



## The Resource Newsletter

Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance  
Office of Outreach and Customer Support

November 18, 2015

### Office of Outreach and Customer Support (OCS) is Your Connection to Environmental Assistance Specialists and Resources

The newly formed OCS connects customers in need of environmental assistance to the people and resources that can make that happen. OCS is the “front door” to the Agency’s services and staff travel across the state to provide Ohio communities and businesses the information they need to connect them with resources they can use.

OCS publishes a quarterly electronic newsletter and easy-to-understand technical publications. DEFA listserv subscribers receive a monthly email update (eBlast) with information on deadlines, training events and new publications. OCS coordinates DEFA’s free webinar training series. Speakers are available to present an overview of DEFA services at meetings and conferences. The office also coordinates special assistance initiatives that bring together technical and funding experts to help address environmental challenges for businesses and communities.

Please email [outreach.defa@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:outreach.defa@epa.ohio.gov) if you are interested in any of these services, or to receive the quarterly electronic newsletter and monthly email updates. You can subscribe to our electronic listserv or other Ohio EPA listservs at: <http://ohioepa.custhelp.com/ci/documents/detail/2/subscriptionpage>.

You can also call (800) 329-7518, our compliance assistance hotline, or (614) 644-2798, our main number, with questions from Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., or go to our website at: [www.epa.ohio.gov/defa](http://www.epa.ohio.gov/defa) for more information. We look forward to hearing from you!

#### Do you want to receive the latest news from DEFA as it happens?

This summer we launched our outreach [web site](#) in a blog format called *The Resource*. Our monthly eBlasts and quarterly newsletters post to the blog. We post weekly updates to the blog with the latest training announcements, publications, stakeholder input opportunities, and deadline reminders. You can check our postings on the blog and subscribe via an RSS feed, which notifies you when there is a new posting. Just click on the RSS icon  to subscribe. You can subscribe for the entire blog site, or for a specific category like stakeholder input. You can also search the blog site by category/topic in the search box.

We recently added a [training calendar](#) to our website. We post DEFA webinars, other agency training and partner organizations that offer training of interest to our customers. You can view the training for a month, or in a list format. The calendar even prompts you to send yourself an email about a specific training opportunity.

The Office of Outreach and Customer Support is committed to connecting you to the latest information.

## Ohio EPA Recognizes 2015 Encouraging Environmental Excellence Award Winners

On September 18, against the backdrop of beautiful Progressive Field in Cleveland, Ohio EPA Director Craig W. Butler presented 10 Ohio organizations with the agency's Encouraging Environmental Excellence (E3) Awards. Ohio EPA's E3 Awards program recognizes businesses, non-profits, and government agencies in the Buckeye State for going above and beyond to demonstrate environmental excellence. "These organizations are leaders in environmental stewardship. Their activities are conserving energy and water, and keeping reusable materials out of landfills, thereby, improving Ohio's water and air quality. At the same time, these activities are reducing long term operating costs, proving that good environmental policy is good economic policy," Director Butler said.

Over the past year, a team in the Agency's Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance (DEFA) has worked to improve the E3 program to streamline our review process and expand the eligibility criteria so that we can recognize a wider range of organizations and stewardship activities. In addition, the team is set up to work in partnership with any organization interested in participating in the program, providing guidance through the application process. These improvements have helped increase participation in the program to a total of 41 award winners to date, and we expect this number to increase significantly over the next several years.

The E3 program provides three recognition levels: Achievement, Silver and Gold. Silver recipients demonstrate a commitment to exceed regulatory compliance obligations and have exceptional achievements in environmental stewardship. Gold recipients exceed regulatory compliance obligations and commit to long-term achievements in environmental stewardship. Following are the recipients of the 2015 E3 Awards.

Six organizations were recognized for both E3 Silver and Gold:

**TimkenSteel's Water Treatment Plant, Canton** - TimkenSteel's water treatment plant receives, cleans and returns wastewater from the Harrison, Gambrinus and Faircrest plants. Now using an alternative to their water treatment coagulant, chemical use is down 90 percent or 777,000 pounds per year. Water treatment solids and dryer filter cake have been reduced by more than two million pounds annually.

