systems
- Environmentally preferable purchasing
- Promotion and dissemination
- Organics diversion
- Innovation
- Economic benefits
- Life-cycle analysis
- Environmental management accounting
- Pollution prevention
- Voluntary or non-mandatory initiative
- Energy efficiency
- Federal program participation
- Renewable energy
- Source water protection program participation
- Green building
- Recycling programs

“If you’re doing something great for the environment, tell us about it. By recognizing Ohio businesses and other organizations, we can improve Ohio’s environment through innovation and efficiency.”

Ohio EPA Director, Craig W. Butler

Benefits of receiving Achievement Level recognition include:

- A certificate of recognition signed by the Director
- A listing on Ohio EPA's website
- Program highlights included in Ohio EPA publications
- An E3 logo decal

Twenty-three businesses and other organizations have been recognized in the E3 Achievement Level. Some examples of past E3 Achievement Level awardees include:

Multibase – A Dow Corning Company, Copley

Multibase replaced conventional fluorescent lighting with energy-efficient fluorescent fixtures, including several equipped with occupancy and motion sensors. The updated lighting uses 59 percent less electricity and has reduced energy consumption by 16 percent and carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, by more than 200 tons per year. Changes save the company an estimated \$40,000 per year. Multibase also recycles 14,500 pounds of plastic, 1,900 pounds of cardboard, 2,100 pounds of plastic film and 180 pounds of office paper each month.

Main Street Gourmet LLC, Cuyahoga Falls

Main Street Gourmet recycles nearly 80 tons of paper, plastic and metal annually, which reduced its solid waste generation by 50 percent. Main Street Gourmet uses proceeds from recycling to add to and improve the recycling program. Virtually all of its organic waste, approximately 2,000 pounds per month, is composted and eventually sold as fertilizer.

The Brewer-Garrett Company, Middleburg Heights

Brewer-Garrett remodeled and renovated its main office focusing on creating a more energy efficient and sustainable facility. The renovation replaced and retrofitted the lighting systems throughout the facility, resulting in approximately 27 percent energy reduction. The mechanical and plumbing systems throughout the facility were updated, improving the comfort and operation of the facility and saving up to 15 percent heating and cooling costs. As part of the renovation, an existing retention pond was expanded to serve as a temporary holding area for storm water to minimize overwhelming the city storm water system during rain events. They also participate in the Berea City Schools' Paper Retriever program where the schools are paid for their own recycling efforts and coordinating the recycling efforts of local organizations.

ConAgra Foods, Troy

ConAgra Foods resource conservation projects concentrate on landfill diversion, water use reduction and recycling. A glycol cooling plant replaced the water cooling system, reducing water use by two million gallons per year and saving \$92,000 per year. A recycling program for aluminum cans and plastic bottles resulted in 3,280 pounds of materials recycled. A program diverting scrap dough and food waste from landfilling for use as animal feed resulted in more than 8,728,655 tons of products used as animal feed in 2014. A composting program for food waste not suitable for animal feed composted more than 370 tons of waste in 2014. A cardboard recycling program recycled more than 679 tons in 2014.

Interested in applying for recognition for your organization under the E3 Program? If so, please visit epa.ohio.gov/ohioE3.aspx or call (800) 329-7518. We would be glad to help guide you through the process and get your organization the recognition it deserves.

New Publications

- Our new DEFA **Resource Guide** is available. It provides an overview of technical, compliance and financial assistance programs and resources to help Ohio communities and businesses with their environmental needs.
- DEFA — **OCAPP 2016 Environmental Compliance Calendar for Dry Cleaners**.

Ohio EPA Training Opportunities

- April 6-7, 2016 — **Ohio Brownfield Conference**, Columbus, OH, Division of Environmental Response and Revitalization (DERR), Ohio EPA.
- April 20, 2016 — DEFA Webinar, **Encouraging Environmental Excellence (E3), How to Gain Recognition for Your Organization's Efforts**.
- May 11, 2016 — DEFA Webinar, **Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program (WRRSP) Update for July 2016 Nominations**.

Go to our [Training Catalog](#) for archived Webinars/Training.

Upcoming Deadlines

- Division of Air Pollution Control - **Annual Emissions Reports** due April 15, 2016.

LEARN THE LINGO

Publicly-Owned Treatment Works (POTW) — A centralized collection and treatment system that handles wastewater from homes and businesses, and is owned by a public entity such as a city, village, county or sewer district. Sanitary sewers collect and transport wastewater to a treatment plant, where it is treated and then discharged, usually to a stream, river or lake.

Residential Treatment System — A privately-owned system designed to treat wastewater generated from a one-family, two-family or three-family dwelling. These systems, typically septic tanks with leachfields or aeration systems with a specific discharge point, are commonly found serving homes where sanitary sewers are not available.

Watershed — A watershed is an area of land from which surface water drains, via one or more watercourses, into a common outlet, such as a river, lake or wetland. Depending on its size and location, a watershed can contain one or many of the following features: streams, ditches, ponds, lakes or wetlands. Watersheds are sometimes called drainage basins or hydrologic units.

Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance (DEFA)

Helping communities and businesses access technical and financial assistance for their environmental needs.

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