



## The Resource Newsletter

Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance  
Office of Outreach and Customer Support

*Helping communities and businesses access compliance, technical  
and financial assistance for their environmental needs*

September 27, 2016

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For more information go to  
[epa.ohio.gov/defa](http://epa.ohio.gov/defa)

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### Does your business use an air compressor?

If you answered yes, then you can probably save money on your electric bill by evaluating your air compressor use. Compressed air is expensive because system efficiency is about 10-15 percent. Most energy used to create compressed air is released as heat. Air compressors require seven to eight horsepower (HP) input to operate a one-HP air motor, making it one of the most expensive utilities for a business.

Leak management is a low-cost approach with quick payback. An inexpensive way to locate leaks is to use an ultrasonic leak detector, which recognizes the high frequency hissing sounds caused by air leaks. A hand-held detector costs about \$300 and makes an audible sound so you can identify leaks. Leaks can decrease output, cause unnecessary cycling and increased run time, decrease compressor life and increase energy and operating costs. Developing and implementing a maintenance program can help equipment work efficiently.

Your business may also be able to recover some of the heat produced by the compressor units. Some air compressors are built with heat exchangers and fans so you can add ductwork to re-use warm air or direct hot air outside the building during warm-weather periods. Hot air from compressors can be used for industrial drying or to preheat air for other uses.

You may find using rechargeable battery-powered tools instead of air-powered tools can reduce demand for compressed air. The U.S. Department of Energy’s [Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy](#) website has resources like software tools, training and publications to help improve performance and save energy in compressed air systems. Maintaining and checking your compressor today for leaks can save you money.

Ohio EPA’s Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention (OCAPP) provides free [pollution prevention assessments](#) to help identify opportunities to save your business money and incorporate more of your resources into your products. If you’re interested or to learn more, please email Bill Narotski at [william.narotski@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:william.narotski@epa.ohio.gov) or call (800) 329-7518. OCAPP’s services are free and confidential.

## Pollution Prevention (P2) at Home

You may not realize it, but the products you buy and throw away can impact the environment. During their lifetime, the average American will throw away 600 times their adult weight in garbage. Paper, yard and food waste make up about 56 percent of solid landfill waste, while plastics are about 13 percent. Americans throw out 1.6 million tons of household hazardous waste per year, consisting of things like batteries, pesticides, paint, electronic equipment and used oil. We also consume a lot of water — a family of four uses 400 gallons of water every day.

### P2 Tips

- ✓ **REDUCE** the amount of materials you use, which reduces the amount of waste you create.
- ✓ **REUSE** materials when possible.
- ✓ **RECYCLE** as much as possible.

P2 means avoiding pollution at the source rather than trying to manage it later. Everyone can help protect the environment. Actions you can personally take are:

- Purchase energy efficient vehicles and appliances.
- Set your home thermostat a few degrees higher in summer and a few degrees lower in winter to save money on your energy bill without compromising comfort.
- Turn your water heater temperature to the warm setting instead of hot and use an insulating blanket.
- Clean or replace furnace, air conditioner and heat-pump filters and install a programmable thermostat.
- Leave your car at home - walk, bike or take public transportation instead.
- Buy high-mileage tires and remember to check your tire pressure monthly.
- Follow your vehicle's manufacturer maintenance schedule. Newer models recommend oil changing schedules longer than the traditional three-month/3,000-miles.
- Turn off electronics, appliances and lights when not in use.
- Use rechargeable batteries.
- Install low-flow toilets and fix water leaks.
- Compost yard and food wastes, or see if your community has a composting or yard waste collection program.
- Minimize fertilizer and pesticide use; try less toxic or natural recipes where possible.
- Go to U.S. EPA's [Safer Choice](#) website to find environmentally friendly products that perform well and are safer for human health and the environment.

For more ideas, see Ohio EPA's [Handling Household Hazardous Waste](#) fact sheet and [U.S. EPA's Pollution Prevention Tips at Home](#) website.

## Upcoming Deadlines

- Oct. 14, 2016 — deadline, [Ohio EPA's Encouraging Environmental Excellence \(E3\) Silver, Gold and Platinum Awards](#)
- Feb. 3, 2017 — deadline, [Ohio EPA's Recycling and Litter Prevention Grant Applications](#)

## Subscribe to Our Electronic Lists

Do you want to receive monthly electronic updates from DEFA or updates from other Ohio EPA divisions? Go to our Agency subscription page at <http://ohioepa.custhelp.com/ci/documents/detail/2/subscriptionpage>.

