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### **Ohio EPA Recognizes Six Companies with Environmental Excellence Awards** *Accepting Nominees for 2015 Environmental Excellence Recognition*

Ohio EPA has awarded six companies with the 2014 Encouraging Environmental Excellence (E3) Silver Awards. The E3 program recognizes organizations committed to environmental excellence. Nominations for the 2015 E3 Silver Level are being accepted through June 27, 2014.

The E3 program provides different recognition levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold. Silver Award recipients have demonstrated a commitment to go beyond compliance, integrated outstanding environmental management into their core business functions and developed aggressive performance goals, including a process to communicate the company's environmental progress to the local community.

The six companies that have been recognized as this year's recipients are:

- **Washing Systems, Loveland** – Washing Systems is the leading provider of environmentally sustainable products and services to the North American and European laundry processing industry. In 2007, the company introduced new laundry detergents that reduced the use of [Nonylphenol Ethoxylates \(NPE\)](#) in detergent formulations from 94 percent of its total detergent sales in 2007 to zero in 2013. Customers using this product line realized an additional benefit of increased production through using shortened wash cycles while reducing their energy and water consumption by an average of 15 percent. More recently, the company replaced two components that were petroleum-based with non-hazardous, biodegradable bio-based ingredients, making these products free of phosphates and other chemicals.
- **Kent Elastomer, Kent** – The company manufactures tubing and dip-molded products for the medical marketplace. The facility identified energy savings and ways to purchase equipment and components to reduce energy. In addition, it reduced water use by 56 percent; minimized wasted energy in areas such as lighting, compressed air and chilled water by 20 percent; and saved 12 percent on heating costs and reduced the amount of material sent to landfills, reducing the number of industrial waste totes from a high of 284 per year to 104.
- **Saint-Gobain, Akron** - Saint Gobain Performance Plastics manufactures flexible tubing products at its Akron facility. Manufacturing includes extruded tubing, compounding, warehousing/distribution and light assembly. The facility used approximately 81.5 million gallons of water annually as cooling media for the process of extruding plastic tubing. The process water was then discharged to a small stream. By installing a semi-closed loop water system, the plant was able to reduce the plant's discharge water by 98 percent annually from the 2010 level.

- **Kent Elastomer, Winesburg** – The sister facility to Kent Elastomer in Kent, this company provides finishing operations, final inspection and shipping in support of the company's other two manufacturing facilities at Kent and Mogadore. The facility focused on reducing the amount it sends to landfills by implementing across-the-board efforts aimed to reduce, reuse and recycle any extra by-products from day-to-day operations at the facility. The facility went from a high of 260 industrial waste receptacles annually to the current level of 26.
- **MillerCoors, Trenton** - The MillerCoors facility in Trenton is the second largest facility in MillerCoors' eight-brewery network. Worldwide, commercial brewers average 3.5 gallons of water to make one gallon of beer. Focusing on water use reduction, MillerCoors set a company record of 2.93 gallons of water used to make a gallon of beer. This figure was an average for a single month taken in December 2013. Between 2011 and 2012, the facility reduced air pollutants by 34 percent. In 2012, nutrient discharge of nitrates to the Great Miami River was reduced by more than 25,000 pounds compared to 2011. Toxic emissions were reduced from 197,257 pounds in 2011 to 96,755 pounds in 2012. MillerCoors also reuses and recycles more than 99 percent all co-products and recyclables. It achieved zero landfill status by sending minute amounts of trash to a waste-to-energy facility.
- **Sherwin Williams, Breen Technology Center, Cleveland** - The Breen Technology Center is responsible for developing innovative processes and products for the Sherwin Williams architectural brands. Activities at the site include product development, coatings research, color technology and process engineering. Using 2007 as a baseline, the facility has reduced its environmental footprint by reducing trash to landfill by more than 1 million pounds and recycled/reused materials in excess of 2.6 million pounds. It increased its recycling rate from 9.5 percent in 2007 to 87 percent in 2012. The site reduced overall energy use in the last five years with new and creative initiatives. Through increased electrical efficiency, it saved 2.3 million kWh in five years, which equates to \$262,251 in savings. It also saved 26,960 million BTU of gas in five years.

Ohio EPA is accepting applications for the 2015 Silver Level E3 Award. Nominations are requested by June 27, 2014. The silver level is open to any business, industry, trade association, professional organization or local government of Ohio. Nominations may be self-submitted or submitted by a second party.

For more information about the E3 program and the three levels of recognition, visit [www.epa.ohio.gov/ohioE3.aspx](http://www.epa.ohio.gov/ohioE3.aspx) or call (800) 329-7518.

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*The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency was created in 1972 to consolidate efforts to protect and improve air quality, water quality and waste management in Ohio. Since then, air pollutants dropped by as much as 90 percent; large rivers meeting standards improved from 21 percent to 89 percent; and hundreds of polluting, open dumps were replaced with engineered landfills and an increased emphasis on waste reduction and recycling.*