

*Helping communities and businesses access compliance, technical
and financial assistance for their environmental needs*

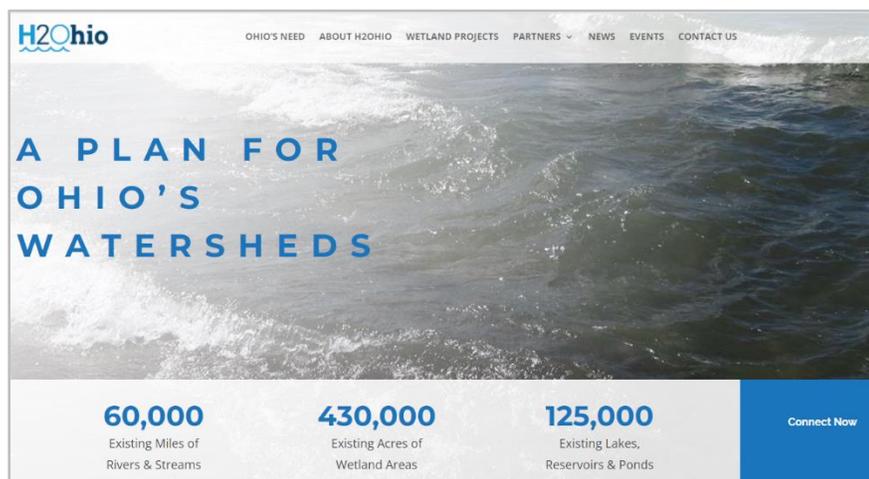
H2Ohio Update

In 2019, Governor DeWine launched **H2Ohio**, a comprehensive water quality initiative that is working to strategically address serious water issues that have been building in Ohio for decades. With these grant funds, Ohio EPA has been tasked with addressing failing drinking water, wastewater, and home sewage treatment systems due to aging infrastructure, and lead contamination from old water pipes and fixtures.

More than \$1.2 million in H2Ohio funds have been awarded to two communities in the state to remove and replace the public and private portions of lead drinking water service lines for day cares. Combined, Cincinnati and Cleveland have removed 178 lead lines to date with a goal of 315 lead lines combined.

In the September 2020 news release announcing the H2Ohio award to Cincinnati, the Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW) Director Cathy Bailey said, “While GCWW has had a successful lead corrosion control program for years, we know the best way to reduce the risk of lead is to remove the lead lines. H2Ohio funding will allow us to work directly with childcare providers to remove their lead lines and reduce the overall risk of lead. We are thankful and thrilled that this funding will help us positively impact our community for many generations to come!”

As part of his comprehensive strategy to address lead hazards and prevent lead poisoning in Ohio, Governor DeWine announced on March 7, 2022, that his H2Ohio initiative is investing nearly \$5 million to locate, remove, and replace toxic lead pipes in various communities throughout the state.



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For more information go to
epa.ohio.gov/defa

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No more deadlines for the
**Encouraging Environmental
Excellence Award Program**
nominations.

Of the \$4.7 million to be awarded through the H2Ohio lead service line replacement grant program, approximately \$2 million will go to six communities whose lead pipes are mapped and ready for replacement. These communities include Delphos, Lockland, Norwood, Scio, Sebring, and Hubbard. The removal and replacement projects in these communities will eliminate a total of nearly 500 lead drinking water service lines.

The remaining \$2.7 million in grant funds will be awarded to help identify, inventory, and map lead service lines in public water systems that do not have the financial means to properly assess where their lead service lines are located. This funding includes \$2.1 million for mini grants, up to \$50,000 for individual public water systems and \$600,000 for the Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP) and the Ohio Rural Water Association (ORWA) to provide direct identification and mapping assistance to small public water systems. For more information visit epa.ohio.gov/divisions-and-offices/drinking-and-ground-waters/public-water-systems/financial-assistance.

The lead mapping mini-grants and direct assistance through RCAP and ORWA will help communities prepare for design and construction projects replacing lead service lines. Funding for planning, design and construction of lead service line replacement projects is available through the Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSLRA) program. Additional funds through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), will be available for WSRLA program year 2023 (July 1 – June 30) including zero percent interest loans and partial principal forgiveness. For more information about WSRLA visit epa.ohio.gov/divisions-and-offices/environmental-financial-assistance/financial-assistance/wsrla.

Does your business use fluorescent lamps?

