

**Ohio  
Encouraging  
Environmental  
Excellence  
Program**

# Program Overview

- Announced in November 2011 with initial applications received in March 2012.
- Designed to recognize organizations committed to environmental excellence at all levels.
- Major revision in early 2015
- Targets those who reduce waste, improve efficiency and work to continuously improve as an environmental steward.
- Three levels: Achievement, Silver, and Gold.
- <http://www.epa.ohio.gov/ohioE3.aspx>



# Participation Levels

- **Achievement** – recognizes any organization completing environmentally beneficial activities, main focus of E3 recognition efforts
- **Silver** - recognizes organizations that exceed regulatory compliance obligations and have exceptional achievements in environmental stewardship
- **Gold** – recognizes organizations that exceed regulatory compliance obligations and commit to exceptional long-term achievements in environmental stewardship

# Application Information

- **Achievement** – you can apply at any time
- **Silver and Gold** – annual application cycle, next round of applications due August 28, 2015
- **Eligibility** – just about any organization may apply
- **Format** – there is none, there is no application form to fill out, provides flexibility for applicant

# How to Apply

- Application requirements on Ohio EPA's E3 website
- Each level provides a summary of information needed on first page
- Partnership approach – this is not a test, we will work with you to develop a successful application
- Contact information – on last page of each application requirements
- Compliance check – a statement indicating the organization is in compliance is required

# Achievement Level

# Achievement Level Benefits

- Certificate of recognition signed by the Director.
- Listing on the Ohio EPA website.
- Program highlights published in one of the Agency's publications.
- A decal with the E3 logo to display at the applicant's location.



# Achievement Level

## Main Criteria

Achievement level participants must have demonstrated significant progress in two main criteria and some level of progress in six additional environmental stewardship criteria

### MAIN CRITERIA

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



# Achievement Level Environmental Stewardship Criteria *Overview*

- There are 21 criteria to choose from
- These criteria provide examples of environmental stewardship activities
- Criteria are not scored at the Achievement Level
- A general statement of accomplishments is sufficient
- Measures of achievements are always helpful but not required

# Achievement Level Environmental Stewardship Criteria

- Management commitment
- Employee involvement
- Continuous improvement
- Environmental management system
- Promotion and dissemination
- Innovation

# Achievement Level

## Environmental Stewardship Criteria

- Impact to the Environment
- Life cycle analysis
- Pollution prevention
- Energy efficiency
- Renewable energy
- Environmentally Preferable Purchasing
- Green building
- Stormwater BMPs

# Achievement Level

## Environmental Stewardship Criteria

- Recycling programs
- Organics diversion
- Economic benefits
- Environmental management accounting
- Voluntary initiatives
- Federal program participation
- Source water protection

# Achievement Level Conclusion

- If you're interested, contact us
- We will work with you to help complete your application
- There are no site visits for the Achievement Level
- Outstanding Achievement Level applications may be asked to apply for Silver or Gold Levels

# Silver and Gold Levels

# Silver and Gold Level

- Applications are on an annual cycle
- Silver and gold recognize exceptional environmental achievement
- Gold level participants provide annual updates
- Open to any business, organization or local government
- Environmental compliance is required

# Silver and Gold Level Benefits

- E3 flag
- Ohio EPA news release and listing on Web page
- Awards ceremony and possibly a site visit by the Ohio EPA Director
- Case study



# Silver and Gold Level *Review Process*

- OCAPP Review team
- We will work with you to build a better application
- Review team site visit is part of the formal process
- Recommendation to the Director



# Silver and Gold Level

## *Application should include:*

- Narrative - facility or organization-wide focus
- Facility / organization description
- Tell us about your activities - Address the 19 scored criteria
- *We understand that some criteria do not apply and that is OK.*

# Silver and Gold Level Evaluation

- The narrative is important
- Adequate detail
- Indicative of environmental stewardship
- Quantifiable
- Comprehensive
- Innovative
- *Evaluation criteria is on the Web page*

# Silver and Gold Level Conclusion

- If you're interested, contact us
- We will work with you to help complete your application
- Applications are due by August 28, 2015
- Application instructions may be downloaded from the web-site: <http://www.epa.ohio.gov/ohioE3.aspx>

# Encouraging Environmental Excellence

## Contact Information

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