



ENCOURAGING
Environmental
EXCELLENCE

Encouraging Environmental Excellence Achievement Level Recognition

August 8, 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.

Fairfield County Commission (Lancaster) – The Fairfield County Commission has coordinated, promoted, and developed several environmental stewardship programs and activities throughout Fairfield County. The county government of 875 employees serves an estimated population of 152,600 within Fairfield County providing environmental services such as water and sewer utilities. In addition, the county has gone beyond these services to:

- complete several energy efficiency efforts that have produced a return on investment and earned U.S. EPA's Energy Star certification in 2016,
- provide recycling opportunities for 90% of the county's population,
- maintain a 21-year litter prevention program,
- move to a paperless document system, and
- analyze new county construction projects for energy efficiency.

In addition, the county has programs and policies in place to maintain upper management commitment for environmental stewardship activities, ensure employee involvement, and to promote and disseminate information on environmental stewardship related activities.

Fairfield County worked with Dynamix Energy Services to improve energy efficiency of existing buildings with new windows, heating and cooling equipment, and lighting upgrades. Energy efficiency audits were completed at nine buildings and several energy efficiency upgrades were installed including new HVAC equipment, LED lighting, motion sensors, energy managements systems, new insulation, and other items. The results of these efforts include a \$287,145 energy cost savings in just over two years.

In addition, two of the nine buildings received Energy Star certifications from U.S. EPA for reducing energy usage by more than 35%.

Fairfield County's recycling program uses compartmentalized trailers and roll-off containers for cardboard at drop-off sites available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Materials collected include aluminum, steel, glass, paper, cardboard, and plastic. Additional sites for recycling have been added including a large car dealership that has agreed to be a recycling site. While 78% of the population had access to recycling sites in 2012, 87% had access in 2015. Now, with even more new locations added, at least 90% of the county's residents have access to recycling. County offices use recycling bins for paper and plastic. And a plastic bottle recycling program has been instituted in the county's nine main building locations. Further, the county information technology department has implemented e-recycling. The department has procedures in place to "scrub" outdated computers (and tablets or smart phones if not recycled at the department level) and then donate or recycle them. In addition, prior to replacing a computer, there is consideration given to how that computer might be enhanced or repurposed. 40 technological products were repurposed or recycled in 2016, with cost savings of about \$2,000. Prior to 2016, more than 250 computers were recycled or donated.

Fairfield County continues to move towards a paperless document system and has implemented improved workflow processes that increase the efficiency of business processes. In addition, a shared document management system further reduces paper usage. More than \$23,000 has been saved annually and 17,376 pounds of paper are no longer needed. These systems are also shared with political subdivisions. Six of these political subdivisions spent more than \$7 Million annually on paper processes. An estimated 35% of that cost is now being saved through these efforts. The estimated return on investment for the shared document management system was 83.48%. Additionally, at least \$110,000 is saved annually with a department level document management solution.

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.