



ENCOURAGING
Environmental
EXCELLENCE

Encouraging Environmental Excellence Achievement Level Recognition

June 13, 2017

The Ohio EPA Encouraging Environmental Excellence Program targets those who reduce waste, improve efficiency and work to continuously improve as an environmental steward. The program has a four-level approach to provide recognition to Ohio businesses and other organizations completing environmentally beneficial activities. Higher levels of recognition are for those who exceed regulatory requirements or commit to future environmental stewardship efforts. The Achievement Level recognizes any applicants completing environmentally beneficial activities. Any business, trade association, professional organization or local government in Ohio may apply. Achievement Level participants must demonstrate significant progress in one of eight environmental stewardship criteria: Impact to the environment; pollution prevention; energy efficiency; renewable energy; renewable, recovered or recycled materials; green building; recycling programs or organics diversion. Achievement Level participants must also demonstrate some level of progress in at least six additional environmental stewardship criteria and indicate they are in compliance with environmental laws and regulations.

Ohio EPA is recognizing the following organization that successfully met the criteria for the Achievement Level of the Encouraging Environmental Excellence Program. Below is a summary of their efforts.

University Hospitals Ahuja Medical Center (Beachwood): University Hospitals (UH) Ahuja Medical Center earned the 2017 John Chapman Award for its environmental stewardship efforts. UH Ahuja Medical Center is a 144-bed community hospital and has achieved a LEED Silver designation. UH Ahuja Medical Center's building is designed to maximize the use of natural light, enhancing energy efficiency. Waste is minimized through recycling, improved water and energy conservation practices, and indoor air quality was improved by eliminating toxic materials and minimizing harsh cleaning agents. The campus features bioswales in landscaped areas to reduce run-off waters from parking surfaces. The existing natural landscape is preserved to conserve resources by requiring less maintenance and irrigation. Native plants are used in the landscaping to restore the natural habitat and because they require less water and maintenance. Parking and traffic are close to the entrances to preserve as much green space as possible and to minimize cost and disruption.

UH Ahuja Medical Center specifically recorded improvements in the following areas: 100% EPEAT-Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool purchases since 2012; 65% of total interior purchases met healthier criteria in 2016; 40% reduction in regulated medical waste from 2014-2016; 28% reduction in medical waste costs from 2014-2016; and 20% of internal light fixtures converted to LED lighting and 90% of external lighting converted to LED over the past two years.

For more information about the Encouraging Environmental Excellence Program and the four levels of recognition, visit www.epa.ohio.gov/ohioE3.aspx or call (800) 329-7518.