

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

Ohio EPA's 2021 Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) Program Management Plan Available

Ohio EPA has finalized the 2021 WPCLF **Program Management Plan**. The fund provides financial and technical assistance for a variety of projects that help improve or protect the quality of Ohio's water resources.

For WPCLF program year 2021, which runs from Jan. 1, 2021 through Dec. 31, 2021, Ohio EPA received project nominations totaling approximately \$2.6 billion. Funds are available to all applicants that meet program requirements.

Ohio EPA is offering \$35.7 million in principal forgiveness to eligible projects. Principal forgiveness is the portion of a loan that is not required to be repaid. Regionalization projects, municipal wastewater infrastructure, and failing household sewage treatment systems will be prioritized to receive principal forgiveness. A small amount of principal forgiveness is also available for the installation of back-up power facilities.

Ohio EPA will offer discounted loans for projects that address regionalization and nutrient reduction. In addition to projects identified in the 2021 Program Management Plan, planning and design loans may be nominated at any time.

The primary sources of funds in the WPCLF program are proceeds from bond issues, repayments of previously awarded loans, and annual federal capitalization grants. More information is available in the highlights section of the **Program Management Plan**.

Ohio EPA's drinking water state revolving fund, the Drinking Water Assistance Fund (DWAF), will be accepting nominations for its program year 2022 in February 2021. The DWAF program year 2022 runs from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

To stay informed about the WPCLF and DWAF, go to our **Customer Support Center** and create an account and subscribe to our mailing lists. Questions? Call the financial assistance program at (614) 644-2752.

Deadlines

- Open through Jan. 29, 2021, **Ohio EPA's Mosquito Control Grant (MCG)**.
- Open through Feb. 5, 2021, **Ohio EPA DEFA's Recycling and Litter Prevention Grants**.

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

Articles in this newsletter may be reprinted. As a courtesy, please contact Helen Miller at (614) 644-2817 or helen.miller@epa.ohio.gov.



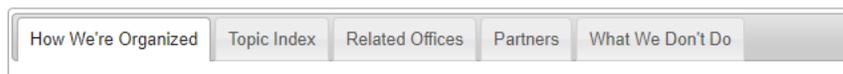
Who regulates what? Who do I call?

With so many state departments and agencies, it can be difficult to determine exactly who handles a particular issue. Ohio EPA often receives comments or questions about environmental issues that we can't address because the laws give that authority to other departments. For example, people often call Ohio EPA about radon or lead paint in their home even though the Ohio Department of Health is the designated agency for regulating those issues.

For helpful resources, click on About located on the blue navigation bar at the top of our website, epa.ohio.gov.



After **clicking the link**, you will find tabs such as How We're Organized, Topic Index, and What We Don't Do. The information presented can help you locate the appropriate contact person or agency for your particular issue. You will also find other topics under Quick Links on the right of the webpage that take you to frequently asked questions, information about submitting a complaint, a list of county contacts, and how to request public records.



If you are still unsure who to contact, call our Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention hotline at 1-800-329-7518 for assistance.

Stay Connected with DEFA Electronically and Virtually

Since March 2020, connecting electronically and virtually has become the new normal. Since March, we are seeing more customers logging onto live webinars and watching recordings (more than 5,200 in 2020), using our chat feature to ask questions, and subscribing to electronic updates.

Some of the ways you can connect with us electronically and virtually are:



Subscribe to electronic updates. To subscribe, go to our [customer support center](#) on our main web page, create an account, then go to Subscribe to Updates tab selecting what updates you would like to receive. Most of the divisions in the agency have several list options to subscribe to receive updates and newsletters. You can unsubscribe at any time.

DEFA sends out a monthly electronic update covering:

- Training opportunities (with links to upcoming webinars and links to past webinar recordings).
- Stakeholder input opportunities (a listing of upcoming rules available for public comment and links to register for upcoming virtual public hearings).
- Funding opportunities (links to Ohio EPA grant programs that are open for application).
- Links to new/updated publications and new Ohio EPA videos.
- Deadlines (for grants, encouraging environmental excellence (E3) awards and other agency applications).

DEFA also publishes and sends out a quarterly newsletter with compliance assistance, pollution prevention, and funding articles.