**University Hospital, Cleveland** - University Hospitals' Case Medical Center (UHCMC) has created a sustainability department, council and committees. The organization's annual recycling volume has increased by 270 percent and recycling costs are down 46 percent – all over a four year span. By donating unused equipment and medical supplies for humanitarian relief, 38,000 pounds of waste is no longer directed to landfills.

**GOJO Industries, Cuyahoga Falls** – Between 2010 and 2013, GOJO reduced water usage by 40 percent, solid waste by 36 percent and greenhouse emissions by 46 percent. In 2013, by eliminating more than 9,000 pounds of hazardous wastes, the company changed its status from large to small quantity generator.

**CSX Intermodal Terminals, Inc.** – Northwest Ohio Trans-Shipment Terminal, North Baltimore - The terminal – the first of its kind in the world – operates technologies of green design including ultra-efficient wide-span electric cranes that lower emissions, optical scanners that reduce truck idling times, technologies which automatically track railcars and remote switches that increase operational efficiency.

**Industry Products Company, Piqua** - In 2012-2013, the company recycled 70 percent of its waste, even incorporating some of its recycled materials into new products. Rewiring buildings and replacing lights saved IPC 36 percent in energy use, even as the business grew. Monitoring propane lift truck emissions reduces carbon dioxide (CO2) by 122 tons.

**Ford Sharonville Transmission Plant, Sharonville** - The Ford Sharonville Transmission Plant is reclaiming 45,000 gallons of machining oils annually for direct reuse. The reduced purchases of new machining oils resulted in an annual estimated cost savings of \$540,000. Reuse of the oil and recycling of swarf (machining mud product) has diverted 600 tons of waste from landfills and saved an additional \$20,000 annually.

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**Ohio EPA Recognizes E3 Winners**  
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The two organizations were recognized for E3 Gold:

**Cleveland Indians, Cleveland** - In 2007, the Indians became the first American League team to install solar panels at their home ballpark (forty-two panels generate 15,000 kWh of energy per year). In 2014 the Indians recycled 35 tons of aluminum and plastic, 63 tons of paper, and 137 tons of cardboard. Last year, the organization composted 86 tons of food scraps through an anaerobic digestion system which creates methane gas that is sold to a local power company. Leftover product can be used as a natural fertilizer for fields in Northeast Ohio. In addition, last year 14,550 pounds of fry oil was recycled and converted to biofuel and 5,918 pounds of food was donated to a local food bank.

**ID Images LLC, Brunswick** - Through aggressive programs to minimize waste, ID Images increased the use of recyclable materials and reduced the company's landfill trash by 37 percent. By minimizing the paper width needed to convert their products, and using an industrial shredder that converts waste material into packing for finished products, ID Images reduces costs from purchasing packing materials.

The two organizations were recognized for E3 Silver:

**GKN Driveline, Bowling Green** - Through process modification, GKN generates no hazardous waste at the site and aims to become a zero waste facility (currently achieving a recycling rate of 99 percent). The company reduced coolant waste in its machining process by separating contaminated coolant and metal chips more efficiently. By recycling coolant, less water is both used and discharged, and GKN has lower disposal costs.

**Melink, Milford** – Melink Corp. provides energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions for commercial and institutional building industries. Melink constructed new headquarters that are certified gold for new construction under Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) by the U.S. Green Building Council. Highlights include: a geothermal heat pump, solar thermal system, solar photovoltaic systems, wind turbine, battery storage system, lighting efficiencies, automatic lighting systems, building insulation improvements, hybrid electric fleet vehicles and vehicle plug-in stations. The estimated direct energy costs savings is roughly \$45,000 per year.

Congratulations to all the 2015 winners!

Interested in applying for recognition for your organization under the Encouraging Environmental Excellence (E3) Program? If so, please visit [epa.ohio.gov/ohioE3.aspx](http://epa.ohio.gov/ohioE3.aspx) or call (800) 329-7518. We would be glad to help guide you through the process and get your organization the recognition it deserves!



## Who Regulates What? Who Do I Call?

With so many state departments and agencies, it can be difficult to determine exactly who handles a particular issue. Ohio EPA often receives comments or questions about environmental issues that we can't address because the laws give that authority to other departments. For example, people often call Ohio EPA about radon or lead paint in their home even though the Ohio Department of Health is the designated agency for regulating those issues.

