



ENCOURAGING
Environmental
EXCELLENCE

Encouraging Environmental Excellence Achievement Level Recognition

March 17, 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.

Nestlé Quality Assurance Center (Dublin) – The Nestlé Quality Assurance Center (NQAC) is located in Dublin. It is the lead quality assurance center for all Nestlé businesses in the Americas. It has the ability and capacity to test virtually every Nestlé product, ingredient and manufacturing environment to verify that they conform to all applicable regulatory requirements, and meet Nestlé’s high quality and safety standards. Test results from the Dublin lab are critical to the Americas and often to the entire global supply chain.

NQAC began improving its impact on the environment in 2012. The lab director committed to achieving ISO 14001 certification, which was achieved in 2014. A robust internal and external audit program led to a recertification in 2016 with zero audit gaps. Since 2014, the facility has continued to improve its commitment to the environment by investing in numerous new equipment technologies, continually increasing its waste reduction efforts, and in 2016, starting an organics diversion effort. Strategic goals are set for the facility as part of the operational master plan, which helps ensure commitment from the entire facility to continually improve their environmental management system.

The NQAC Green Team was started in September 2016 to work on environmental projects and information sharing. The Team is made up of 9 volunteers that each spend approximately 6 hours a month working on environmental projects to drive innovation and find solutions for waste reduction and energy efficiency. NQAC management is committed to supporting recycling and composting efforts although they have an initial cost increase compared to waste disposal. This approach provides time for employees to be educated on the environmental benefits of these approaches and provides resources

for continuous improvements. Time was provided for associates to attend and participate in Earth Day activities where they learned about new recycling and composting initiatives at NQAC.

Nestlé corporate initiatives set targets for individual facilities to improve their sustainability. These initiatives then drive NQAC to set annual objectives for the facility and forecast for 3 years. The last three years have included environmental goals such as reduction targets for waste to landfill and preparing to reduce energy usage by 35% by 2020. A 33% reduction in waste to landfills was achieved in 2015. This reduction percentage was increased to 53% in 2016. Monthly waste measures are tracked in the Safety Health and Environmental (SHE) monthly operation review. Overall, the amount of waste generated by the facility decreased 41% from a 2014 baseline. One project to help with this reduction was the investment of more than \$166,000 to implement the Laserfische scanning system to reduce the amount of paper documents used and stored off site.

NQAC previously solidified their biohazardous waste that was picked up, treated and disposed by a third party company. NQAC invested more than \$1,000,000 in 2014 to install two autoclaves. This system decreased the amount of infectious waste sent to disposal from over 405 tons in 2014 to 178 tons in 2015. This amount was reduced to zero in 2016 providing NQAC a return on their capital investment within two years.

An ammonia system was brought on line in 2014 for cooling a new area built as part of a facility expansion. The benefits of this system are reduced energy for cooling and the use of refrigerant that has no long term impact to the environment. The facility is implementing energy efficient LEDs and motion sensing lighting when areas are renovated. In 2015, a 22000 sq. ft. renovation occurred replacing 278 T8 bulbs with 234 LED Columbia LJB MW bulbs and fixtures.

While NQAC does not have a goal regarding water conservation, they have implemented projects to reduce water consumption. For example, a glycol loop will be added to the ammonia system in 2017 to reduce water consumption.

NQAC supports Lean projects that focus on improving processes to reduce environmental impacts. For example, a current project is analyzing the use of re-usable coolers and packaging for samples to reduce packaging waste. And NQAC created a new equipment checklist in 2016 to ensure that all new equipment and projects are reviewed for safety and environmental impacts.

Food waste from three labs, Chemistry Compositing, Microbiology Central Weigh and Chemistry Vitamins Labs and the break area began in September 2016. Any food sample waste that is not used in samples is placed in composting bins in the labs then taken to Price Farms in Delaware, Ohio. 2.7 tons of material from the labs were diverted from disposal to composting during the first two months of the program (September and October 2016).

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.