



ENCOURAGING  
Environmental  
EXCELLENCE

## Encouraging Environmental Excellence Achievement Level Recognition

*September 22, 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.

**Spartan Chemical Company, LLC (Maumee)** – Spartan Chemical was founded in 1956 in Toledo and now operates a 135-acre campus in Maumee. They are recognized as an international leader in manufacturing maintenance cleaning products including industrial cleaners, disinfectants, wipes, skin care, food processing, laundry care, floor care products and more. They have approximately 250 employees including a research and development staff of 11. Spartan has a worldwide network of over 500 national distributors in the U.S. and 53 international distributors and associates.

Spartan was an early adopter in the development of more environmentally friendly cleaning products. In 2002, Spartan introduced “Green Solutions” green cleaning and environmentally preferable products. Green Solutions encompass a range of different cleaners designed for uses such as carpet, glass, flooring, and industrial applications. Green Solutions cleaning formulas are designed to minimize environmental impacts especially those that may affect water and waste treatment facilities.

In 2005, Spartan introduced its “BioRenewables” line of bio-based, renewable products formulated with soybean oil and other bio-based chemistries. This range of products include industrial degreasers, waterless hand cleaner, hand and body wash, glass cleaners and graffiti remover. Each BioRenewable products uses a different composition of bio-based and renewable inputs to maximize effectiveness while meeting the standards of multiple environmental certifications.

Many of Spartan’s products have Green Seal, U.S. EPA Safer Choice, and/or USDA-Biobased third party certifications. They extensively review the chemistry and life cycle of their products since their market

niche is green cleaning. As a formulator, their products are concentrated to reduce packaging and to minimize weight and volume during transport.

Spartan identifies ingredients that fit environmentally preferable profiles established for green cleaning applications, without compromising product performance. A good example of this is the “Clothesline Fresh” product line that includes Safer Choice approved bio-based surfactants and chelating agents that won U.S. EPA’s Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge award. Clothesline Fresh products have low to no VOC’s, are phosphate-free, and have no silicates, alkylphenol ethoxylates, or ozone depleting chemicals. They are also designed with no toxic or environmentally persistent components, and do not break down into environmentally harmful byproducts. Similarly, these products are designed for a high level of performance and used in high efficiency equipment, automatic dispensing, cold-water temperatures, and decreased wash cycle times.

Spartan’s manufacturing facility and formulating processes have been updated and achieved a 25 percent reduction in energy use and a 20 percent reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Its plastic containers are designed to use less plastic, saving 60 tons of virgin plastic resin annually. They also purchase recycled content paper and cardboard, and have purchasing preferences for sustainable sources of materials. Overall, Spartan recycles over 65% of the waste they generate, resulting in more than 250 tons of material being recycled annually. Their product catalogue is filled with educational information on green chemistry and the benefits of sustainability. The catalogue and all of Spartan’s literature contains ten to thirty percent recycled paper.

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