A helpful resource is the "About" tab located on Ohio EPA's main web page [www.epa.ohio.gov](http://www.epa.ohio.gov)



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After **clicking this tab**, you will find other tabs such as How We're Organized, Topics Index, and What We Don't Do that can help you locate the appropriate contact person or agency for your particular issue. You will also find other topics under Quick Links for frequently asked questions, submitting a complaint, getting a list of county contacts, and requesting public records.

If you are still stuck, feel free to contact our hotline at 1-800-329-7518 for assistance.

## Ohio EPA Improves Free Online Help for Small Businesses with Permit Wizard

Small businesses in Ohio can now access an updated online tool to help identify if they need environmental permits, licenses or registrations. The Agency's improved and updated Permit Wizard can help new businesses get started on the right track with proper permits; existing businesses also may use the Permit Wizard anonymously as a way to check on whether they still have the right permits for their operations.

The Permit Wizard guides users through a series of general questions about their operations in a Turbo Tax® like format. "To dispel fear of using a tool on Ohio EPA's web site, it was very important that users could remain anonymous," said Rick Carleski, OCAPP manager and technical advisor on Permit Wizard development. "So users do not have to provide the name or location of their business," he said. Once users finish answering the questions posed by the Permit Wizard, they receive a summary, identifying permits, licenses or registrations that will likely be needed, along with contacts and links to helpful resources.

Ohio EPA emphasizes that the Permit Wizard is simply a starting point, and just one tool to help businesses identify needed permits, licenses and registrations. It is not a substitute for reviewing the regulations and/or getting assistance, where needed, from an experienced permitting consultant.

Ohio EPA's Permit Wizard is user-friendly and offers:

- a choice of industry type to focus responses on those permits most applicable to that industry;
- the ability to select specific permit categories (e.g. water discharge, air, waste);
- more detailed information on specific permit requirements;
- a downloadable, customized results summary with helpful web links and local contacts for follow-up;
- the ability to evaluate the applicability of various permit exemptions; and
- the flexibility to back up and change input information.

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## Ohio EPA's Permit Wizard (continued from page 4)

The Permit Wizard can be accessed at <http://ohioepa.custhelp.com/applopa>. We welcome feedback on how it is working and areas for future improvements are welcome. In addition to the Permit Wizard, Ohio EPA's Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention (OCAPP) offers free and confidential assistance to Ohio businesses to help them comply with Ohio's environmental requirements. OCAPP is a non-regulatory program that also identifies pollution prevention measures that can help save money and benefit the environment. For more information about OCAPP's services, please call (800) 329-7518.

## DEFA's Webinar Series Continues

Since 2012, the Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance (DEFA) has coordinated webinars on a range of topics, including:

### Compliance Assistance

- Air Permitting Basics
- Universal Waste Management
- Used Oil Regulations
- Oil and Gas Well Inadvertent Returns
- Hazardous Waste Identification Numbers
- Hazardous Waste Characterization and Generator Status
- Air Permit-by-Rule Provisions
- Methods of Managing Hazardous Waste
- Inspection and Compliance for Industrial Storm Water Permit Holders
- Stage II Vapor Control Decommissioning
- Air Pollution Regulations for Asbestos Landfills
- Ohio EPA's Permit Wizard Online Guide

### Financial Assistance

- Helping Ohio Small Businesses Finance and Comply with Federal Clean Air Standards
- Recycling and Litter Prevention Grants: Opportunities to Establish and Implement Recycling and Litter Prevention Programs
- Addressing Harmful Algal Blooms: Community Loan Discounts and Grant Money for Equipment
- Navigating Ohio's Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) Nomination Process

### Pollution Prevention

- Pollution Prevention: The Basics
- Encouraging Environmental Excellence: How to Gain Recognition for Your Organization's Environmental Stewardship Efforts
- Ohio EPA's Encouraging Environmental Excellence Recognition Program: Examples of Environmental Excellence

### What are attendees saying about our webinars?

**Methods of Managing Hazardous Waste** - "Thoughtful, well organized session that followed the schedule, remained on time, and gave me ideas to ensure documentation of compliance. The practical examples were appreciated. I also appreciated other potentially applicable rules to consider such as the Subpart AA, BB, CC before treating waste. "

**Inspection and Compliance for Industrial Storm Water Permit Holders** - "Informative and well presented. The best part about this was the pictures of the good and bad practices. It is so much easier for us to see what is expected."