## Publications

- [SmallBiz@EPA Bulletin September 2016](#)

## Encouraging Environmental Excellence (E3) Gold Award Winner — Pioneer Automotive Technologies Case Study

Pioneer in Springboro, Ohio, assembles vehicle electronics including radio, sound systems and GPS navigation units. Pioneer was awarded the *E3 Bronze in September 2013* and *E3 Gold in May 2016*. Pioneer's proactive environmental policy promotes waste and greenhouse gas emission reductions and meeting the goals established in their ISO 14001 certified Environmental Management System (EMS). Annual updates to their management policy identify goals and reflect the EMS priorities. Their long-term goal is to achieve zero waste-to-landfill status.

**“Pioneer is known for its excellent sound systems. Now it also should be known for protecting Ohio’s environment. The Springboro plant is eliminating waste sent to landfills, has reduced greenhouse gas emissions and improved efficiency, proving environmental stewardship and business success go hand-in-hand.”– Ohio EPA Director, Craig W. Butler**

Some of the stewardship activities at Pioneer include:

- Recycling metals, glass, wood, cardboard, paper, old electronics and plastics, including shrink wrap and polystyrene foam.
- Sharing their environmental policy with all employees, contractors and visitors — using a green card to highlight environmental goals.
- Discussing goal progress in employee meetings and in newsletters.
- Purchasing a machine to densify polystyrene foam, which they now sell as raw material.
- Using returnable totes for customer packaging and shipping.
- Updating their HVAC system and lighting and replacing restroom fixtures to save water.
- Purchasing material with recycled content.
- Cleaning area bike paths to build community relationships.

In 2014, Pioneer recovered \$159,000 from their recycling programs and diverted 4.1 million pounds of material from the landfill. In the last seven years, they achieved cost recovery of more than \$1 million through their recycling program. Money generated from recycling is used to maintain and expand the recycling program, support safety programs, renovate parts of the facility and grounds and support employee wellness and morale programs.

Ohio EPA's E3 program provides various recognition levels. The Gold Level recognizes organizations that have a good environmental compliance record, have completed environmental stewardship activities and are committed to pursuing environmental improvement projects. Any organization in Ohio may apply for membership. Applications are accepted annually and include both written and on-site evaluations. Applicants must be in compliance with environmental laws and regulations.

If you are interested in applying for recognition for your organization under the E3 program, please visit [epa.ohio.gov/locapp/ohioe3.aspx](http://epa.ohio.gov/locapp/ohioe3.aspx) or call (800) 329-7518. We would be glad to help guide you through the process and get your organization the recognition it deserves.

### DEFA's Program Management Plans (PMPs)

Ohio's State Revolving Fund (SRF) programs are the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) and the Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA). Each has a program year — the WPCLF cycle is January 1 – December 31, while the WSRLA cycle is the state fiscal year, July 1 – June 30. Each program receives an annual capitalization grant from U.S. EPA. One of the conditions of the grant funding is that Ohio EPA produce a Program Management Plan (PMP) for each program.

PMPs have several audiences — the communities currently requesting funds, potential applicants in future years, the general public and U.S. EPA. The general content of the PMP follows U.S. EPA guidelines, including a project priority list (PPL), intended projects list (IPL) and descriptions of the source and uses of funds, interest rates, special discounts and program administration for the upcoming program year.

Ohio's PMPs are detailed, in part because our programs are healthy with sufficient funds to finance hundreds of projects. Ohio's programs also have multiple interest rates and interest rate discounts, as well as principal forgiveness funds, which require separate accounting. The PMPs explain all these program features in detail.

Planning for each program year begins mid-way through the prior year, when we initiate discussion about new program features or other changes. We release a call for nominations announcing the nomination period and deadline, score the nominated projects and place them on the PPL. In recent years, adequate funding has been available for all projects that meet program requirements so the IPL has been the same as the PPL. Once the new PPL and IPL are completed and any revisions to the PMP text have been finished, the draft document is made available for a 30-day public comment period, followed by a public hearing. We consider comments received during the public comment period, make changes and then request the director's approval. The approved PMP governs that specific program until the next year's PMP is approved.

We encourage our client communities to review and comment on the PMPs and suggest ways to improve them. If you have questions about DEFA's PMPs, contact Dan Halterman at [daniel.halterman@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:daniel.halterman@epa.ohio.gov) or (614) 644-3658.

## Encouraging Environmental Excellence (E3) Achievement Award Winners — Ohio Hospitals Case Study

In 2001, Ohio EPA's Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention (OCAPP) and the Ohio Hospital Association (OHA) partnered to eliminate mercury from Ohio hospitals. OCAPP continues to participate on the OHA Environmental Leadership Council, providing updates on regulations and assisting with OHA's Pollution Prevention University. OCAPP also helps evaluate potential recipients of OHA's Melvin Creeley Award, an award that recognizes hospitals for promoting sound practices through environmental stewardship.

