



ENCOURAGING  
Environmental  
EXCELLENCE

## Encouraging Environmental Excellence Achievement Level Recognition

*April 4, 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.

**Barnes Nursery (Huron)** – Barnes Nursery is located in Huron and also operates a compost facility a couple minutes away from the Nursery. This regional composting facility is essentially on the border of Sandusky and Huron. This operation has an Ohio EPA Class 2 composting license and recycles over 20,000 tons of yard trimmings, food, agricultural and industrial residuals into quality compost, diverting material from valuable landfill space and returning organic resources to our soils. Compost that is produced through this process is a key building block in developing soils for use in a variety of horticultural applications. They reuse Lake Erie dredge materials from private sources in some of their compost products.

Operating since 1950, Barnes Nursery is a family owned corporation. It offers landscape design/build and comprehensive landscape maintenance. In 1993, Barnes opened a Class II composting facility in Huron. Barnes Nursery received a 2016 Market Development Grant to assistance in purchasing food waste collection trucks and disposal carts for servicing customers. The capital additions increased food waste composting by adding and maintaining customers. Generators are diverting both pre and post-consumer food scraps and compostable service ware. Target customers include colleges and universities, correctional institutions, retirement communities, schools, business cafeterias, restaurants, resorts, and grocery stores. Barnes will be able to increase its food waste processing by 19% over the three years following grant implementation.

Barnes purchased two trucks and 240 two wheel carts. The trucks have water tight truck bodies and powered cart tippers. The carts are used at customer locations for collection and retention of food scraps. This grant helps address key elements of the food waste collection business model:

- 1) Two trucker provide backup plan if one truck goes down for repairs;
- 2) Smaller trucks are more maneuverable and make it possible to service more customers;
- 3) Smaller trucks are exempt CDL rules which will enable choice of drivers based on customer service skills foremost, instead of only having a CDL license;
- 4) Offering 64 gallon and 48 gallon carts to match the food waste profile the customer (lighter weight material in large carts, dense heavy material in smaller carts); and
- 5) Providing carts to customers helps insure safe operation of the cart tipper and aids in recycling with clearly marked receptacles.

They are currently applying for a 2017 Market Development Grant to add value to their compost and expand sales into new markets with new products. Barnes is proposing to purchase trommel screen, packaging system and stacker conveyor. The trommel will have interchangeable screens. The screen will enable Barnes to manufacture compost for topdressing lawns and sports fields, compost blends for bio-retention and raingardens, and erosion control. The stacking conveyor is used with the screen to stockpile finished compost. The equipment has low fuel requirements and high output, when compared with grinding and older screen equipment.

The packaging system is capable of bagging compost as well as filling erosion control socks and wattles. Within Barnes' service area (eastern Ottawa County, eastern Seneca County, eastern Sandusky County, northern Huron County, Erie County, Lorain County and western Cuyahoga), there are 29 organic growers, 99 golf courses, 4 park districts and 8 nature preserves. 719 Construction N.O.I Storm Water Permits/General Permits were issued in the service area in the last three years.

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.