**Waste Characterization and Generator Status** - "Very good review of waste characterization. Great presentation and easy to follow information. I will definitely be using the materials to help train our plant level personnel."

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**Other**

- Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention Services
- Ohio EPA's Strategy to Improve Services

Attendees have indicated in webinar evaluations that asking questions via chat and receiving answers during the webinar is one of the most valuable aspects of the training. To date, more than 1,100 customers have logged on and attended webinars. You can access recorded webinars in the [Agency Training Catalog](#) or on [Ohio EPA's YouTube site](#). Meanwhile, look for new webinar topics in coming months.

## Community Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTPs) Can Get Free On-Site Help to Maintain Compliance and Save Money

Ohio communities with wastewater treatment plants that have design capacities ranging from 1000 gallons per day up to 5 million gallons a day (MGD) can access free on-site assistance to help address problems at their wastewater treatment plants. DEFA's Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) Compliance Assistance Unit (CAU) experts work alongside local wastewater treatment staff to help identify factors impacting the plant's ability to operate in compliance with its discharge permits. For more than 20 years, DEFA CAU staff have traveled the state, helping POTWs identify and create cost-effective, affordable solutions to bring them back into compliance. Some of the services provided include:

- conducting plant performance evaluations to identify causes of compliance issues such as problems with plant design, plant operation, administration, etc.;
- troubleshooting complex plant problems;
- creating innovative and cost-effective solutions for improving plant performance;
- offering onsite training of personnel in process control procedures such as nutrient analysis (ammonia, nitrate, orthophosphate), solids inventory and sludge wasting, and clarifier optimization, including return rates;
- helping improve sludge handling and disposal procedures;
- teaching operators inexpensive, easy and effective methods of process control;
- investigating concerns over industrial dischargers that may be impacting the system;
- determining current plant loadings and capacities;
- helping facilitate Inflow & Infiltration evaluations of sewer systems;
- reviewing/evaluating new treatment technologies; and
- providing training presentations at wastewater trade seminars and workshops.

### How does the Compliance Assistance Unit (CAU) work? Here's an example:

The CAU was contacted by a treatment plant manufacturer about a new wastewater treatment plant that was not meeting its discharge permit. The community was threatening to call in a performance bond due to the noncompliance. The system was supposed to spray irrigate treated wastewater on a dedicated field, but was not meeting the total inorganic nitrogen limit of 10 mg/L required by its permit. The CAU began its troubleshooting process by performing wet chemistry analysis and installing data logging instruments to measure critical chemical parameters. Through this analysis, the performance limiting factors were identified. A process control scheme was created to give the operator a decision-making strategy based on the new process control data collection procedures. The CAU continued to work with the operator until he was comfortable with the new procedures and the wastewater treatment plant was consistently meeting permit limits. Through the cooperation of the operator, the owner, the consulting engineer, and the CAU, litigation and enforcement was avoided and the wastewater treatment system has maintained long-term compliance.

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**Compliance Assistance Unit**  
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By working with DEFA staff, communities have saved money, lowered operating costs and are now operating in compliance after receiving CAU assistance. DEFA is committed to helping small communities avoid expensive enforcement proceedings through the use of technical know-how and hands-on experience to achieve compliance with their discharge permit requirements. If you need assistance, or have any questions regarding what CAU might be able to do for you, please contact Jon Bernstein at (614) 644-3715 or [Jonathan.Bernstein@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:Jonathan.Bernstein@epa.ohio.gov).

## **DEFA Helps Christiansburg Finish Sewer Connections in October 2015 — Fixing 30 Years of Sewage Issues**

The Village of Christiansburg, located in southwestern Ohio in the Great Miami Watershed, Champaign County, recently finished their final sewer connections. The previously unsewered Village had around 250 households with an annual median household income (MHI) of \$34,792. The on-site septic wastewater treatment systems serving local residents were privately owned, with the owners responsible for maintenance, repair and monitoring. Unfortunately, most of the systems did not meet current regulations because of age, small lot size, inadequate soils, or because they discharged directly into storm sewers.

