

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

New U.S. EPA Tool Provides the Public with Customized Updates on Local Enforcement and Compliance Activities

U.S. EPA recently announced the release of a new web tool, called ECHO Notify, that empowers members of the public to stay informed about important environmental enforcement and compliance activities in their communities. Through ECHO Notify, users can sign up to receive weekly emails when new information is available within the selected geographic area, such as when a violation or enforcement action has taken place at a nearby facility.

“U.S. EPA is committed to empowering communities with the information they need to understand and make informed decisions about their health and the environment,” said U.S. EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan. “We’ve also seen that increased transparency leads to stronger deterrence of environmental violations. As more people play an active role in protecting their neighborhoods from pollution, U.S. EPA has developed ECHO Notify so that finding updates on environmental enforcement and compliance activities is as easy as checking your email.”

ECHO Notify provides information on all U.S. EPA enforcement and compliance activities as well as activities of state and local governments under the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

You can find ECHO Notify on U.S. EPA’s website at [ECHO Notify](#). U.S. EPA has [prepared a video](#) that provides an overview of ECHO Notify and explains how to use it. Visitors to the ECHO Notify home page who wish to receive email updates only need to take a few simple steps:

- Create an account, if you don’t have one already;
- Select a geographic area and/or facility ID(s);
- Choose the type of compliance and enforcement information of interest;
- Enter an email address; and
- Click subscribe.

Once subscribed, the user will receive an automated email (typically on Sunday) containing new information from the prior week-long period. If no new information is available, no email will be sent. Email notifications include links for users to view additional information on ECHO, including a link to each facility’s detailed facility report. *Echo* users can easily update their notification selections or unsubscribe at any time.

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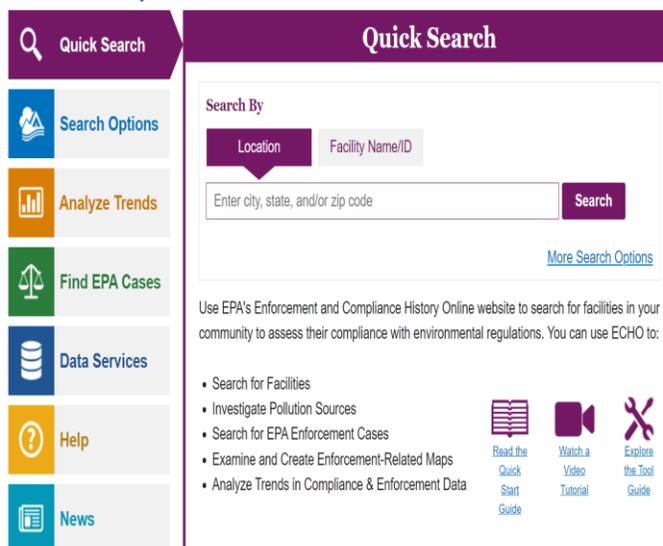
For more information go to
epa.ohio.gov/defa

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Enforcement and
Compliance History Online

[Login](#) [Contact Us](#)

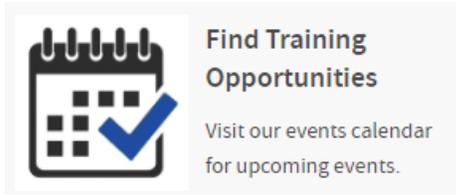


The screenshot shows the ECHO Notify website interface. On the left is a navigation menu with icons and labels for: Quick Search, Search Options, Analyze Trends, Find EPA Cases, Data Services, Help, and News. The main content area features a 'Quick Search' section with a search bar and a 'Search' button. Below the search bar is a text input field with the placeholder 'Enter city, state, and/or zip code'. To the right of the search bar is a 'Search' button. Below the search bar is a link for 'More Search Options'. At the bottom of the search section, there is a list of search capabilities: Search for Facilities, Investigate Pollution Sources, Search for EPA Enforcement Cases, Examine and Create Enforcement-Related Maps, and Analyze Trends in Compliance & Enforcement Data. To the right of this list are three icons with labels: 'Read the Quick Start Guide', 'Watch a Video Tutorial', and 'Explore the Tool Guide'.

Training Opportunities

Ohio EPA Training Opportunities

- Aug. 9, 2022 - *Assistance and Resources from Ohio EPA & OSHA's On-Site Consultation Program*
- Aug. 16, 2022 - *Environmental Regulations of Businesses in Your Community*
- Aug. 16, Oct. 6, 2022 - *Grant Writing Workshops 2022*. Registration is required for this FREE workshop, email dennis.clement@epa.ohio.gov to register.
- Sept. 13, 2022 - *Dumping of Solid Waste and Scrap Tires*
- Sept. 20, 2022 - *NPDES Permitting New & Proposed Rules and Policies*



Go to our new [Events Calendar](#) for upcoming Ohio EPA training opportunities.



