



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.

Hocking Valley Community Hospital (Logan): Hocking Valley Community Hospital (HVCH) is a 25-bed federally-designated critical access hospital that serves a population of about 7,000 residents in the city and 29,000 in the county with 13.5% of the county population is below the federal poverty line. HVCH is a part of OHA's Energy Star benchmarking project and has updated all its T-12 fluorescent lighting with CFLs or LEDs. The building envelope has been updated to meet LEED specification. The hospital is currently installing a new energy efficiency and conservation system that includes interior and exterior lighting retrofits, motion sensors, quick-fire boilers, high efficiency chillers, water conservation measures and updated building automation and controls. The new energy efficiency updates are estimated to reduce annual energy use by 28%, reducing water consumption by 37%, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 23% (959 metric tons) and will result in \$157,000 per year in energy cost savings.

HVCH has a robust recycling program and pursues other environmental stewardship activities. The dietary department recycles and the use of disposable containers and pallets have been reduced or eliminated. Red bag waste is held to less than 10% of the total waste stream. Mercury is not used in the hospital. Chemotherapy and chemical wastes are managed in a responsible manner, with a reduction program in process for the latter waste stream. HVCH gives purchasing preference to green cleaning chemicals and Energy Star products. Glutaraldehyde and ethylene oxide are not used. The hospital uses native plants in its landscape and has switched from disposable surgical devices to ones that can be reprocessed where possible.

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.