In June 2016, the following hospitals received the Melvin Creeley Award from OHA and the **E3 Achievement Level** Award from Ohio EPA:

- **Mercy Health Youngstown** (MHY) — a hospital system consisting of St. Elizabeth Youngstown Hospital, St. Joseph Warren Hospital and St Elizabeth Boardman Hospital.
- **Summa Health System** — an Akron-based hospital system with more than 30 locations and 9,500 staff members in the Akron/Canton area.
- **TriHealth Bethesda North Hospital and TriHealth Good Samaritan Hospital** in Cincinnati.
- **Mount Carmel St. Ann's** in Westerville.
- **Marymount Hospital** — a Cleveland Clinic hospital located in Garfield Heights.

Stewardship activities of these award winners include:

- Reducing regulated medical waste, pharmaceuticals, fluorescent lamps and batteries generated.
- Improving energy efficiency and participating in the Energy Star program.
- Implementing a green purchasing program.
- Upgrading lighting systems and reducing water consumption.
- Tracking energy and resource use for continuous improvement.
- Developing a Sustainability Strategic Plan involving employees, local non-profits and the community.
- Hosting a summer farmer's market supporting locally grown foods.
- Recycling construction and paper waste.
- Hosting an annual pharmaceutical take-back program.

To learn more about their activities, click [here](#). Ohio EPA's E3 program provides various recognition levels. If you are interested in applying for recognition for your organization under the E3 program, please visit [epa.ohio.gov/ocapp/ohioe3.aspx](http://epa.ohio.gov/ocapp/ohioe3.aspx) or call (800) 329-7518. We would be glad to help guide you through the process and get your organization the recognition it deserves.

## 2016 State Fair Recycling Initiative

Recycling opportunities at the Ohio State Fair expanded this summer thanks to an initiative by Ohio EPA and the Ohio Exposition Commission. Through DEFA's Recycling and Litter Prevention Grant program, Ohio EPA provided funding for 10 Bigbelly recycling containers and the commission is purchasing 10 more units.

- The commission's facilities in Columbus, Ohio encompass 360 acres. In addition to hosting the Ohio State Fair, which draws an attendance of close to one million every year, it's also home to 175 other events throughout the remainder of the year.
- The new recycling units at the state fairgrounds have built-in solar powered compactors, which triples the collection capacity of the bin. The bins are also equipped with a data collection system that records how much material is being collected.



Ohio EPA Director Butler at the 2016 Ohio State Fair. Also in the picture from Ohio EPA are Heidi Griesmer, Greg Vergamini, Chet Chaney and Danielle Giannantonio (clockwise from lower left).

Thanks to these features, collection routes can be quickly changed to maximize effectiveness. Real-time data like material levels, diversion and historical analysis reports can be accessed by computer or cell phone. The stations offer recycling education and awareness messaging related to good environmental stewardship practices, targeting positive changes in recycling habits.

If you have questions about this project, please email Chet Chaney at [chet.chaney@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:chet.chaney@epa.ohio.gov) or call (614) 728-0043.

## Do you know where your floor drains go?

Many businesses have floor drains. Some are needed for day-to-day operations. Others are used for emergency purposes only.

It is important you know where all your floor drains go and be aware of Ohio EPA's regulations that apply to your discharge activities. Floor drains may lead into a sanitary sewer — going directly to a public wastewater treatment plant. Other floor drains may lead to onsite sewage treatment systems like a septic tank. Sometimes, floor drains lead directly to an underground holding tank or discharge to a waterway or to the ground outside. Ohio EPA's water pollution control regulations apply to all of these activities.



### Discharges to a Wastewater Treatment Plant

A business that discharges industrial wastewater directly to a publicly owned treatment works (POTW) or local municipality is subject to wastewater regulations, so treatment may be required before it is discharged. If your floor drains discharge to a POTW, you must contact and discuss your activities with them, since you may be required to obtain a permit from the POTW for the discharge. If the POTW does not have an approved pretreatment program, a permit may be needed from Ohio EPA.

## Discharges to Waters of the State

Any company that wants to discharge industrial wastewater to waters of the state needs to get a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit from Ohio EPA. Examples of waters of the state include streams, rivers, lakes, ponds, marshes, other waterways, wells and springs. The NPDES permit typically includes discharge limits and other requirements such as record-keeping, reporting and monitoring. Other conditions of the NPDES permit can require a company to treat wastewater to remove harmful contaminants before it is discharged. If your floor drains lead to any waters of the state, you must have a discharge permit from Ohio EPA.