Did you miss an Ohio EPA webinar? View recorded webinars on our [YouTube Channel](#).

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

Ohio EPA's eDocument Search

What is eDocument search?

It is an online search that allows customers to view and download various public records from Ohio EPA.

What are some of the document types available in the eDocument system?

Some of the common document types are general correspondence, inspection or compliance review, monitoring or sampling, notice of violation (NOV), permit, plan, referral, registration, remediation reports, remediation response, resolution of violation (ROV) or return to compliance (RTC), technical assistance, verified complaint, and warning letters.

How do I complete a search?

Enter as many keywords as possible to help narrow down the documents are returned.

How far back do the documents go?

Some of the documents date back to 2007. For details about the documents and dates, go to our web site at epa.ohio.gov/help-center/edocument-search and view the [How to Use Our eDocument System video](#).

Questions?

Email edoc.support@epa.ohio.gov or contact Ohio EPA's public records manager Richard Boudier at richard.boudier@epa.ohio.gov.



Learn the Lingo

ECHO: U.S. EPA's Enforcement and Compliance History Online website allows users to search for facilities in the community and assess their compliance with environmental regulations. You can use ECHO to search for facilities, investigate pollution sources, search for U.S. EPA enforcement cases, examine and create Enforcement-Related Maps, and analyze trends in compliance and enforcement data.

Ohio EPA Awards More Than \$5.9 Million for Recycling and Litter Prevention

Ohio EPA is awarding more than \$5.9 million this year in grant funding to 87 local governments, businesses, and nonprofit organizations throughout Ohio to establish and implement general recycling, litter prevention, recycling market development, recycling at academic institutions, and scrap tire recycling programs. Local governments use these funds to support litter collection activities, develop education programming or create opportunities for residents to properly dispose of scrap tires through tire amnesty collection events. All local cleanup efforts will involve the work of volunteers and take place on public property.

Community and litter grants are available to local governments, parks or health departments, state colleges and universities, solid waste authorities, nonprofit organizations, or Keep America Beautiful communities to support and expand community recycling and litter prevention efforts. Market development grants assist businesses that purchase equipment and infrastructure for successful markets of recyclable materials and related products. Academic institution grants help fund public and private K-12 schools, colleges, and universities with recycling efforts as well as outreach and education, recycling equipment, and conference sponsorships. Funds are also available to complete beneficial use projects that incorporate the use of ground tire rubber. Scrap tire grants provide financial assistance to Ohio's businesses, communities, and nonprofits seeking to convert manufacturing operations into facilities that accept scrap tire material, expand tire processing, or use scrap tire material in construction projects or manufactured products. For more information about the grant programs, contact Marie Barnett at Marie.Barnett@epa.ohio.gov or (614) 705-1019, or visit recycleohio.gov.

2022 Grant Applications Awarded

Grant Applications		Awarded
Community and Litter	70	\$3,207,455
Academic Institutions	5	\$153,471
Market Development	7	\$1,300,949
Scrap Tire	5	\$1,316,638
Total	87	\$5,978,513

Encouraging Environmental Excellence in Education

Ohio EPA's Encouraging Environmental Excellence in Education Program (E4) recognizes any K-12 public or private school for their achievements in environmental stewardship and efforts to educate and involve students in environmental topics.

Recognition Classes

Root Class – School demonstrates activities in one of the 3Rs—reduce, reuse, and recycle; environmental education and stewardship is included in the curriculum; students have opportunities to participate in environmental activities.

Branch Class – School demonstrates activities in at least two of the 3Rs; environmental education and stewardship is interdisciplinary through all grade levels; students have opportunities to participate in STEM programs or green clubs.

Leaf Class – School demonstrates activities in all 3Rs; environmental education and stewardship is interdisciplinary, and curriculum is progressive; student-led environmental initiatives; the community beyond the school is encouraged to participate in environmental activities.

E4 Recognition Benefits

All three classes receive a certificate of recognition signed by the director and recognition on Ohio EPA's website. Those in the branch class will also receive a window sticker decal. The leaf class will receive a flag and, schedule permitting, an award ceremony at the school.

"We want to recognize schools for incorporating environmental principles into their curriculum or as part of extra activities."

*Laurie A. Stevenson
Director, Ohio EPA*



How to Submit an Application

Applicants should submit a description of the school's activities related to the three guiding principles: reduce, reuse, and recycle. Emphasis will be given to activities that provide students with the opportunity to become environmental leaders through learning and encouraging participation. Schools graduate from each class by adding additional activities. Those with activities in all three principles qualify for Leaf – the highest class available. E4 applications, which are accepted at any time, are available on Ohio EPA's website. An individual school, school system, or portion of a school system can apply. For more information about the E4 program, contact Mathias Wagner at Mathias.Wagner@epa.ohio.gov or (614) 489-9465, or [visit epa.ohio.gov/divisions-and-offices/environmental-financial-assistance/recognition-and-awards/e4-program](http://epa.ohio.gov/divisions-and-offices/environmental-financial-assistance/recognition-and-awards/e4-program).

