Encouraging Environmental Excellence Achievement Level Recognition

October 16, 2018

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 organizations that successfully met the criteria for the Achievement Level of the Encouraging Environmental Excellence Program. Below is a summary of their efforts.

Atrium Medical Center (Middletown): Atrium Medical Center is a 328 bed, full-service hospital and Level III Trauma Center in Middletown, Ohio. The hospital employs approximately 1,500 people in full-time, part-time and on-call positions. A recipient of the Ohio Hospital Association's 2017 Melvin Creeley Environmental Achievement award, Atrium's focus in on installing energy efficient equipment and systems throughout their on- and off-site facilities. The hospital has eliminated all incandescent lighting and continues to implement LED lighting as part of their facilities upgrade strategy. In 2017, they installed LED lighting in 3 operating rooms, with plans to install LEDs in 4 additional operating rooms in 2018. Energy efficiency is tracked through Atrium's participation in the EnergyStar Benchmarking program. Atrium recently installed twenty universal Electric Vehicle Charging stations on its campus. The hospital plans to provide preferred parking spaces for low emission vehicles.

Henry County Hospital (Napoleon): Henry County hospital is a 100,000-square foot not for profit Critical Access Hospital with 25-beds, serving Napoleon, Ohio. The hospital has started an employee Green Team, identifying projects and tracking their execution. The hospital has a robust recycling program, diverting cardboard, plastic, paper, and aluminum from the landfill. Henry County Hospital re-uses AA batteries from patient telemetry packs, no longer disposing of them after use. The Food Service Department provides its used cooking oil to a local community member who uses it to run his vehicle. The hospital recycles print toner as well.

Overall Henry County Hospital has reduced its garbage pickup to only 4 days a month. The hospital is in the process of changing out less efficient T-8 bulbs for LEDs. Henry County Hospital is incorporating native plants into its landscaping design.

Mercy Springfield Regional Medical Center (Springfield): Mercy Springfield Regional Medical Center is a general acute care hospital with over 600 beds, serving Springfield, Ohio. The hospital utilizes operating room setbacks to reduce energy consumption when the operating room is unoccupied and not in use. Springfield Medical center has a waste reduction system with its vendors, allowing the hospital to recycle cardboard, paper, most plastics, and ink cartridges. The hospital uses re-usable linens and re-uses packaging material to reduce landfill waste. The facility has eliminated ETO (Ethylene oxide sterilization) waste and products containing DEHP (di(2- ethylhexyl) phthalate). Batteries, fluorescent lighting, alcohol, xylene, and formalin are recycled. The hospital trains staff on proper recycling and disposal strategies.

Springfield Medical Center features a green roof installation and a live roof installation. This reduces heating and cooling costs. The hospital has incorporated green walls into its construction and design. The hospital also uses locally grown food sources. The hospital has goals to reduce its water usage by 10 percent from its established baseline. A participant in the EnergyStar benchmarking program, the hospital plans to decrease its energy usage three percent annually from its baseline.

Mercy St. Rita's Medical Center (Lima): Mercy St. Rita's Medical Center is a 425 bed hospital serving Lima and west Central Ohio since 1918. Its environmental policy is supported by its upper management. The hospital has goals to reduce its water usage by 10 percent, and energy usage by three percent annually. LED lighting is used in 68 percent of operating rooms, with plans to increase LED usage. St. Rita's has changed from disposable scrubs to reusable vendor scrubs to decrease waste generation. Nearly all plastics and towels in operating rooms have been switched to dye-free products.

St. Rita's has a double-sided printing policy to reduce waste. The hospital recycles cardboard, paper, aluminum, glass, furniture and medical equipment. St. Rita's educates staff on reducing biohazard waste, with less than 10 percent of overall waste from the hospital being red bag waste. Reusable sharp object disposal containers are strategically placed throughout the facility. St. Rita's policy is to review and use energy efficient products whenever a replacement/upgrade project takes place.

Mercy St. Vincent Medical Center (Toledo): Mercy St. Vincent Medical Center has 540 beds, serving the Toledo area. A Level 1 Trauma Hospital, the hospital plans to achieve an EnergyStar score of 75 and become EnergyStar certified. In 2018 it received the Melvin Creeley Award for Environmental Achievement by the Ohio Hospital Association. The hospital has implemented waste reduction policies that include recycling of oils, plastics, electronics, batteries, paper, cardboard, and when possible, paint, furniture and medical equipment. Reusable linens and packaging materials are purchased to reduce costs and reduce waste.

St. Vincent has policies in place for mercury elimination, pharmaceutical waste, and chemical waste management. A policy is in place to eliminate single use containers and pallets. The hospital purchases locally grown food for distribution to the community.

