



ENCOURAGING
Environmental
EXCELLENCE

Encouraging Environmental Excellence Achievement Level Recognition

April 11, 2016

The Ohio EPA Encouraging Environmental Excellence 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. Higher levels of recognition are for those who exceed regulatory requirements or commit to future environmental stewardship efforts. The Achievement Level recognizes any applicants completing environmentally beneficial activities. Any business, trade association, professional organization or local government in Ohio may apply. Achievement 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. Achievement Level participants must also demonstrate some level of progress in at least six additional environmental stewardship criteria and indicate they are in compliance with environmental laws and regulations.

Ohio EPA is recognizing the following organization that successfully met the criteria for the Achievement Level of the Encouraging Environmental Excellence Program. Below is a summary of their efforts.

Maroon Group, LLC (Avon): Maroon Group, LLC (Maroon) is a member of the National Association of Chemical Distributors' (NACD) and participates in the association's Responsible Distribution program. Ohio EPA is partnering with NACD to use the E3 Achievement Level as a way to recognize environmental stewardship efforts completed by Ohio companies participating in the Responsible Distribution program.

Maroon is a specialty chemical and packaging supplier founded in 1977. They supply specialty additives, specialty resins, specialty pigments and packaging to more than twenty-one hundred manufacturers in varied industries, including: paint & coatings, plastics, graphic arts, sealants & adhesives, specialty chemical compounders, rubber and construction. Maroon has strategically placed warehouse facilities throughout the country which allows them to provide next day delivery service to 65% of North American's industrial manufacturers reducing transportation and handling needs and the associated environmental impacts associated with these activities. This structure allows them to ship orders on a same day basis meeting their clients' just-in-time inventory requirements and improving inventory turnover which further reduce environmental impacts.

Maroon has completed a number of resource conservation activities, many of which are included in their "Maroon is Green" program. This program is designed for Maroon to do their part to collectively reduce the company's carbon footprint. The program includes significant recycling and energy efficiency components with a focus on employee involvement and continuous improvement. The "Maroon is Green" initiative encourages employees to work with the local community to promote environmental stewardship as part of their overall charitable donation activities. Examples of these activities include their Arbor Day tree planting activities and sharing the success of their recycling efforts. Quarterly companywide meetings are used to recognize achievements and employee involvement.

Maroon's recycling efforts include recycling or reusing all cardboard materials. Cardboard is reused on pallets to separate or wrap products to protect them during transportation. Reusing wood pallets and bracing materials is also completed and wood from container shipments is reused for bracing on future shipments. Separate recycling and waste dumpsters are used for corrugated cardboard and plastics to increase recycling. In addition, printer paper, aluminum cans, plastic bottles and printer cartridges are recycled. Maroon has worked with their county Solid Waste Management District to obtain recycle paper bins for individual employee desks.

A number of energy efficiency activities have been completed by Maroon to reduce energy usage and decrease the company's carbon footprint. Motion sensor lighting has been installed in their warehouse and in most offices. Exterior light timers are used to reduce the amount of energy needed to light the exterior of their buildings. Programmable thermostats are used for all offices. Timers are used for warehouse heating to lower night temperatures and only turn on heating if interior temperatures drop below 55 degrees F. Skylights have been installed in the new office addition to increase daylighting further reducing energy usage. In addition, all electric lift equipment uses rechargeable batteries.

Continuous improvement is encouraged from all aspects of Maroon to better the company and its employees in safeguarding the environment. Employee suggestion forms are used where employees are encouraged to continually suggest ways to save resources and recycle. This program has resulted in the use of aluminum can recycling bins, turning off personal printers at night to conserve electricity and recycling printer cartridges. Upper management commitment to improve environmental stewardship is part of Maroon's company vision statement. This statement links employee participation, continuous improvement and community involvement as ways to help improve the environment while expanding the growth of their business.

Maroon's pollution prevention efforts primarily focus on strict handling and containment procedures to prevent releases or spills during the chemical distribution process. Three 15,000 gallon containment rooms with no floor drains are used to provide full containment of materials being handled. No containers over 300 gallons are stored in this area. An emergency dock pump shut off system is used to ensure that any truck spills are contained in the pit dock area. Water flow on the property goes to a retention basin before entering the city sewer system so that any contaminants can be stopped prior to entering sewers. In addition, the facility is registered with a 24 hour emergency spill cleanup company.

NACD's Responsible Distribution program is a mandatory third-party verified environmental, health, safety & security program that lets members demonstrate their commitment to continuous performance improvement in every phase of chemical storage, handling, transportation, and disposal. Code VI of the Responsible Distribution program requires a description of how the member company's senior management demonstrates a clear commitment through policy communications, resources, and programs to ongoing waste reduction and pollution prevention at each facility.

For more information about the Encouraging Environmental Excellence Program and the three levels of recognition, visit www.epa.ohio.gov/ohioE3.aspx or call (800) 329-7518.