Services Success Stories Training Publications Contacts

UPCOMING TRAINING AND EVENTS

- Dec. 3, 2020, [Need Help With Environmental Regulations? Ohio EPA and BWC.](#)
- Dec. 9, 2020, [Ohio EPA's Encouraging Environmental Excellence in Communities \(E3C\) Recognition Program, webinar.](#)
- Dec. 15, 2020, [Lead Service Line Replacement Funding, DEFA.](#)
- Dec. 17, 2020, [MSW Landfill Rule Package Presentation, Division of Materials and Waste Management \(DMWM\).](#)
- Dec. 18, 2020, [MSW Landfill Rule Package Presentation, Division of Materials and Waste Management \(DMWM\).](#)
- Jan. 7, 2021, [2021 Recycling & Litter Prevention Grant Informational Webinar.](#)

For upcoming trainings, you can also visit our [training calendar](#).

DID YOU MISS A WEBINAR?

- Jan. 14, 2020, [WSRLA Program Update Webinar.](#)
- Feb. 13, 2020, [Proper Management of Universal Wastes, webinar.](#)
- Apr. 23, 2020, [WRRSP Q&A Part 1](#)

Check our training tab. We maintain a training tab on the [DEFA](#) and [OCAPP](#) web pages, where you can see and register for upcoming training and also find links to past training recordings.

Check our [training calendar](#) for updates.

Training and Events Calendar

Ohio EPA has numerous training resources available. Upcoming trainings are listed below. To see previous or future training events, click on the month view icon . To switch back to the list, click on the list view icon . For previous trainings, visit our [YouTube channel](#) and our [training library](#).

Event Start	Event End	Title
12/9/2020	12/9/2020	Ohio EPA's Encouraging Environmental Excellence in Communities (E3C) Recognition Program
12/15/2020	12/15/2020	Lead Service Line Replacement Funding
12/17/2020	12/17/2020	MSW Landfill Rule Package Presentation
12/18/2020	12/18/2020	MSW Landfill Rule Package Presentation
1/7/2021	1/7/2021	2021 Recycling & Litter Prevention Grant Informational Webinar



Use our live [chat](#) feature. In late 2019, we launched our live chat feature allowing customers to connect electronically via chat and ask confidential questions about permitting and regulations 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Go to our [customer support center](#) to access more resources.



Ohio.gov State Agencies | Online Services



 Chat live
An environmental specialist is available.

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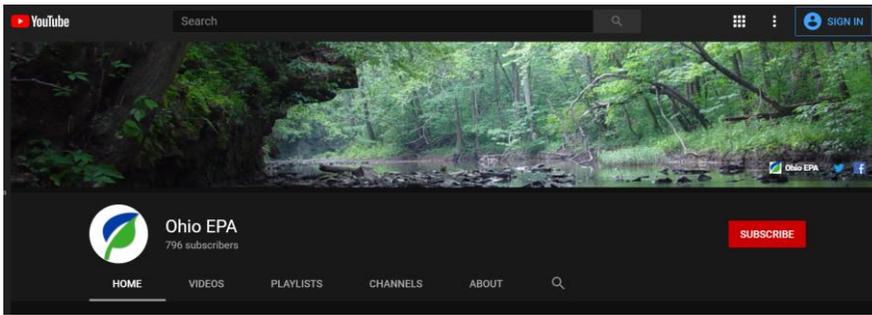
[Find Resources](#) | [Submit a Question](#) | [Subscribe to Updates](#) | [Permit Wizard](#) | [Submit an Application](#)

Once you click on the link, you will see the following menu items:

- **Find Resources.** You can search for electronic resources available on training, frequently answered questions (FAQs), and publications on a specific topic.
- **Submit a Question.** You can submit a question that will be electronically routed to staff knowledgeable on that topic, and you will be emailed an answer. Your answer may be added to the database, so others who have a similar question may see your question and answer.
- **Subscribe to Updates.** Create an account and select which email updates you would like to receive from the various divisions at Ohio EPA. DEFA sends out a monthly update and a quarterly newsletter. After you subscribe, you will get a confirmation back.
- **Permit Wizard.** The wizard guides users through a series of general questions about their operations. Once users finish answering the questions posed by the permit wizard, they receive a summary, identifying permits, licenses or registrations that will likely be needed, along with contacts and links to helpful resources. The permit wizard can help new businesses get started on the right track with proper permits; and/or existing businesses also may use the Permit Wizard anonymously as a way to check on whether they have the right permits for their operations.
- **Submit an Application.** You can apply to several of Ohio EPA's grant programs through this portal. DEFA's recycling and litter prevention grant application and all encouraging environmental excellence (E3) Award applications are online.

