



## Encouraging Environmental Excellence – Silver Level Award Honda of America Manufacturing, Inc. Marysville, East Liberty, Anna, and Russells Point

In 2013, four Honda of America Manufacturing facilities in Ohio received an Ohio EPA Encouraging Environmental Excellence (E3) Silver Level Award. The four facilities recognized include Honda of America Manufacturing Inc. facilities in Marysville, East Liberty and Anna as well as the Honda Transmission Manufacturing of America, Inc. facility in Russells Point.

The silver level recognizes businesses and others that have a good environmental compliance record and have completed environmental stewardship activities. The silver level is open to any business, industry, trade association, professional organization or local government of Ohio.

Honda employs more than 10,000 associates in these operations to produce Honda motor vehicles, engines and drivetrain components.

### Environmental Efforts and Results

As part of the Honda drive of striving to be a company society wants to exist, it has implemented multiple environmental initiatives with significant impacts, including:

- Zero Waste to landfill status was achieved in 2011 as the result of a long-term, multi-year effort;
- energy efficiency projects to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions; and
- support of Ohio's Tox-Minus Initiative, with a commitment to a 25 percent reduction in toxics emissions.

For Zero Waste to landfill, the Honda plants in Ohio supported a North America-wide target. For this initiative, the organization defined zero waste as less than 1 percent of North American manufacturing waste being landfilled. Multiple recycling activities at all the plants have allowed Honda to achieve a recycling rate of more than 96 percent in the last fiscal year. More than 231 million pounds of waste materials were reused or recycled at the Ohio manufacturing operations alone.

An additional 6.5 million pounds of waste materials were sent to a waste-to-energy facility, leaving slightly more than 0.5 percent of the company's manufacturing waste sent to landfill. The May 2011 issue of the *Honda Wing*, an internal publication provided to all company associates, was devoted to celebrating their achievements and success.

Tox-Minus was a program initiated by Ohio EPA in 2007 to encourage Ohio facilities to voluntarily reduce the pollutants they release to the environment. Under the program, Honda committed to a 25 percent reduction in emissions, and at the



### Honda of America Manufacturing facilities are recognized for:

- Achieving Zero Landfill Waste status in early 2011, reducing waste sent for disposal by more than 2.8 million pounds compared to the previous fiscal year.
- Voluntarily committing to a 25 percent reduction in toxics emissions and at the end of calendar year 2010 had achieved a 44 percent decrease to 574,000 pounds from the baseline level of 1,172,000 pounds through reformulation of paint purge solvents and auto coatings.
- Achieving the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for the Honda Engineering North America building located on the Anna Engine plant campus – the first for Honda of America in Ohio.

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### Honda of America Manufacturing, Inc.

end of calendar year 2010 had achieved a 44 percent reduction through reformulating paint purge solvents and auto coatings.

In 2011, Honda's auto plants in Ohio received Energy Star awards from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) for curbing energy use during production of passenger cars and light trucks. U.S. EPA bases the award points on the amount of energy needed to produce an automobile, and includes factors such as the vehicle size and production volume. Honda plants have focused on reducing the use of electricity and natural gas, more efficient use of lighting, chiller systems, motors, metering, heating, compressed air and air conditioning.

Honda received Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for their Honda Engineering North America building on the Anna Engine plant campus – the first LEED certification for Honda of America in Ohio.

#### Systemic Approach to Environmental Management

Each Ohio Honda manufacturing site maintains a third-party certified environmental management system (EMS), and each has an environmental policy statement signed by senior management, communicated to all associates and available to the public. Honda's Environmental Policy states, in part, that "it will operate and continually improve an environmental management system to monitor and control the environmental impacts of its operations." In 1998, all of Honda's Ohio manufacturing operations implemented third-party certified ISO14001:1996 systems. These management systems were upgraded to ISO14001:2004 by 2006.

Improvement activity is driven primarily through the use of the business planning process. The Plan-Do-Check-Action process has helped Honda achieve substantial improvement in its environmental performance, most specifically in the area of landfill waste reduction. In the fiscal year prior to achieving its Zero Landfill target, Honda manufacturing in Ohio sent 4.0 million pounds of waste to landfill for disposal.

Environmental management accounting is fully integrated into Honda operations. Environmental is one of the core business elements reported to plant and senior management, along with Quality, Delivery and Cost. The company consistently monitors and reports its progress towards achieving environmental goals.

Honda associates are involved in its environmental efforts from the beginning of their career, including training related to the EMS during orientation. There is a long history of associate contribution to environmental improvement. As an example, during the 80s, the Waste Watchers from Marysville Auto Materials Service improved cardboard recycling and waste management, inspiring others to assess recycling opportunities. Their efforts received recognition from then-Governor Celeste.

While cost benefit is a factor in deciding on new environmental initiatives, cost reduction is not the sole driver. Especially in the area of landfill waste reduction, the Honda facilities in Ohio have incurred additional expense to divert materials. For example, while landfill costs may run as low as \$0.035 per pound, diverting material to waste-to-energy can be nearly \$0.20 per pound and some plastic materials being recycled may cost more than \$0.15 per pound. In other cases, cost reduction is a benefit, in addition to reducing environmental impact.

#### For More Information

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For more information about Ohio EPA's Encouraging Environmental Excellence program, contact the Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention (OCAPP) at 800-329-7518, or visit [epa.ohio.gov/ocapp/ohioe3.aspx](http://epa.ohio.gov/ocapp/ohioe3.aspx).