If you answered yes, be aware that many types of lamps are hazardous waste, and if they are from a business, they cannot be disposed in the trash. While lamps generated from households are not regulated as hazardous waste, we encourage homeowners to recycle their lamps.

All fluorescent lamps (as well as other types of lamps) contain elemental mercury. Unlike other metals, elemental mercury is a liquid at room temperature and will vaporize when it is not contained. Mercury vapors can be inhaled thus entering the body. Mercury can also enter your body by being absorbed through your skin. Mercury is a toxic substance that can damage the nervous system and also harm the kidneys. When lamps are improperly discarded, the mercury can enter the environment where it combines with organic substances to form a very toxic substance called methyl mercury.

When kept intact, lamps are safe to handle. In addition, lamps are very recyclable. The metal end caps and the glass and the phosphor powder can all be recycled. The mercury is easily recovered and can be reused. Because of this, lamps generated from businesses, that are going to be recycled, can be managed as **universal waste**. In the universal waste rules, the term lamp applies all hazardous waste lamps including incandescent, fluorescent, metal halide, neon, high-intensity discharge, high-pressure sodium, and mercury-vapor lamps. Lamps may also contain lead and cadmium. Because most lamps exhibit the characteristic of toxicity for heavy metals when disposed, they could be a hazardous waste.

Before you throw any lamps in the trash, you must evaluate the lamps to determine if the lamps are hazardous. If you determine your lamps are hazardous and you choose not to handle them under the universal waste rules, you must manage them as hazardous waste. Although the universal waste compliance standards are not required, you may manage your non-hazardous lamps under the universal waste rule. Since they are very recyclable, Ohio EPA strongly recommends recycling all lamps (even from households) even if they do not meet the criteria for hazardous waste.



Improper packaging is a common universal waste violation.



Learn the Lingo

Universal Waste: Specific hazardous waste streams that a generator can choose to manage in an alternative manner in place of the more complex hazardous waste requirements. These wastes are typically generated by numerous businesses, ordinarily in small quantities, and they present low hazards.

The universal waste rules are intended to promote recycling as well as proper disposal by easing certain regulatory requirements such as waste evaluation and manifesting. When managing these wastes under the universal waste rules, a generator does not need to evaluate them, and they are not counted when determining the quantity of hazardous waste generated for the purposes of determining generator status. Furthermore, the nationally recognized universal wastes do not need to be transported on a hazardous waste manifest.

For more information, see our [Managing Fluorescent Lamps](#) fact sheet and [web page](#). Questions about managing your fluorescent lamps? please go to our [Customer Support Center](#), contact the [Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention](#) on their confidential hotline at 800-329-7518, or the Compliance Assurance Section of the [Division of Environmental Response and Revitalization's Hazardous Waste Program](#) at (614) 644-2924, or contact your local [district inspector](#).

Bureau of Worker's Compensation - Ohio Safety Congress & Expo

Ohio's workplaces, like Ohio itself, continue to change. To keep Ohio workplaces safe and healthy, Ohio has held a [Safety Congress](#) since 1927. The Ohio Safety Congress & Expo is now the largest free workplace safety conference in the United States. Today's congress usually features more than 300 exhibits, 200 educational breakout sessions and 7,000 in annual attendance. The event is produced by the [Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation](#) (BWC).

The past two years, Ohio EPA has partnered with BWC to offer multiple free webinars at the online event. In 2021 and 2022, more than 5,000 attendees logged on and attended live or listened to a recording of the session.



Webinars Ohio EPA offered in 2022 were:

- **NPDES Construction Stormwater 102.** This webinar was complimentary to DEFA's 2021's webinar [NPDES Construction Stormwater 101](#), and provided more in-depth information on Ohio's construction stormwater program and the construction general permit. Topics included the permit approval process, permit coverage transfers, state/local regulations, non-compliance and enforcement, water quality volume and redevelopment, and available resources.
- **Decoding RCRA: Navigating the Basics of Hazardous Waste.** This session covered the basic requirements of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) to help generators understand how they should manage their hazardous waste. Topics included waste evaluation, container management, satellite accumulation, reporting, and more.
- **Ohio EPA's Air Pollution Permit Requirements.** This session was designed to give the audience a basic understanding of the air pollution permit program including when permits are needed, who to contact for assistance, what is contained in a permit, how to comply, how to apply for a permit, and how to prepare for an air pollution inspection.
- **What to Expect During an Ohio EPA Inspection.** This session highlighted the inspection process and provided practical tips on how you can prepare your business when an inspector arrives at your company.