In the 1980s, the Village completed an engineering study and design of a new sewer system only to discover that the project they envisioned was too expensive to implement. The experience left the Village in financial crisis,

frustrated, and reluctant to move forward with any sewer system for the community. Then, during the summer of 2009, the Ohio EPA completed a stream survey of the middle portion of the Great Miami River watershed. The watershed survey revealed that, while the larger watershed was attaining exceptional warmwater habitat status, improperly treated wastewater from the Christiansburg area was creating a public health issue due to *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) bacteria in West Fork Honey Creek. Even without these findings, the Village's leaders knew there was a problem, as residents frequently complained of sewage odors. Then help appeared in the form of an Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water staff member, who urged the Village to begin working with the Agency's Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance (DEFA) to determine what resources might be available to help solve these serious sewage problems. Over the next three years, the Village obtained financial and technical assistance from DEFA for the planning, design, and construction of a new wastewater collection and treatment system.

The prospect of spending almost \$5 million dollars placed a heavy burden on Village leaders to ensure that the result was an efficient and workable sewage system. The Village leaders evaluated numerous options for the sewage treatment system, some tried-and-true and others more unconventional. DEFA staff encouraged the Village to talk with other communities that had implemented the alternatives that were being considered for Christiansburg. DEFA staff also accompanied the Village as local officials investigated a re-circulating textile filter technology that another small community in Ohio was using.



*West Fork Honey Creek near Christiansburg, Ohio*

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**Christianburg, Ohio**  
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In 2013, Christiansburg qualified for 50% principal forgiveness and a hardship interest rate loan of 0.0% for 20 years from Ohio EPA. This Ohio EPA funding package saved the Village more than \$4.1 million when compared with market rate financing, and enabled the community to provide a public sewage treatment system for the community, thereby eliminating the failing on-site systems. As the process of providing sewer service to the community moved forward, the town officials were surprised to discover support from more residents than they had originally anticipated. The new system costs each homeowner a reasonable \$60 per month for the operation and maintenance of the system. The last connections to the sewer system were completed in October 2015. Through the dedication of the Village's leaders and with assistance from DEFA, the public health nuisance to West Fork Honey Creek and the Christiansburg area has been eliminated.

If your community would like to learn more about funding options to address water quality issues in your community, call (614) 644-2798, 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. Monday-Friday, and we'll be glad to talk with you.

**Fremont Business Saving Money, Creating Jobs, Reducing Landfill Use**

The next time you put gas in your lawnmower or take your kayak out on a lake or river, you may be helping an Ohio business and supporting plastics recycling at the same time. Recently, Ohio EPA stepped up to assist Fremont Plastics Products, Inc. with a \$225,000 market development grant from the Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance.

The recycling grant, along with matching funds from the company, are being used to purchase equipment that will allow the company to recycle waste plastic from the molding line for reuse in its manufacturing process. The new recycling line will support nine new, permanent full-time jobs and help the company save money. In addition, an estimated 1.2 million pounds of polyethylene (PE) plastic scrap annually will be diverted from landfill disposal.

Fremont Plastics Products, located at 2101 Cedar St., Fremont, is a subsidiary of The Plastics Group, Inc., and has been in business since 1980. It currently employs 225 full-time staff and uses about 20 million pounds of plastic a year to manufacture plastic gasoline containers, kayaks, playground equipment, automotive fuel tanks, panels for portable toilets and parts for adjustable beds.

The new regrind equipment will shred, grind and reprocess waste plastics into pellets that can be put back into the blow molding process. The company estimates it will have the equipment operating by April 2016. The company also is hopeful it can eventually become a regional resource for regrinding similar plastic byproducts from other manufacturers.