Mercy St. Elizabeth Youngstown (Youngstown): Mercy St. Elizabeth Youngstown is a teaching hospital, trauma center and primary stroke center for the Youngstown-Warren area. The hospital has 566 beds.

Its environmental sustainability policy is endorsed by upper management. The hospital is seeking to dramatically reduce its water usage, achieve a 15 percent recycling/landfill diversion rate, and become EnergyStar certified. The facility recycles cardboard, glass, aluminum, paper, and plastics. The facility utilizes less harsh, environmentally friendly cleaning chemicals and reusable microfiber cloths. St. Elizabeth Youngstown has eliminated products that contain mercury, EtO, PCV and products containing DEHP, to prevent chemical leaching.

The hospital purchases energy efficient products when possible and is reviewing increasing its use of LED lighting. The facility currently uses LED lighting in over 60 percent of its operating rooms. The hospital participates in a prescription drug take back program which benefits the community via diverting harmful pharmaceutical products from water streams and keeps opioids out of the hands of addicts.

Premier Health- Miami Valley Hospital (Dayton): Miami Valley Hospital is an 838 bed hospital made up of a north and south campuses. Located in Dayton, the hospital is an active member in the Ohio Hospital Association EnergyStar benchmarking program and is in the process of re-lamping to LEDs wherever possible. Its twelve-story patient tower is LEED Silver certified. The hospital has electric vehicle charging stations, a green roof, and uses native plants in its landscaping. Miami Valley prioritizes purchasing EnergyStar products when possible.

Miami Valley Hospital has reduced its waste generation by 13 percent due to recycling efforts and has a goal of 30 percent diversion from the landfill. Only six percent of the hospital's waste is red bag waste. Food waste has been reduced through staff training and composting. The hospital has eliminated products that contain mercury, PVC and DEHP.   The hospital has campus wide "Go Green" Campaigns to promote sustainable practices to its employees and uses environmentally friendly cleaning chemicals. The hospital also donates its old IT equipment and computers to a local charity.

Ohio State Wexner Medical Center (Columbus): The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center (OSUWMC) is a 900-bed hospital that offers critical care, organ transplantation, women's health, digestive diseases, rehabilitation and neurosciences. The Center has a representative on The Ohio State University President's and Provost's Council on Sustainability, its own sustainability council, a Green Team and is an active member of the Ohio Hospital Association Environmental Leadership Council.

OSUWMC shares The Ohio State University's goal of reducing building energy consumption by 25 percent by 2025. The hospital plans to reduce its net data center energy consumption by 20 percent over the next 10 years (or 2 percent net energy reduction per year). The hospital uses unoccupied setbacks for air changes in its operating rooms. The Center promotes sustainability to its employees by offering electric vehicle charging stations and a carpool program. The hospital has green roofs and incorporates native plants for landscaping projects. The Medical Center's public cafeterias compost coffee grounds and are currently developing plans to compost all pre-consumer food scraps. Single stream recycling bins for co-mingled recyclables are provided in all cafeterias. The Medical Center's cafeterias donate all unused perishable food to local community organizations and post-consumer cafeteria waste is processed through a digester.

Wright-Patterson Air Force Base Medical Center: The Wright-Patterson AFB Medical Center is located in the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton. The hospital participates in EnergyStar Benchmarking and is in the process of updating its lighting to LEDs. All parking lot lighting has been replaced with LEDS. Beginning in 2018, renovations to the Medical Center's atrium will include energy

saving measures such as replacing damaged windows, resealing all windows, replacing all florescent lighting with energy efficient LED lights and installing a revolving door. The Medical Center promotes an employee program called "Unplug-it" or "Throttle Back", campaigns which entails the unplugging of all nonessential electronic components over a three-day weekend; saving thousands KWHs during each event. The Medical Center includes sustainability as part of its new employee training and staff receive weekly tips on environmental related awareness topics including the recycling program, how to reduce waste, energy conservation practices and green procurement initiatives.

Wright-Patterson AFB and the 88th Medical Group have developed an integrated pollution prevention, green procurement and solid waste management plan that embraces pollution prevention as a key strategy for ensuring environmental compliance while enhancing environmental protection and reducing the medical center's environmental footprint. In 2017, the medical center recycled nearly 400 tons of cardboard and 107 tons of plastics, glass and aluminum. The Medical Center has focused on reducing grease and oil waste in its kitchen area and has installed a food pulper with plants to compost the pulp. Polystyrene foam food containers have been replaced with biodegradable products for patrons that eat outside the dining area. The medical center also recycles ink cartridges and wooden pallets. The medical center has reduced its regulated medical waste by 39 percent of its original baseline.

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.