Use OCAPP's free virtual compliance assistance resources. You can view a recording of our Nov. 4, 2020 webinar summarizing our free virtual assistance available on our YouTube Channel at : [Virtual Assistance and Resources from Ohio EPA and OSHA's On Site Consultation Program Webinar — Ohio](#). This webinar shared information about resources and how we are operating to assist you in a virtual environment.

Subscribe to our Agency YouTube channel and Twitter accounts. Ohio EPA's YouTube channel has 700+ subscribers. On our [YouTube channel](#) you can view by playlists or search by topic. Our Twitter has 7,000+ following. You can find both on our webpage at: epa.ohio.gov.



Ohio EPA staff have Microsoft Teams software available to communicate with customers virtually. As a reminder, as a precautionary response to COVID-19, Ohio EPA is currently operating with most staff working remotely. If you are working with our staff on a current project and you know the name of the employee you are working with, email them at firstname.lastname@epa.ohio.gov or call them directly. The Agency [website](#) has contact information for every district, division, and office. Or call Ohio EPA's main phone line at (614) 644-3020 or the main line for the division or office you are trying to reach.

Recycling and Litter Prevention and Mosquito Control Grant Programs Deadline

Ohio EPA's recycling and litter prevention and mosquito control grant program deadlines are coming up soon. We have hosted webinars about both programs and you can go to our [Agency YouTube channel](#) to listen to recordings.

Ohio EPA's [recycling and litter prevention \(R&LP\) grant program](#) supports communities, nonprofits, businesses and academic institutions that initiate or expand recycling programs, encourage sustainable practices, stimulate economic growth, and support litter prevention efforts through four different grants. The four different grant programs are: community and litter grants; market development grants; scrap tire grants; and academic institution grants.

Ohio EPA's annual R&LP grant program will accept applications through Feb. 5, 2021, with grants awarded on July 1, 2021. The application process for this funding program is highly competitive. Total available grant funds vary from year to year. There is a maximum award for a single project and different match requirements, depending on the grant type. Grant recipients will be announced in May 2021 and funding will be made available in July 2021.

Who can you contact for more information?

- April Stevens april.stevens@epa.ohio.gov
- Marie Barnett marie.barnett@epa.ohio.gov
- Dave Foulkes david.foulkes@epa.ohio.gov
- Kelsey Heyob kelsey.heyob@epa.ohio.gov

Ohio EPA hosted webinars on these grant programs. Go to our [Agency YouTube channel](#) or follow the links below to listen to a recording.

- Nov. 5, 2020, [Recycling & Litter Prevention Grant](#).
- Nov. 17, 2020, [Ohio EPA's Mosquito Control Grant](#).



The [mosquito control grant](#) (MCG) program is a collaborative effort between Ohio EPA and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), which began in 2016. The MCG program was developed to make funding available to entities responsible for implementing mosquito control measures in support of Ohio's efforts to reduce the potential for an outbreak of mosquito-borne diseases such as Zika, West Nile, and La Cross Encephalitis. The fundable activities approved under the MCG program will help reduce the potential for an outbreak of a mosquito-borne virus and simultaneously reduce the threat that scrap tires and scrap tire dumps pose to human health and the environment.

Local health departments (LHDs) implement various programs to protect human health, safety, and the environment. LHDs are on the front lines in the fight against mosquito-borne diseases. They are the primary entity responsible for implementing local mosquito control activities such as mosquito surveillance, source reduction, and larval/adult mosquito control measures. The MCG program makes grant monies available to any agency of the state, as long as that agency can demonstrate collaboration and obtain sponsorship from its LHD.

The deadline to submit applications for the 2021 MCG cycle is Jan, 29, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

Who can you contact for more information?