*Rich Knaggs, center, technical manager for Fremont Plastics Products, explains how the company's new plastics reprocessing equipment will work. The company's investment is being assisted by an Ohio EPA Recycling Program Market Development Grant. Among those present at the presentation and plant tour were, clockwise from bottom left, Jim Darr, Ottawa, Sandusky, Seneca Solid Waste Management District (OSS SWMD); Tim Wasserman, OSS SWMD director; Knaggs; Jim Sass and Jodi Regal, Ottawa County commissioners; Angie Ruiz, Fremont city council; Jim Ellis, mayor of Fremont; and Amy Drummer, OSS SWMD.*

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## Fremont Plastics

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Fremont Plastics is a good example of how Ohio EPA's market development grants can help increase the use of recycling technologies, strengthen the infrastructure for handling and processing recyclables and develop more markets for recycled products. Materials targeted for market development grants include plastics, glass, paper, metals, construction and demolition debris, organics and other materials. The grants require at least a 100 percent matching investment from the applicant.

The deadline to apply for a 2016 grant is Feb. 1, 2016. For more information, contact Chet Chaney at (614) 728-0043 or at [chet.chaney@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:chet.chaney@epa.ohio.gov).

## 25 Years of Pollution Prevention (P2) at Ohio EPA- A Retrospective

What is Pollution Prevention or P2? It is reducing or eliminating pollution at the source (source reduction) instead of at the end-of-the-pipe or stack. During the mid-1980s, government and business leaders were looking for ways to continue the environmental improvements achieved during previous decades. P2 offered a way to continue environmental improvements without adding more complexity and cost to environmental requirements.

Ohio EPA's P2 related efforts started in 1986 with a requirement that any business that land-disposed more than 200 tons of hazardous waste in the state needed to complete a waste minimization and treatment plan. Ohio EPA's hazardous waste program created a P2 section shortly before the federal P2 Act of 1990. The initial focus of P2 was on hazardous waste and toxic releases, including:

- identifying ways that could make a waste less or non-hazardous,
- reformulating products to reduce the amount and types of byproducts created, and
- suggesting changes in manufacturing processes to increase efficiency and reduce waste.

In 1993, Ohio EPA's hazardous waste program's P2 section was expanded into an Office of Pollution Prevention (OPP); being one of around 20 state government P2 programs. This office focused on outreach and education, including:

- providing technical assistance to businesses,
- working with environmental regulatory programs to help focus their efforts on P2,
- recognizing organizations for completing exemplary P2 achievements, and
- establishing voluntary programs to challenge organizations to meet waste reduction goals and measure results.

In 2004, OPP was merged into the Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention (OCAPP), and is now part of the reorganized Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance (DEFA).

### What are some examples of P2 assistance provided to businesses by Ohio EPA over the years?

Frito Lay, a snack food manufacturer in Wooster (Wayne County) generated large quantities of wastewater and solid waste in the form of used process water, packaging, scrap metal and other items. Through P2, Frito Lay reduced natural gas usage by 4.9%, water usage by 25.8%, electricity usage by 13.9% and solid waste generated by 22% after implementing several process changes suggested by Ohio EPA. Frito Lay now saves over \$267,000 annually as a result of these efforts.

Masco Builder Cabinet Group, a cabinet manufacturer in Jackson (Jackson County) generated large quantities of hazardous and solid waste in the form of used solvents, coatings, sawdust and industrial wastes. Masco saved over \$1.5 million and reduced annual emissions by more than 31 million pounds after implementing several process changes suggested by Ohio EPA.

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## 25 Years of P2

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Over the past 25 years, thousands of Ohio companies have received P2 assistance from OCAPP and hundreds have been recognized for their P2 efforts. P2 is now integrated into most aspects of environmental protection. The “green” movement uses P2 approaches to address common environmental issues. The P2 concept provides the basis for the many corporate sustainability programs. Environmental initiatives such as green chemistry, zero waste and byproduct synergy all have a strong P2 component. As P2 has changed, so has the way Ohio EPA provides P2 services. Now, we rarely approach larger companies to ask if they need help in reducing waste. Instead, they have either developed their own expertise or contact us for assistance. Our focus is now on small and medium sized businesses that may not have the expertise or resources to understand how P2 can help. We also focus more time helping companies design waste reduction programs instead of educating them on P2.

If you would like to speak with an environmental specialist about potential P2 options at your facility/company, request a free on-site P2 assessment, or find out about our Encouraging Environmental Excellence (E3) recognition program, please call our toll-free hotline 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday-Friday at (800) 329-7518.

