



Encouraging Environmental Excellence - Communities Application

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 and narrative 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.

Applicant Information

Contact Information

Name: _____
Job title: _____
Email: _____
Phone: _____

Community Information

Name: _____
Mailing Address: _____
County: _____
Phone number: () - County: _____
Website: _____
Estimated Population: _____
Type of Community: _____
Name to appear on recognition documents: _____

Community Introduction

Please provide a brief introduction further describing your community.

Activity Checklist

Identify activities completed by your community (check all that apply).

Environmental Sustainability Category

- Implemented program to encourage recycling and/or waste reduction
- Developed community composting program
- 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)
- Participated in hazardous waste day for hard to recycle materials
- 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)
- Implemented green infrastructure into capital improvement project
- Participated in LEED Cities/Communities program (is a recognized municipality or uses their tracker program)
- 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 an anti-idling policy
- Sponsored a zero-waste event
- Participates in USEPA's Energy Star Buildings Program
- Implemented capital improvements for combined heat and power, alternative energy or energy efficiency upgrades in community facilities (e.g., VFDs in blowers at POTWs)
- Uses "Green Seal" cleaning and chemical products on community properties
- Implemented a purchasing policy for green or more environmentally cleaning products
- Implemented a sustainable purchasing and vendor program
- 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.)
- Restored natural waterways and habitats
- Adopted a sustainable development strategy (e.g., zoning requirements) to minimize environmental impacts
- Implemented strategic planning for watershed management to sustainably manage water resources
- Implemented strategic planning for flood prevention that utilize sustainable practices to mitigate flooding
- Implemented a climate action or adaptation plan
- Operates on a micro-grid (for distributed electricity generation sources)
- An environmental sustainability project not specifically listed

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

Social Sustainability Category

- Participated in community outreach on environmental issues
- Publishes an annual environmental action or progress report for distribution to community members
- Installed or made improvements to public/mass transit infrastructure
- Created a program to reduce the number of commuters driving alone to support sustainable transportation (e.g. ride share program)
- 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

Activity Narrative

For each of the activities checked above, please provide a narrative describing the activity in more detail. Attachments are welcome and can be uploaded in the next section.

Application Attachments

Please upload any attachments intended to support your application here.

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