Go to Ohio EPA's [YouTube channel](#) to view recordings of these webinars.

The Ohio Materials Marketplace (OMM) Update

Ohio EPA's **Ohio Materials Marketplace** (OMM) launched in April 2017. OMM is a free on-line network connecting businesses, organizations, and entrepreneurs for reuse and recycling market opportunities. Through the OMM, waste streams are matched with reuse and recycling opportunities resulting in landfill diversion, carbon reduction, cost savings, energy savings, and new job opportunities. Transactions via OMM are measurable and tracked. Users of the OMM have helped divert more than 130 million pounds of material to higher and better use. Currently, there are more than 1,300 members participating in OMM.

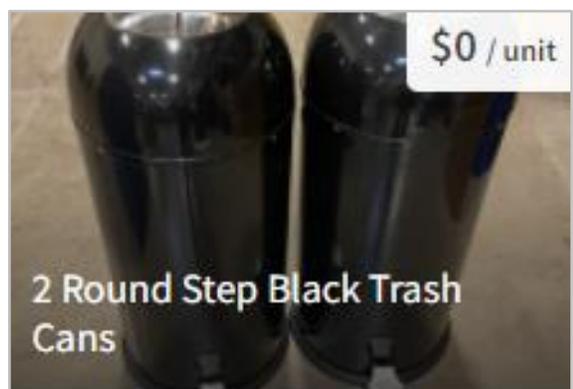
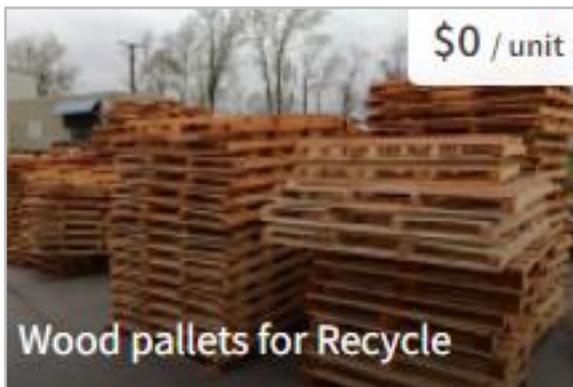
Entrepreneurs can use OMM to find materials and innovate to building new reuse and recycling businesses. Access to resources and expertise from our state and city partners gives marketplace users a unique connection to resources to explore new business opportunities in reuse and recycling. The platform brings together users from regional programs in Austin, Tennessee, Ohio, Ontario, Michigan, and Washington - more regions will be coming online as we continue to grow. This hybrid approach allows our team to engage with region-specific challenges and opportunities and facilitate interaction at the national scale when appropriate.

Some of the categories of materials include ash and slag, construction and demolition, furniture, fixtures and equipment, glass and ceramics, inorganic chemicals, metals and metal sludge, oils and waxes, organic chemicals, organics, packaging, paints and coatings, paper and cardboard, plastics, rubber, soil and sand, solvents textiles and leather, and wood.

This program could not be successful without you! If you have any questions or comments regarding the platform, please contact our Ohio team at Materials.Marketplace@epa.ohio.gov.



Examples of Free and Wanted Materials



2021 Annual Report Highlights

2021 marked another successful year of enhanced services to Ohio's businesses and communities through Ohio EPA's Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance (DEFA). Through our team's efforts, we surpassed prior years of assistance and service to our customers. DEFA serves as a one-stop shop for customers seeking technical and financial resources to help them achieve compliance.

In 2021, we reached out to thousands of businesses and communities throughout Ohio to increase the awareness of services and resources available, and we look forward to even greater technical and financial assistance in the coming year. Below are some highlights from 2021.

Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF)

In 2021, Ohio EPA awarded WPCLF loans totaling more than \$610 million to Ohio communities. Principal forgiveness (grant-like) funding totaling nearly \$11 million was made available to help communities address failing household sewage treatment systems (HSTS). In addition, more than \$39 million in principal forgiveness was made available to provide collection capacity in unsewered areas and address other infrastructure priorities, particularly in economically disadvantaged and small communities.