## Ohio EPA Search Engine Makes Finding Agency Activities Easier

Do you want to follow Ohio EPA actions in your area? Is there a public meeting or comment period about a local project? Did Ohio EPA issue a permit for a local business expansion? Finding this information on Ohio EPA’s website is now easier with a new public notice database and webpage launched this spring by the Agency. In addition to making the process simpler for the public to find documentation of Ohio EPA actions, the new site also streamlines the Agency’s internal public notice processing to improve efficiency and reduce costs.

Users can access the public notices through the main Weekly Review and Public Notice webpage at [epa.ohio.gov/actions](http://epa.ohio.gov/actions). Notices can be searched by facility name, date, facility ID, location, type of action or key word. Users can narrow searches using drop-down menus. Partial completion of search fields also is acceptable. Agency actions since March 27, 2015, are available through the new search engine. Notices published before March 27 are available by clicking on the links under Public Notice Archive. The Weekly Review is a summary document that contains all actions, complaints, staff determinations and meeting information published during the week.

Ohio EPA continues to publish public notices in the largest newspaper of general circulation for the county in which a facility is proposed or located. These usually appear in a newspaper’s legal notices section. If no newspaper of general circulation is published in the county, the notice will appear in a newspaper of general circulation in an adjoining county. Please contact Mary McCarron in the Ohio EPA Public Interest Center (PIC) at [mary.mccarron@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:mary.mccarron@epa.ohio.gov) or (614) 644-2160 with questions.

## Upcoming Training Events

We are currently setting our 2016 webinar schedule and will release it soon. Check our blog category “training” at [epa.ohio.gov/defal/resource.aspx](http://epa.ohio.gov/defal/resource.aspx) or our training calendar at [epa.ohio.gov/defal/Calendar.aspx](http://epa.ohio.gov/defal/Calendar.aspx) and look for new events in coming months.

## Funding Opportunities

**Drinking water project nominations** for the upcoming Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) 2016 – 2017 funding cycle will be accepted starting Jan. 15, 2016 through March 1, 2016. More information will be provided at our website, [epa.ohio.gov/defal/ofa.aspx](http://epa.ohio.gov/defal/ofa.aspx), as we get closer to the beginning of the new year.

**Ohio EPA Recycling Grants** — Ohio EPA administers programs relating to statewide source reduction, recycling, market development, litter prevention and scrap tire recycling projects. Grant applications for all four programs are due Feb. 1, 2016. [Read the press release for more information.](#)

## Learn the Lingo

Do environmental terms sometimes sound like a foreign language to you? If so, you're not alone. Many businesses and communities have difficulty keeping up with the latest environmental lingo. This feature will cover some common environmental terms you may encounter. This time, we'll focus on some frequently used air pollution control terminology.

**Permit-to-Install and Operate (PTIO)** — The type of air permit most small businesses need is the PTIO. The PTIO is required before installing and operating an air contaminant source. The PTIO lasts 5 to 10 years and is renewable.

**General Permit** — A general permit is an optional, "template" PTIO available to certain common air contaminant sources. Because they are developed in advance, general permits eliminate much of the review steps and speed up the permitting process.

**Permit-by-Rule (PBR)** — A PBR is a specific permit provision in the Ohio Administrative Code that applies to certain types of low-emitting air pollution sources. Companies may use the PBR as an option in place of the PTIO. The PBR is free, does not expire, and requires a simple, one-page notification to Ohio EPA.

**De Minimis Air Pollution Source** — De minimis sources emit less than ten pounds per day of any air contaminant and less than one ton per year (2,000 pounds) of any hazardous air pollutant or combination of hazardous air pollutants. If you claim a de minimis exemption based on actual emissions, you must keep records onsite to document actual daily emissions from the source. You do not need to notify Ohio EPA if you claim a de minimis exemption.

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### *Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance (DEFA)*

Helping communities and businesses access technical and financial assistance for their environmental needs.

### **Contact Us**

(614) 644-2798  
[outreach.defa@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:outreach.defa@epa.ohio.gov)  
[epa.ohio.gov/defa/](http://epa.ohio.gov/defa/)

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Compliance Assistance Hotline  
(800) 329-7518

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50 W. Town St., Suite 700  
Columbus, OH 43215

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