

ENCOURAGING ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE FOR COMMUNITIES APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

The Encouraging Environmental Excellence for Communities (E3C) recognizes a community's exceptional achievements in environmental stewardship. Any local government of Ohio can be recognized for its commitment to environmental excellence. Applications are evaluated using environmental stewardship and related activities developed by Ohio EPA. The goal of environmental stewardship is to reduce the impact of business or organizational activities on the environment beyond measures required by any permit or rule, producing a better environment, conserving natural resources and resulting in long-term economic benefits. Applicants must be in compliance with environmental laws and regulations. Applications use a checklist format and are accepted at any time. Once a community has met the requirements for a level of recognition, they can submit the information for review.

The E3C has three levels of recognition with the following benefits:

Implementation Level: Completes one activity in the environmental category.

- Receives a certificate of recognition signed by the Director, and
- a listing on the Ohio EPA website.

Stewardship Level: Completes one activity in the economic category, one activity in the social category, and two activities in the environmental category.

- Receives a certificate of recognition signed by the Director,
- a listing on the Ohio EPA website,
- program highlights in Ohio EPA publications, and
- a decal with the E3C logo to display at the applicant's location.

Sustainable Level: Completes two activities in the economic category, two activities in the social category, and four activities in the environmental category.

- Receives a certificate of recognition signed by the Director,
- a listing on the Ohio EPA website,
- program highlights in Ohio EPA publications, and
- an E3C flag to hang at the recipient's location.

HOW TO PREPARE AN APPLICATION

Applicants need to submit the information below using the online application form [*include web address here*]. A review team will then request additional information as needed to complete summaries of activities completed. Communities are encouraged to reapply for further recognition when they have completed activities for the next level:

- Contact information including the applicant's name, job title and e-mail.
 - Estimated population, type of community and county.
 - Mailing address of applicant.
 - Identify the items completed by your community from the categories below:
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Economic Sustainability Category

- Sponsored “buy local” program including local farmers markets
- Implemented energy efficiency program for the community (*may put emphasis on low-income residents*)
- Implemented a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing program, or a similar program, to support community energy efficiency and renewable projects
- Implemented an internal revolving loan fund, or similar financing tool, for local government environmental projects
- An economic sustainability project not specifically listed, please provide a description of the project

Social Sustainability Category

- Participated in community outreach on environmental issues
- Published an annual environmental action or progress report for distribution to community members
- Created a program to reduce the number of commuters driving alone to support sustainable transportation (*e.g. ride share program, installation or improvements to public/mass transit infrastructure*)
- Developed community garden project
- Implemented a program to address food security issues
- Developed greenways and conservation areas
- Implemented and encouraged the use of bike paths and right-of-way
- Created a community sustainability team
- Implemented a program to encourage local government employees to reduce their environmental footprint at work
- Participated in regionalization of public water systems
- Codified building standards that address potential environmental emergencies (*e.g. high wind resistance, 500-year flood proof, etc.*)
- Implemented a community sustainability plan
- Incorporated sustainability targets and indicators into an existing community master plan that has measurable targets
- A social sustainability project not specifically listed, please provide a description of the project

Environmental Sustainability Category

- Implemented a climate action or adaptation plan
- Adopted a sustainable development strategy (*e.g., zoning requirements*) to minimize environmental impacts
- Implemented program to encourage recycling and/or waste reduction
- Developed community composting program
- Host a hazardous waste collection day(s) for hard to recycle materials
- Implemented green infrastructure into capital improvement project

- Sponsored a zero-waste event
- Participate in EPA's WasteWise to minimize waste, expand recycling and increase the purchasing of recycled content products
- Use "Green Seal" cleaning and chemical products on community properties
- Implemented a sustainable vendor program or sustainable purchasing program (e.g., a *purchasing policy for green or more environmentally cleaning products*)
- Participated in LEED for Cities and Communities program (*is a recognized municipality or uses their tracker program*)
- Buildings or renovations are LEED Certified or equivalent
- Participate in USEPA's Energy Star Portfolio Manager or Energy Star Buildings Program
- Implemented combined heat and power, alternative energy or energy efficiency upgrades in community facilities (e.g., *VFDs in blowers at POTWs, Lighting retrofits to LEDs in city buildings*)
- Uses a Power Purchase Agreement to ensure community energy purchase is from a renewable source.
- Replaced local government traffic signals, street lighting, and/or parking illumination with energy efficient lighting technologies (e.g., *LEDs and other technologies of equal or greater efficiency*)
- Operates on a micro-grid (*for distributed electricity generation sources*)
- Implemented a program to encourage renewable energy projects (e.g., *renewable energy ordinance or zoning overlay districts*) or to reduce barriers to installing renewable energy in the community
- Installed renewable energy projects (e.g., *wind, solar, geothermal, heat pumps, biogas, hydro*)
- Purchased alternative fuel or electric vehicles
- Purchased vehicles with anti-idling technology
- Implemented an anti-idling policy
- Is a "Tree City Participant" (*i.e., perform a tree canopy assessment and has a plan in place to maintain or increase tree canopy*)
- Implemented a program to place buffer strips and other best management practices in the agricultural landscape that effectively mitigate the movement of sediment, nutrients, and pesticides within farm fields and from farm fields
- Implemented farmland preservation
- Implemented an Integrated Pest Management system for the community with a focus on protecting pollinators
- Implemented an ecological protection policy (e.g., *nutrient management, pesticide application, endemic species, etc.*)
- Implemented strategic planning for watershed management to sustainably manage water resources including flood prevention that utilize sustainable practices to mitigate flooding
- Restored natural waterways and habitats
- An environmental sustainability project not specifically listed, please provide a description of the project

Apply online at http://ohioepa.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/2932/kw/e3. Application materials are available at <http://www.epa.ohio.gov/ocapp/ohioe3.aspx> or by calling (800) 329-7518.

Applicants are encouraged to call (614) 644-3469 or our hotline at (800) 329-7518 with questions anytime during the application process.

Revised: October 16, 2020