



ENCOURAGING
Environmental
EXCELLENCE

Encouraging Environmental Excellence Achievement Level Recognition

July 27, 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.

Jay Dee Cleaners (Euclid) – Jay Dee Cleaners is a full-service dry cleaner servicing the Euclid area since 1946. Jay Dee Cleaners is an accredited member of the National Cleaners Association, past member of the Drycleaning & Laundry Institute (formerly the International Fabricare Institute), and its local partner, the Ohio Cleaners Association. They are also a past recipient of the Clean Award, a lifetime achievement award in dry cleaning.

Jay Dee purchased a new Hydro Dry Cleaning Machine in 2016 with financial assistance from the Ohio Air Quality Development Authority. The machine cost \$50,000 and the state grant was 30% or \$15,000, for a net cost of \$35,000. Jay Dee took out a five-year loan with a payment of about \$663 a month. The new machine has cleaned about 14,000 garments using about 5 gallons of Hydro solvent that works out to about 2,800 pounds of garments cleaned per gallon. The prior perc dry cleaning machine cleaned about 700 pounds of clothes per gallon. Hydro solvent is \$13 a gallon and perc is \$24, and Jay Dee would have used 20 gallons of perc to clean 14,000 garments. The savings on perc alone is saving Jay Dee half their loan payment. In addition, Jay Dee is also saving on detergent and sizing which compensates the other half of the loan payment. Plus, the clothes are cleaned just as well under the new system.

Jay Dee also offers free boxes for moving and storage. This effort was started after receiving a note on their trash hauler bill there was an extra charge of about \$10 because there were of large quantities of boxes in the garbage container. Jay Dee now uses Craigslist to indicate they have free boxes to use for moving and storage so the boxes get reused and not landfilled.

Jay Dee completed their first energy efficient lighting retrofit at their 7,350 square foot facility about 15 years ago. This initial retrofit replaced hundreds of T12 eight foot fluorescent bulbs with about 50 T8 four foot bulbs using electronic ballasts. This retrofit substantially reduced the number of fixtures, increased lumens and reduced the amount of heat generation. Monthly electric bills were reduced by \$100. The cost of this initial retrofit was about \$3,000 providing a two-and-a-half-year return on investment. In June of 2016 a second lighting retrofit was completed where all T8 fluorescent bulbs were replaced with LED lighting. The cost of this retrofit was about \$1,700 and Jay Dee is saving approximately \$135 to \$150 a month in electricity providing a return on investment in about a year. In addition, the LED system provides better lighting.

Jay Dee also has an extensive program to reuse and recycle thousands of hangers every month at each of their locations. They work very closely with customers to ensure that hangers can be returned for reuse whenever possible. Hangers that cannot be reused are sent to bulk metal recycling to ensure that materials aren't just being dumped in the trash.

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.