- Leanne Greenlee leanne.greenlee@epa.ohio.gov
- Jeff Montavon jeffrey.montavon@epa.ohio.gov
- Leeanne Garrett leeanne.garrett@odh.ohio.gov

30 Years of the Pollution Prevention Act

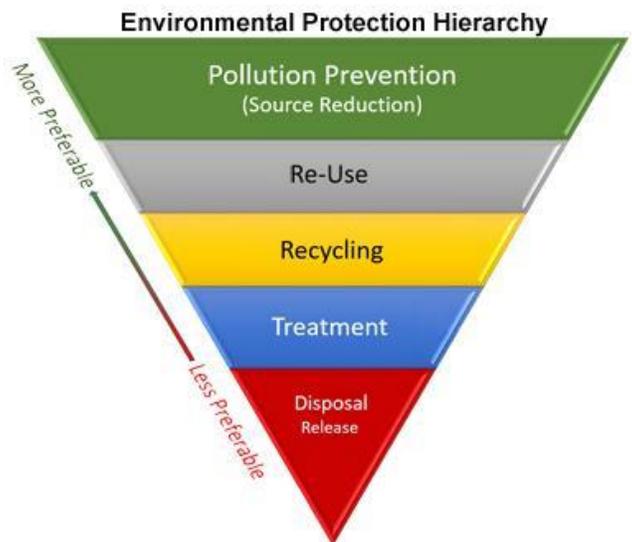
Congress passed the **Pollution Prevention (P2) Act** in 1990. It was designed – in large part - to help U.S. businesses transform the way they think about manufacturing products and processes, and how to reduce costs by minimizing waste.

What is pollution prevention (P2)? **Pollution prevention (P2)** is any practice that reduces, eliminates, or prevents pollution at its source. P2, also known as source reduction, is the ounce-of-prevention approach to waste management. Reducing the amount of pollution produced means less waste to control, treat, or dispose of. Less pollution means less hazards posed to public health and the environment. Go to U.S. EPA's P2 web page at epa.gov/p2 to learn more about P2.

Ohio EPA's P2 related efforts began in 1986 with a requirement that any business that land-disposed more than 200 tons of hazardous waste in the state needed to complete a waste minimization and treatment plan. Ohio EPA's hazardous waste program created a P2 section shortly before the federal P2 Act of 1990. In 1993, the hazardous waste program's P2 section was expanded into an Office of Pollution Prevention (OPP) - one of around 20 state government P2 programs. This office focused on outreach and education. In 2004, OPP was merged into the Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention (OCAPP), and in 2015 they merged with the Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance (DEFA).

Over the years, thousands of Ohio companies have received P2 assistance from OCAPP and many have been recognized for their P2 efforts. P2 is now integrated into most aspects of environmental protection. The green movement uses P2 approaches to address common environmental issues. The P2 concept provides the basis for the many corporate sustainability programs. Environmental initiatives such as green chemistry, zero waste, and byproduct synergy all have a strong P2 component. As P2 has changed, so has the way Ohio EPA provides P2 services. Now, we rarely approach larger companies to ask if they need help in reducing waste. Instead, they have either developed their own expertise or contact us for assistance. Our focus is now on small and medium sized businesses that may not have the expertise or resources to understand how P2 can help. We also focus more time helping companies design waste reduction programs instead of educating them on P2.

If you would like to speak with an environmental specialist about potential P2 options at your facility/company, **request a free on-site P2 assessment**, or find out about our **encouraging environmental excellence (E3)** recognition program, please call our toll-free hotline 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday-Friday at (800) 329-7518



Go to our **YouTube Channel** to listen to webinar recordings on P2.

- **Ohio EPA's Encouraging Environmental Excellence E3 Recognition Program — Ohio EPA**
- **OCAPP Compliance Assistance Services**
- **Virtual Assistance and Resources from Ohio EPA & OSHA's On-Site Consultation Program Webinar**
- **Green Chemistry and Pollution Prevention**
- **OCAPP Webinar- Pollution Prevention: The Basics**

Training Opportunities

- Jan. 7, 2021 - **2021 Recycling and Litter Prevention Grant Informational Webinar**, DEFA
- Jan. 21, 2021 - **Water Supply Revolving Loan Account - Program Year 2022 Updates and Highlights**, webinar
- Feb. 24, 2021 - Disaster Debris Management Virtual Workshop, Division of Materials and Waste Management (DMWM). Save the Date!

