



ENCOURAGING
Environmental
EXCELLENCE

Encouraging Environmental Excellence Achievement Level Recognition

June 13, 2017

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 four-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 demonstrate significant progress in one of eight environmental stewardship criteria: Impact to the environment; pollution prevention; energy efficiency; renewable energy; renewable, recovered or recycled materials; green building; recycling programs or organics diversion. 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.

Mercy Health St. Charles Hospital (Oregon): Mercy Health St. Charles Hospital is a mid-size hospital serving about 20,000 residents in Lucas County. The hospital participates in OHA's Energy Star benchmarking project. All incandescent lighting and T-12 fluorescent bulbs have been updated with either CFLs or LEDs. St. Charles has had four green roofs since 2010 reducing air conditioning and heating loads and storm water discharge. St. Charles recycling program, initiated in 1999, includes many materials, and has achieved as high as a 35% annual recycling rate of the hospital's total waste volume. The hospital has a goal to keep red bag waste below 10% of its total waste and has achieved 2% in a recent year. Reusable sharps containers are used at the hospital. The hospital also recycles electronic waste, batteries, fluorescent lighting, paint, and lead aprons. It has also partially implemented a pharmaceutical reverse distribution process. Mercury has been eliminated from the hospital. Other elements of the hospital's green initiative include integrated pest management, use of green cleaning chemicals, partial elimination of glutaraldehyde, and elimination of ethylene oxide. Purchasing preference is given to Energy Star rated products.

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