Some of the DEFA resources and services available are:

- Providing environmental and financial assistance to support H2Ohio, Governor Mike DeWine's comprehensive, data-driven water quality initiative to reduce harmful algal blooms (HABs), improve wastewater infrastructure, and prevent lead contamination.
- State revolving fund (SRF) loan programs helping communities construct and maintain wastewater and drinking water infrastructure.
- Funding to help communities address water quality issues from combined sewer overflows, failing home sewage treatment systems, nutrients, and lead.
- Technical assistance helping small community wastewater treatment plants improve operations and efficiency.
- A compliance assistance program helping small businesses with environmental regulations through on-site visits, help completing applications and forms, training, and plain-English publications.
- Funding to support recycling, litter cleanup, scrap tire management, and market development for recyclables such as glass, plastics, rubber, and construction and demolition debris.
- The Encouraging Environmental Excellence (E3) program, recognizing the outstanding efforts of businesses, communities, and other entities making a commitment to environmental stewardship.
- The Ohio Materials Marketplace, an online tool facilitating the reuse of materials through a collaborative network of businesses, organizations, and entrepreneurs.

Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) Program

In 2021, Ohio EPA awarded WSRLA loans totaling more than \$189 million to help communities address drinking water infrastructure needs. In addition, about \$24 million in principal forgiveness funding was made available to help small, disadvantaged communities.

Addressing Statewide Priorities through Ohio's SRF Programs

Ohio EPA leverages financial resources through our SRF and grant programs to address some of the state's most significant water quality challenges, including harmful algal blooms (HABs), failing household septic systems, lead, and combined sewer overflows. Working in partnership with other public funding partners, providing incentives for innovative approaches, and offering flexible financing terms have been effective strategies to help our communities in addressing these challenges.

H2Ohio: Long-Term, Cost-Effective Water Quality Solutions

H2Ohio is Governor Mike DeWine's comprehensive, data-driven water quality initiative to reduce harmful algal blooms, improve wastewater infrastructure, and prevent lead contamination. In 2021, more than \$9 million in H2Ohio grant funds were awarded to support focus areas of the H2Ohio Initiative including \$500,000 awarded to the City of Cleveland to remove lead drinking water service lines serving childcare facilities. Cleveland identified approximately 450 facilities likely to have lead service lines. It is expected that the funding will allow Cleveland to offer complete lead service line replacement for participating facilities.

Helping Businesses with Environmental Regulations and Permitting

DEFA's Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention (OCAPP) provides free and confidential assistance to help businesses comply with environmental requirements. OCAPP responded to more than 21,000 environmental assistance requests from Ohio businesses, communities, and other organizations during 2021. This included assistance completing 1,016 forms, including permit applications and other Ohio EPA paperwork. DEFA hosted 41 webinars covering a variety of topics, including environmental compliance, funding, and reporting. More than 15,000 people participated in DEFA's webinars or viewed our archived library of training materials during 2021. Popular webinar topics included:

- Virtual Assistance and Resources from Ohio EPA and Ohio BWC
- Open Dumping of Solid Waste and Scrap Tires
- Recycling and Litter Prevention Grant Application Process
- Environmental Regulations in Your Community

DEFA also continued its series of webinars focused on those environmental issues that have an impact at the local level. These seven webinars occurred throughout the year and cover a wide range of topics from how Ohio EPA regulates sources of air pollution, waste management, wastewater, and stormwater discharges to different ways your community can promote environmental stewardship and improve the environment in your local area.

Ohio EPA's Virtual Sustainability Conference

Based on the success of our 2020 Virtual Compliance Assistance Conference, Ohio EPA offered its third sustainability conference virtually from Sept. 21 - 23, 2021. More than 1,400 people logged on to eight different sessions and interacted virtually. Sessions had polling to engage the participants and provide opportunities to ask questions. Certificates for continuing education credits were included for each session and all sessions were recorded for customers who could not attend or who wanted to review a session more closely. Conference sessions focused on sustainable solutions being implemented throughout Ohio.

Ohio's Materials Marketplace: Year Five Accomplishments

In April 2017, Ohio EPA launched the Ohio Materials Marketplace (OMM), a circular economy program that connects businesses, organizations, and entrepreneurs to develop and scale reuse and recycling market opportunities. Through OMM, traditional and non-traditional waste streams are matched with new reuse and recycling opportunities that result in landfill diversion, carbon reduction, cost savings, energy savings, and new job opportunities. This platform aids both public and private sectors in reaching our region's climate action and equity goals. Ohio businesses, not-for-profits, and government organizations can list available products and materials that would otherwise be destined for disposal in landfills. Additionally, users can post wanted ads for materials that they are seeking.

