Ohio EPA Recognizes Six Companies with Environmental Excellence Awards

On May 22, Ohio EPA recognized the first six silver award recipients for Encouraging Environmental Excellence (E3), a new program to recognize organizations committed to environmental excellence at all levels.

The E3 program provides different recognition levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold. Recognition provides Ohio businesses and other organizations with credit for completing environmentally beneficial activities, and an incentive to commit to future environmental stewardship efforts.

The 2013 Silver Award recipients have demonstrated a commitment to go above and beyond compliance, have a mature system of environmental management that has been integrated into core business functions and have developed aggressive performance goals, including a process for communicating the company's progress to the local community.

2013 Silver Award recipients

Frito Lay - Wooster - This snack food operation has been in operation for 64 years. An internal "green team" was formed to drive environmental compliance and stewardship at work and in the community. Green team members are encouraged to perform environmental community service. Resource conservation is a main focus for day-to-day operations.

The company has reduced electricity use by 6.57 percent even while a warehouse expansion was underway, saving the company more than $46,000. Natural gas use was reduced by more than 24 percent, saving nearly $468,000. Water use was reduced by 39 percent, saving about $343,000. Workers regularly conduct comprehensive reviews of all activities for environmental impacts and continue pollution prevention efforts with a commitment to reduce energy and water use and solid waste generation.

GM Toledo - This large manufacturing facility produces vehicle transmissions. Total routine waste has been reduced by 80 percent. In a one-year period, 94 percent of waste was recycled and 6 percent was shipped to an energy recovery facility. GM Toledo set up an effective energy conservation program as part of its "drive to zero" program, recognized by U.S. EPA for lowering greenhouse gas emissions by more than 30 percent.

“The companies we are honoring today with silver level awards are exemplary environmental stewards,” Ohio EPA Director Scott Nally said.

“The commitment they are making to improve Ohio’s environment should be an example to other businesses in our state.”

Director Scott Nally with Frito Lay

Director Scott Nally with GM Toledo
percent and avoiding nearly 40,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions.

Energy conservation goals are to increase the use of renewable energy, reduce energy usage by 20 percent and reduce carbon use by 20 percent by 2020. Energy-saving innovations include: energy-efficient boilers that reduce natural and landfill gas combustion rates, and a solar energy array installation currently generating 600 kilowatts of energy with a goal to generate enough power to supply half the electricity used during nonproduction periods.

Marathon Petroleum Company’s Findlay Office Complex - This 13-acre corporate headquarters consists of three multi-story office buildings, a service building and a utility plant, housing the operations center for the 8,400-mile Marathon pipeline. What began as an office waste recycling program has expanded into a comprehensive recycling effort with an energy and water reduction initiative. The office recycled 1 ton of batteries, 20 tons of food scraps, 3 tons of toner cartridges, 10 tons of scrap metal and 103 tons of mixed office recycling including paper, soda cans and bottles, cardboard and mixed plastics encompassing 50 percent of the headquarters’ waste stream.

The company’s cafeteria food composting initiative has processed 40 tons of food into compost, will expand to capture discarded food from conference rooms and employee workstations. Styrofoam lunch containers have been replaced with compostable paper containers, saving money and keeping 100,000 Styrofoam lunch containers out of landfills. Styrofoam cups at coffee bars were replaced with reusable mugs, keeping over 400,000 cups from landfills. The facility also completed projects to reduce energy and water consumption, including automated lighting, more energy efficient windows, 75 automatic faucets and 128 automatic flush toilets. It upgraded the HVAC system with a new chiller tower, a hot water tank and several hundred replaced steam traps.

Honda - Marysville, East Liberty, Anna, and Russells Point - Honda Manufacturing has facilities in Marysville, East Liberty, Anna and Russells Point that produce motor vehicles, engines and drivetrain components. The company achieved “zero landfill waste” status in early 2011, which reduced waste sent for landfill disposal by more than 2.8 million pounds in one year. Ohio operations stopped using more than 24 million gallons of ground water last year by using a 7-acre, two-pond system to capture rainwater which is used in the facility.

Wright Patterson Air Force Base (WPAFB) - The base encompasses 8,145 acres in southwest Ohio near Dayton. It is the headquarters for the Air Force Material Command which oversees the Air Force’s worldwide logistics, as well as The Air Force Research Laboratory; Wright Research Site; Air Force Institute of Technology; WPAFB Medical Center, the National Air and Space Intelligence Center; and National Museum of the United States Air Force.

