



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

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NEWS RELEASE

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First Lady Frances Strickland Presents Six Recipients with the 2009 Ohio Award for Outstanding Achievement in Environmental Stewardship

First Lady Frances Strickland joined Ohio EPA Director Chris Korleski today to present the Ohio Award for Outstanding Achievement in Environmental Stewardship to six organizations including two auto companies, a petroleum company office, a hospital a manufacturer and a seed corn and swine farm operation.

Korleski said, "These companies demonstrated leadership in protecting Ohio's environment while making their operation more efficient. The result is good for Ohio's quality of life and environment."

Dull Homestead, Inc. - Brookville (Montgomery County) - Dull Homestead is an incorporated family farm operation, with a large-scale swine and seed grain operation on more than 2,800 acres. More than 1,100 acres of the land owned by the company is under either conservation or agriculture easements.

Dull Homestead uses all of its swine manure from holding pits below animal buildings to fertilize cropland. The farm raises much of its own corn to use for feeding, and supplements feed with dried distiller's grain from an ethanol plant nearby in Greenville. A corn dryer is fueled by out-of-date seed corn, saving about 50,000 gallons of propane per year. With careful management and reuse of corn cobs, corn shucks, dust left over from seed corn processing and undesirable dried corn, there is almost no waste from the seed corn operation. Ohio EPA also recognizes the farm's use of wind turbines and the development of a future energy center.

GM Powertrain Toledo Plant (Lucas County) - Operating since 1916, GM Powertrain has been in its current location on Alexis Road since 1956. The plant has produced more than 63 million transmissions for a variety of vehicles. In 2008, GM Toledo changed the plant's product to a 6-speed rear wheel drive automatic transmission and is adding a 6-speed transmission for front wheel drive vehicles beginning in 2010. Operations have been simplified for machining, assembly, wastewater pretreatment and powerhouse activities.

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The site has implemented a drive-to-zero program with a long-term goal of no negative environmental impacts to the community. The drive-to-zero program includes: zero landfill, zero non-recycled waste, and zero air and water emissions. Key components include a comprehensive waste program, evaluating each waste beginning with eliminating or minimizing materials used and graduating to reusing, recycling or the next most effective disposal method. Using energy conservation methods, the company earned the maximum energy star rating for equipment shutdowns. A design for the environment program was used to evaluate transmission designs, components, chemical materials, equipment and building designs to determine best environmental practices. GM Toledo also creates native plant habitats on-site including a bio-infiltration swale and wildflower meadow which have been used by local students for field study.

Honda - Marysville, East Liberty, Anna, and Russells Point (Logan, Shelby and Union counties) - Honda consists of facilities in Marysville, East Liberty, Anna and Russells Point produce Honda motor vehicles, engines and drive train components.

Honda has reduced waste sent for disposal in landfills by 34 percent; reduced electricity use by 62.5 million kilowatt hours or enough to supply more than 5,500 typical households in one year; reduced natural gas usage by more than 417 million cubic feet in one year; and reduced ground water use by 43 million gallons per year. By using two ponds covering seven acres to capture rain water, the company avoided using more than 95 million gallons of ground water over two years. At the company's East Liberty facility, a spinning operation was added to remove oil and solvents from used rags. The rags are then remanufactured into auto parts. At the Anna Engine Plant, the company reused 7.7 million pounds of sand castings in soil and mulch products.

Huron Hospital - East Cleveland (Cuyahoga County) - Huron Hospital is a 189-bed community-based teaching hospital. The hospital was built in 1931 on the former estate of John D. Rockefeller and continues to provide quality health care services to an underserved population in Cleveland, Cleveland Heights and South Euclid.

Huron Hospital began a significant waste reduction effort in 2005. The organization made a sustainability pledge to promote a healthier footprint in the community by integrating sustainable practices. The facility reduced solid waste, regulated medical waste and hazardous waste and implemented policies to become mercury-free. In addition, the hospital implemented water and energy conservation measures and created a healthier environment overall. The hospital improved indoor air quality, reduced chemicals and added green processes. The facility achieved a 30.4 percent solid waste recycling rate. In 2007, the hospital established a policy for the virtual elimination of mercury was established that includes safe handling of mercury, spill clean-up procedures, employee education and training, and a mercury-free purchasing policy. The program also includes fluorescent lamp recycling, a battery recycling program, and an inventory of all potential areas with mercury.

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Marathon Petroleum Company – Findlay (Hancock County) – Marathon Petroleum Company's Findlay office complex is the company's corporate headquarters, consisting of three multi-story office buildings, a service building and a 1,750 KW electrical capacity utility building. The complex operates and houses the Marathon Pipe Line operation center for about 8,400 miles of petroleum pipeline.

Marathon began an extensive recycling program in 2005 to divert large volumes of office waste from landfills. The waste reduction initiative expanded into a comprehensive recycling program and energy and water reduction initiative. In 2008, total material recycled was 317,685 pounds, or 46 percent of the company's total waste. In addition, the company added a chemical-free pre-press operation that eliminated 1,000 pounds of aluminum waste, 1,200 pounds of silver and 758 chemicals per year.

Masco Retail Cabinet Group (Ashtabula and Geauga counties) - Masco Retail Cabinet Group has two manufacturing facilities in Middlefield and one in Orwell where it produces semi-custom cabinetry.

At all process stages including sourcing, manufacturing, finishing and shipping, the company focuses on reducing, reusing and recycling. Environmental impacts are reduced by carefully ordering materials and applying sophisticated technology to cut wood for the highest possible yield, reducing waste. Cabinetry is made from environmentally preferred particle board with a percentage of recycled material. Masco reuses sawdust as fuel and recycles or reuses finish materials whenever possible. For delivery, the company optimizes loading and routes to reduce truck miles driven, burning less fuel. Company practices include considering environmental impacts for every new product decision.

Award winners were selected based on a track record of environmental compliance and commitment to go beyond regulatory requirements to improve environmental performance; a mature environmental management system that has been integrated into core business functions; aggressive environmental performance goals; and a process for communicating with the local community about program activities and progress on performance goals. After nominations were rated, Ohio EPA visited each site to select honorees. More information about the program is available at <http://www.epa.ohio.gov/ocapp/stewardship.aspx>.