Publication Updates

- **SmallBiz@EPA November 2020**
- **SmallBiz@EPA December 2020**
- **Water Pollution Control Loan Fund PY 2021 Program Management Plan**

Meet the Staff



Lexie Andrews
Supervisor, OCAPP

How long have you worked for Ohio EPA?

A little over 5.5 years.

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

Serving others both internally and externally is what excites me as I love seeing the positive results of good customer service. There is variety in working in OCAPP, so the excitement and challenge of learning new things and tackling new projects keeps me going. OCAPP offers so many services and has helped changed many people's view of how a government agency operates. Whenever I receive feedback from a customer who has worked with our team and says they would have been completely lost or would have gone out of business without our assistance, it makes all the hard work worth it.

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

I have to go with the Fall Virtual Compliance Assistance Conference (VCAC). 2020 has brought on its share of challenges, but I was fortunate to be part of a team that didn't let the pandemic stop us from putting on a very successful conference using a platform we had never tried. Putting on an in-person conference is a challenge, but the virtual conference was more work than any of us envisioned. I love data, so being able to look at the number of people the Agency was able to educate through the VCAC was rewarding. During the beginning phases of conference planning, Dan Sowry, Assistant Chief, DEFA, joked that he wanted us to reach 10,000 registrations,

we all thought he was a bit crazy, but in the end, we surpassed that goal. We ended up reaching participants in 37 states and provinces in North America. The positive feedback we received was overwhelming. Most feedback encouraged us to keep offering virtual training opportunities. So, after months of planning and three weeks of conference sessions, I would say being part of a team that took the challenge head on and surpassed expectations would be my favorite accomplishment thus far.

What are your favorite things to do outside of work?

Family, friends, and fitness are my three favorite things to dedicate my time to outside of work. Since 2020 has put a damper on travel and large gatherings, I have tried to explore more outdoor activities in Ohio. I was recently able to do a ropes course and ziplining excursion with one of my friends, which is something we probably wouldn't have gone for if it weren't for 2020. Any time I get to see my family or friends, even at six feet apart, makes me happy. Lastly, I am fortunate enough to have an amazing morning team to train with at my local gym. They keep me accountable, push me to do more, and always set me up with the right mindset to conquer the rest of my day.

Who inspires you?

Former Ohio Department of Health Director Dr. Amy Acton is a huge inspiration. The way she leads with empathy and a dedication to service is something that I strive for in being both a supervisor and a public servant.

How long have you worked for Ohio EPA?

I joined the Division of Environmental Response and Revitalization (DERR) in 2015 with the Targeted Brownfield Assessment program and came to DEFA in 2018.

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

Reflecting over the last 15 years of my public service, each program I've worked with had two common elements: helping communities and improving the environment. Working in DEFA builds on those experiences and I'm very excited to be a part of this group.

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

I have many great memories of traveling around the state meeting with communities, tromping over brownfield sites, digging through recycling bins and finding great local lunch spots. The most memorable and rewarding projects were those that seemed hopeless or unsolvable but came to fruition with the hard work and commitment from all involved.

What are your favorite things to do outside of work?

My husband and I have two small children and we love being outside. Introducing them to a new experience and watching their eyes fill with wonder is the best. We also like to travel and have been to a few countries in Europe. At some point, we would love to take the kids on a family trip and do some exploring.

Who inspires you?

I'm so fortunate to be consistently inspired by the people in my life. They've taught me, and I firmly believe, that when we put others first our cup will never run dry. A quote I often turn to for re-energizing my spirit is from Anne Frank "How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." During this time of quarantines and separation, finding meaningful ways to stay connected has been challenging. Going outside our comfort zone to connect with others, voice those things you would normally convey with a hug or comforting presence is worth the effort. Stay connected and positive!



Katie Courtright
Manager, Loans and Grants

Learn the Lingo
Pollution Prevention (P2) is any practice that reduces, eliminates, or prevents pollution at its source.

Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance (DEFA)

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

Contact Us

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