The environmental branch uses a formula to address all aspects of products and services that can affect the environment. The program uses internal audits to ensure compliance with all applicable laws, regulations and internal policies. Documents are shared electronically with local employees and other Air Force installations worldwide. Each unit that handles hazardous material has a coordinator that serves as a conduit for the individual organizations; monthly collaborative meetings are held to meet new compliance challenges. The environmental branch also participates in the Environmental Safety and Occupational Health Council, comprised of senior leaders who promote environmental stewardship through the highest level.

DRS Environmental Systems Inc. - Cincinnati - This corporation designs and manufactures integrated trailers and shelter solutions that are structurally and thermally efficient for commercial and military applications. The company also
manufactures broadcast and communication systems. Several projects have been completed to reduce hazardous waste and employees are implementing laundry and recycling of rags, draining paint cans and following up with recycling. The company instituted a new foam container system used to insulate several trailers and shelters. The facility worked with suppliers and completed multiple tests to ensure quality for customers. A switch was made from 55-gallon drums to canisters, using up 100 percent of the material and sending empty canisters back for recycling, eliminating a waste stream.

Employees implemented a rain intrusion test that allows recycling of the water used to perform a required rain test. The company invested in a system that contains recycled water that is filtered back into a 3,000-gallon holding tank, reducing water consumption by 72,000 gallons. The next goal is to install a rainwater capture system that will be used as back-up water for this system.

For more information about the £3 program and the three levels of recognition, visit www.epa.ohio.gov/ohioE3.aspx or call (800) 329-7518.

Recent Rule Revisions Exempt New Gas Stations from Stage II Vapor Controls

Last year, U.S. EPA determined that on-board vehicle refueling controls, which are standard equipment on 2006 and newer vehicles, are in widespread use and that states could begin phasing out Stage II vapor control systems at gasoline dispensing facilities (GDFs). These systems capture the gasoline vapors that normally escape during the filling of vehicle fuel tanks and help reduce ground-level ozone pollution.

On April 29, 2013, Ohio EPA amended OAC rule 3745-21-09(DDD) to add a Stage II exemption for a "new gasoline dispensing facility" that complies with certain requirements and installs low permeation hoses by Oct. 1, 2013. The amendments also require GDF owners to notify Ohio EPA how they intend to comply with new GDF exemption listed in the rule.

A new GDF is defined as a facility that has not been operated as a gasoline dispensing facility at the location and, after Oct. 1, 2012, installed new underground storage tank systems and dispensers that are compatible with onboard vapor recovery systems in vehicles. This new GDF definition also allows existing GDFs to become exempt from Stage II controls if they are completing major renovations/reconstructions, essentially raze and rebuilds. This new exemption was not written to allow existing stations to just replace a dispenser or two and turn off the stage II vapor control system. Rather, these GDFs are basically completely redoing the gasoline station as if it were a new facility - installing new islands, equipment and possibly tanks and piping. Existing GDFs must maintain their Stage II vapor control systems, including annual testing, in accordance with OAC Rule 3745-21-09(DDD) until Ohio EPA approves rules for decommissioning the systems. Ohio EPA expects to complete the decommissioning rules later this year.

For more information, contact Jim Kavalec, Ohio EPA's Division of Air Pollution Control, at (614) 644-4840 or jim.kavalec@epa.ohio.gov.

Asbestos Emission Control Rule Recently Amended

Ohio EPA recently adopted amended Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) Rule 3745-20-01. This rule contains definitions used with Ohio's asbestos emission control program. Ohio EPA amended the definition of "Facility" in paragraph (C)(18) and deleted the definition of "Residential Exempt Structure" in paragraph (C)(45). The changes bring the rules into line with the federal asbestos NESHAP regulations. The rules became effective on July 18, 2013. For more information, visit www.epa.state.oh.us/dapc/regs/3745_20.aspx.

Ohio EPA Budget Signed Into Law

The Agency presented a fiscally responsible budget that strikes a balance between protecting the environment and allowing for economic development across the state and, as with the last budget, there are no fee increases.

Also of note to our small business owners, Governor John Kasich enacted a 50 percent tax cut for small businesses. This substantial cut will allow small businesses to invest more of their hard-earned dollars back into the marketing, innovation and job creation it takes to grow a business. This is important, as small businesses are the drivers of our economy, employing nearly half of the state's private-sector workforce. Cutting taxes for small businesses will build upon a number of jobs-friendly initiatives the governor helped to enact in partnership with the Ohio General Assembly over the
past two years. For more information on the tax cut, visit www.transforming.ohio.gov/index.aspx.

Ohio EPA recognizes the importance of providing our business customers with information and resources that support growth and development. We look forward to sharing more good news and updates with you in the future.

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