Encouraging Environmental Excellence (E3) Program

Ohio EPA's E3 program recognizes businesses, organizations, and government entities for achievements in environmental stewardship. During 2021, Ohio EPA acknowledged five gold level and six silver level E3 recipients. This was the fifth year Ohio EPA recognized organizations at the Platinum Level for their efforts to expand their environmental sustainability programs beyond their own facility to make a positive impact on their surrounding community with four organizations recognized at the E3 platinum level.

Encouraging Environmental Excellence in Education (E4) Program

This program recognizes any Ohio K-12 public or private school for its achievements in environmental stewardship and efforts to educate students on environmental topics. The program has three recognition classes: root, branch, and leaf, which are based on how many of the three Rs (reduce, reuse, and recycle) each school is incorporating in its curriculum or activities. A total of 14 schools have been recognized for their environmental achievements since 2019.

Encouraging Environmental Excellence in Communities (E3C)

The Encouraging Environmental Excellence in Communities (E3C) program recognized eight communities and community-related organizations were recognized for their environmental stewardship in 2021. The E3C program recognizes any local government or community's exceptional achievements in environmental stewardship. The E3C program has three levels of recognition that recognize communities in different stages of implementing environmental stewardship initiatives through environmental, economic and social programs and activities: implementation, stewardship, and sustainable. Communities and local governments can apply at any time through a simple online application.

Recycling and Litter Prevention Grant Program

Each year, Ohio EPA's Recycling and Litter Prevention (R&LP) program awards grant funding to support recycling-related activities across Ohio. In 2021, the program awarded more than \$ 6 million in grants to support 103 projects throughout the state.

These diverse projects include supporting Ohio communities with their litter prevention activities and supporting local recycling infrastructure needs. The program also supports Ohio businesses looking to expand their recycling capabilities or capacity to recover recycled raw materials/feedstock to put back into their manufacturing processes. Grants also support community tire collection events and tire processing manufacturers to expand their operations and find new markets/uses for scrap tires.

Improving Curbside Recycling

In 2019, Ohio EPA awarded The Recycling Partnership nearly \$320,000 to develop and create an anti-contamination education and outreach campaign aimed at improving the quality of curbside recycling that could be replicated throughout the state.

This pilot project was a collaborative effort between six Ohio communities, their local solid waste districts, and recyclers. More than 147,000 households were impacted by this project, resulting in significant curbside recycling contamination reductions. The final product of this nearly three-year project, released in 2021, was a new curbside recycling contamination reduction kit designed to provide steps, tools, and resources to help you improve the quality of your community curbside recycling program. This was not your typical recycling education and outreach campaign. The tools in this kit were developed, tested, and refined in partnership with communities, states, and other organizations across the country; including the Ohio communities that were part of this pilot project.

Reaching Our Customers Electronically

DEFA's outreach efforts include monthly eBlasts, a quarterly newsletter, and blog posts. Our eBlasts contain information on upcoming regulatory changes, funding opportunities, training, and other resources. DEFA's quarterly newsletters contain more detailed updates and a range of articles related to environmental compliance, water, and wastewater infrastructure development, and sustainability efforts. Our 2021 eBlasts and newsletters reached an audience of more than 12,000 subscribers. We distributed 12 monthly DEFA eBlast updates and 98 special eBlasts for DEFA totaling 680,557 in 2021.

We appreciate the support from all our stakeholders and look forward to another busy and productive year in 2022. If you have any questions or need more information about our services, contact us at (614) 644-3469 or visit our website at epa.ohio.gov/defa. You can access our DEFA 2021 Annual Report at epa.ohio.gov/static/Portals/29/documents/2021-DEFA-Annual-Report.pdf

Encouraging Environmental Excellence Award Program Accepting Nominations

Ohio EPA's *Encouraging Environmental Excellence Award* program recognizes entities for exceptional achievements in environmental stewardship. Is your organization going beyond to reduce your environmental impact? Examples include lighting retrofits, reducing water/energy usage, recycling efforts, and process improvement. Is your community implementing sustainable measures to reduce their environmental impact? Examples include community gardening, energy/water reduction, green roofs, and smart transportation. Many of us have children in school, is your K-12 student implementing student-led sustainable activities at their school? Examples include encouraging recycling, water bottle refilling stations, anti-idling policies, and composting. This program has different levels of recognition for organizations, communities, and schools. Learn more at epa.ohio.gov/defa. You can now apply year-round.