Getting Ready for the WPCLF Program Call for Nominations

The Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) program annual call for nominations is planned for August 2022. WPCLF program nominations will be accepted for projects seeking financing during the upcoming program year, beginning January 2023. For program year 2023, funding options will include an increase in available discounted and principal forgiveness funding options utilizing Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funds. Principal forgiveness is the portion of a loan that does not require repayment.

The WPCLF program provides financial and technical assistance for planning, design, and construction of a wide variety of projects that protect or improve the quality of Ohio's rivers, streams, lakes, and other water resources. Financing options include below market-rate interest loans, discounted loans, and limited principal forgiveness funding.

Typical projects financed through the WPCLF to public entities (villages, cities, counties, and sewer districts) include wastewater treatment, collection, combined sewer overflow, and unsewered areas. WPCLF funding is also available for the capital costs of stormwater improvement activities. Planning, design, and construction or implementation activities are all eligible. Finally, WPCLF offers principal forgiveness funding to county and local health departments for the repair or replacement of household sewage treatment systems (HSTS). For more information about HSTS funding, visit our website at epa.ohio.gov/divisions-and-offices/environmental-financial-assistance/financial-assistance/home-sewage-treatment-systems-hsts.

How should wastewater utilities prepare?

- **Sign up for updates** through our Customer Support Center.
- Identify priority projects and those in most need of financial assistance for nomination.
- Gather supporting documentation for the nomination submittal (refer to the current **WPCLF PMP and Readiness to Proceed** materials online).
- Review the most recent BIL funding webinar regarding proposed changes to the affordability criteria (eligibility for principal forgiveness) epa.ohio.gov/divisions-and-offices/environmental-financial-assistance/financial-assistance/infrastructure-funding. Additional information will be available during the call for nomination period.

Meet the DEFA Staff

Rachael Dinninger

Rachael received a bachelor of science in environment and natural resources. Majoring in environment, economy, development, and sustainability (EEDS) from the The Ohio State University.

How long have you worked for Ohio EPA?

I've worked for Ohio EPA for a little over three years. Before I joined the Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention's recycling and sustainability unit in November, I worked in DERR's voluntary action program, enforcement, and brownfields section.

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

It is important to me to feel that my occupation positively contributes to the world. I love that my field of work allows me to help better human health and the environment. I also enjoy that many of my colleagues share my passion for the environment and have varied outdoorsy hobbies.



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

I enjoy assisting with the recycling and litter prevention grant program. It's encouraging to see the number of communities interested in recycling and exciting to hear about all the projects different organizations are working on. I love assisting our grantees and other organizations with their recycling and environmental stewardship journeys. It's also been wonderful to see a number of the sites I worked on that went through the VAP come to life for new uses.

What are your favorite things to do outside of work?

Outside of work, my favorite activities are hiking with my dog, traveling, and rock climbing!

Who inspires you?

Lynn Hill inspires me. She is a rock climber who had many first ascents in the 1980s and 1990s when very few women climbed, and is known as one of the best climbers in the world. I feel many of the women in leadership positions here at Ohio EPA are inspiring.

Anna Johnson

Anna Johnson received an undergraduate degree in environmental science and policy, and a master's degree in aquatic environmental science from Florida State University.

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?

Like many others in the Ohio EPA, I love the environment and being able to protect it just makes the work that I do so much more enriching. In my current position, we have opportunities to go out into the field and conduct site visits, which are probably one of my favorite parts of the job. I can meet the people I have been working with in the community and see firsthand what I am working to fix or protect.



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

For my final project in grad school at Florida State University, I conducted a field inspection of established living shoreline sites around the state of Florida. I wanted to see how they worked once installed, not just in theory. I was able to show that most living shorelines, once constructed, do a great job of protecting the shoreline from erosion. It was such a great feeling to demonstrate that environment-based solutions to human problems are not just wishful thinking - they can and do work.

What are your favorite things to do outside of work?

I have been a flute player for the past 12 years and still enjoy playing for fun after work. For exercise I prefer swimming laps or taking walks when the weather is nice. As things slowly open after two years of the pandemic, I have been having a lot of fun exploring the city and checking out all the fun events the area has to offer.

Who inspires you?

I would say my family inspires me the most. They have always pushed me to be the best possible version of myself and I will always be grateful for their unconditional love and support.

Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance (DEFA)

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

Contact Us

(614) 644-2798
epa.ohio.gov/defa/

Compliance Assistance Hotline
(800) 329-7518
50 W. Town St., Suite 700
Columbus, OH 43215

Deadlines

No more deadlines for Ohio EPA's *Encouraging Environmental Excellence* award program.