



Ohio EPA’s Encouraging Environmental Excellence (E3) Program

Ohio EPA’s E3 Program recognizes those committed to environmental excellence.

“If you’re doing something great for the environment, we want to know about it. By recognizing Ohio businesses and other organizations, we can create more momentum for improving Ohio’s environment through innovation and efficiency.”

Ohio EPA Director Craig W. Butler

The E3 program targets those who reduce waste, improve efficiency and work to continuously improve as an environmental steward.

The program has a three-level approach to provide recognition to Ohio businesses and other organizations completing environmentally beneficial activities, and escalates to higher levels of recognition for those who exceed regulatory requirements or commit to future environmental stewardship efforts.

Level Benefits	Bronze Level	Silver Level	Gold Level
Decal with the E3 logo to display at your location	✓		
Certificate of Recognition signed by Director	✓	✓	✓
Listing on the Ohio EPA/OCAPP website and highlighted in newsletter	✓	✓	✓
E3 flag to hang at your facility		✓	✓
News release from Ohio EPA with information about your accomplishments		✓	✓
Option for a site visit by Ohio EPA director for photo and publicity opportunities		✓	✓
Opportunity to participate as a case study to publicize recipient’s proactive approach to environmental stewardship		✓	✓
Recognition at awards ceremony		✓	✓
Annual members meeting with Ohio EPA director			✓
Opportunity to work with Ohio EPA on areas of regulatory/permitting flexibility options for the company			✓

BRONZE LEVEL

The bronze level is designed to recognize any entity completing environmentally beneficial activities. Any business, non-profit, government entity or other organization in Ohio may apply. Bronze level participants must have demonstrated significant progress in one of the following main criteria:

- Impact to the Environment (Toxics and/or Waste Reduction); and/or
- Resource Conservation

Bronze level participants must also demonstrate some level of progress in at least six of the additional criteria below and submit a general statement regarding their compliance standing:

- Environmental Management Systems
- Improvement in Environmental Performance
- Voluntary or Non-Mandatory Initiative
- Economic Benefits
- Employee Involvement
- Management Commitment
- Promotion and Dissemination
- Continuous Improvement
- Environmentally Preferable Purchasing
- Life Cycle Analysis
- Environmental Management Accounting
- Innovation

Bronze Level Key Information

- Application cycle is continual
- Duration of recognition is one-time (applicants can reapply annually if they complete new projects)

Bronze Level Contact Information

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SILVER LEVEL

The silver level recognizes businesses and others that have a good environmental compliance record and have completed environmental stewardship activities. Any business or other type of organization in Ohio may be nominated.

The silver level is open to any business, industry, trade association, professional organization or local government of Ohio. Nominees may nominate their own organizations. Nominations by second parties are also welcome.

Nominees receiving the highest scores based on the evaluation of nominations may be asked to

host a site visit. The purpose of this site visit is to provide reviewers with a better understanding of the nomination, to view the nominated activities in operation and to clarify information provided in the nomination.

A team of two or more reviewers will conduct the site visit. Information collected during the site visit will be used to determine who receives awards. Evaluation criteria for the site visit will be the same as that used for the nomination. Photographs of the nominee's operations may be taken during the site visit to help promote the Encouraging Environmental Excellence Program and the nominated activities.

Silver Level Key Information

- Nomination cycle is annual
- Recognition provided annually
- Duration of recognition is one year (applicants can reapply annually if they complete new projects)

Silver Level Contact Information

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GOLD LEVEL

The gold level is designed to recognize businesses that exceed regulatory compliance obligations and commit to long-term strategies to reduce waste, lower emissions and improve environmental performance. Any business in Ohio regardless of size may apply. To qualify for the gold level, applicants must:

- Pass a comprehensive compliance check;
- Implement and maintain an environmental management system (EMS); and
- Commit to continuous environmental improvement.

Each gold-level participant completes an annual performance report that demonstrates its environmental accomplishments over the year, its continued high level of environmental performance, and its maintenance of the membership criteria.

Gold Level Key Information

- Application cycle is continual
- Duration of membership is three years (applicants can reapply at end of third year)

Gold Level Contact Information

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