Ohio EPA's Encouraging Environmental Excellence (E3) recognition program will now be accepting applications year-round.

Meet the DEFA Staff

Jessica Dalzell, Environmental Specialist, OCAPP, DEFA

How long have you worked for Ohio EPA?

I joined Ohio EPA in October 2021 as an Environmental Specialist II within the Recycling and Sustainability Unit. I graduated from Bellarmine University with a bachelor's degree in environmental sciences and Ohio University with a master's degree in environmental geography.

What excites you the most about the work that you do or your field of study?

I am excited to be working with a team that is as passionate about the environment as I am. Waste diversion, along with general environmental sustainability, has always been an interest of mine, so I feel I am in the perfect place with the Recycling and Sustainability Unit.

Favorite memory or accomplishment with the agency or related to your field?

One of my favorite accomplishments is having my master's thesis published in an academic journal. My thesis "Thinking Beyond the Plastic Bag Ban: Reusable Bag Habits and Motivators in Athens, Ohio" was published in the Geographic Bulletin in November of 2020. In the fall of 2021, I gave permission for my work to be used in an environmental sciences textbook. In my opinion, reducing single-use bag waste is an easy fix and I look forward to becoming part of the solution.

What are your favorite things to do outside of work?

I love to spend time outdoors. I enjoy taking my dog for walks, hiking, biking, camping, kayaking, skiing, and snowshoeing. I also love traveling and exploring new places.

Who inspires you?

I am inspired by many people in my life. My dad has always exemplified hard work and perseverance throughout my life, and I am grateful for the work ethic he instilled in me. My mom gave me my drive to succeed as she always expected the best from my brother and me. Recently, my partner has been inspiring me to be kinder, more patient, and more easygoing. He keeps me grounded and maintains a consistent level of calmness in my life.



Florel Fraser, Financial Program Manager, DEFA

How long have you worked for Ohio EPA?

I joined Ohio EPA in August 2021.

What excites you the most about the work that you do or your field of study?

My exposure to public administration began soon after I graduated high school when I took my first job serving the grass root community in which I lived in Jamaica, as secretary to the then Minister of Education. In high school, I organized a community youth club and completed several projects providing social services to the community. We planted trees, erected a bus stop, completed clean-up activities, provided food for the elderly, a safe space for the youths, and were liaisons between the community and the public administrators. I have a master's degree in public administration. The exciting thing about what I do is the contribution I make by providing information to administrators to assist decision-making processes.

Favorite memory or accomplishment with the agency or related to your field?

My career in business and public service has seen several accomplishments that make me proud. Here in DEFA, my six-month goal for this position was to learn the PowerBi software. For the most part I did that and was happy when my managers used reports that I provided to present useful information in a webinar.

What are your favorite things to do outside of work?

Evening and weekend walks, good weather permitting! I can do an average of five miles on a weekday evening and average approximately eight to nine miles each day on the weekend. I love volunteering and you can find me during tax season working with the Volunteer Income Tax Preparation (VITA) program to assist preparing taxes for the elderly and other qualified individuals, or at a church making blankets for the homeless. I have two children and two grandchildren, and I never get tired of spending time with them, these days mostly on the phone.

Who inspires you?

Dr. Neville Gallimore was the person who inspired me the most. He caused me to examine myself and helped me to set the pace for being the person I am today. I am especially inspired by individuals who achieve success through hard work despite challenges they face. My favorite quote comes from Charles Lindbergh; "Life is a culmination of the past, an awareness of the present, an indication of a future beyond knowledge, the quality that gives a touch of divinity to matter."

Training Opportunities

Ohio EPA Training Opportunities

- June 9, 2022 - **Regulation and Funding of Household Sewage Treatment Systems in Ohio**
- June 21, 2022 - **Stormwater Permitting Requirements for Industrial Activity under 2022 General Permit**
- July 19, 2022 - **Air Pollution Risk Management Program for Drinking Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendents/Operators**
- June 16, Aug. 16, Oct. 6, 2022 - **Grant Writing Workshops 2022**. Registration is required for this FREE workshop, email dennis.clement@epa.ohio.gov to register.



Find Training Opportunities
Visit our events calendar for upcoming events.

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Sign up to receive electronic notifications about upcoming webinars, trainings, and conferences in our Customer Support Center.

Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance (DEFA)

Helping communities and businesses access technical and financial assistance for their environmental needs.

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