



ENCOURAGING  
Environmental  
EXCELLENCE

## **Encouraging Environmental Excellence Achievement Level Recognition**

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*June 13, 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.

**University Hospitals Samaritan Medical Center (Ashland):** University Hospitals Samaritan Medical Center (UH Samaritan) is a 25-bed critical access hospital serving about 20,000 residents of Ashland and about 53,000 residents in Ashland County. The facility's environmental goals for 2017 include reducing waste volume, reducing use of chemicals, and improving recycling volume. UH Samaritan partners with Ashland County Recycling Center to recycle a wide range of material. Between 2015 and 2016 it reduced its waste generation by over 5 percent. Surgical department blue wrap is now recycled into hospital pitchers and plastic trays. The hospital has been making progress to eliminate or reduce grease and oils in its dietary department, and recycle electronics, batteries, fluorescent lighting, alcohol, xylene, formalin, paint, and x-ray film. The hospital uses pharmaceutical reverse distribution, has eliminated mercury from the hospital, and is now using an environmentally responsible chemotherapy waste management system. The hospital has removed or replaced its incandescent bulbs and T-12 lighting. Purchasing specifications favor Energy Star rated products and more energy efficient products and the hospital uses green cleaning chemicals.

Through staff education and appropriate container placement, red bag waste volume is held to less than 10% of the total waste stream. Green cleaning chemicals are now used. UH Samaritan has reduced its solid waste volume by more than 5% between 2015 and 2016 (from 152 to 144 tons).

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.