For more information, go to Ohio EPA's [Do you know where your floor drains go?](#) fact sheet or contact your Ohio EPA [district office](#). Small businesses can contact the Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention (OCAPP) at (800) 329-7518 for free, confidential assistance. OCAPP is a confidential office within Ohio EPA that helps small businesses understand and comply with environmental requirements.

### Important Points to Remember...

- Your floor drain should not discharge industrial wastewater onto the ground or into an injection well system such as a dry well or septic tank. Instead, you must find another way to manage your wastewater or obtain an Underground Injection Control permit from Ohio EPA.
- Your floor drain should not discharge industrial wastewater to waters of the state if you do not have a permit. This includes discharges into storm sewers. Instead, you must find another way to manage your wastewater or obtain an NPDES permit from Ohio EPA for the discharge.
- If your floor drain discharges wastewater to a local wastewater treatment plant, make sure the treatment plant knows about this activity. You may be required to treat the wastewater prior to discharge. You may also need to get a permit.
- **DO NOT** put oil, solvents, paints or chemicals into a floor drain. This could contaminate your property and expose you to large fines and cleanup costs.

## Does my business need an industrial storm water permit?

### What is storm water and why is it a concern?

Storm water runoff is rain and snow melt that runs off the land and hard surfaces, paved streets and parking lots, directly entering streams, rivers and lakes. It picks up pollutants like chemicals, oils, trash and dirt from surface areas and from outdoor business activities, including outside material storage handling and production. Pollutants then enter water bodies and can degrade the quality of the waters and pose threats to human health and wildlife.

### How can I ensure my business helps protect Ohio's waters?

You can do your part to protect Ohio's waters by obtaining a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) storm water permit and developing Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans (SWP3). These permits and plans will help you and your business prevent storm water pollution.



### What is an NPDES permit and do I need one?

NPDES permits help protect water resources by preventing and limiting various pollutants from entering Ohio's waters. Most NPDES permits last five years and set limits on what and how much of various substances can be discharged to lakes, rivers and streams.

Certain types of businesses are required to obtain storm water permits based on their Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code. For a list of SIC codes subject to the storm water program, go to U.S. EPA's website for [Industrial Activities that Require Permit Coverage](#).

Some types of businesses that are regulated include:

- fabricated metal operations (except producers of machinery and transportation equipment),
- mineral industries,
- material recyclers such as junkyards and metal recyclers,
- scrap yards, and
- transportation facilities that have vehicle maintenance shops and equipment cleaning.

### What if I have a regulated SIC code but don't store materials or perform operations outside?

If you manage your raw materials and conduct your operations in ways that prevent exposure to storm water (for example, all outside storage is covered), then you may qualify for a no exposure certification and would not be required to obtain an NPDES permit. For more information and/or to apply for a no exposure certificate, visit Ohio EPA's [no exposure certification webpage](#).

### How do I get an NPDES permit?

If you have a regulated SIC code and you do not qualify for no exposure certification, then you must apply for NPDES permit coverage. To obtain this permit, you will need to submit a one-page Industrial Notice of Intent (NOI) form to Ohio EPA's Division of Surface Water along with a \$350 application fee.

### Do I need to do anything prior to applying for my permit?

Before you submit your NOI form, you must first develop a SWP3. Your plan should contain four major parts: planning and organization; source assessment; best management practices for your type of business and SWP3 implementation evaluation.

### Are there other requirements?

You must conduct an annual comprehensive site inspection and submit your findings in an annual report. In addition, some companies with certain SIC codes must collect storm water samples, have them analyzed and submit the data to Ohio EPA.

### What about construction activities?

If construction activities at your business disturb more than one acre of land you may need to obtain a construction storm water permit. In many cases, simple construction activities can be addressed by obtaining a [Construction Storm Water General Permit](#).

### Where do I go for more information?

The NOI form, instructions and more information can be found at Ohio EPA's [Storm Water Program website](#) or by calling (614) 644-2001. Businesses can contact the [Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention](#) at 1-800-329-7518 for free, confidential assistance.



#### Important

SWP3s identify potential sources of storm water pollution. This plan outlines and ensures implementation of best management practices to reduce storm water pollution at your business.

## Training Opportunities

### Ohio EPA Training Opportunities

- Oct. 4, 2016 — Webinar, Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water (DSW), ***STREAMS - NPDES General Permit NOI/NOT***
- Oct. 4, 2016 — Webinar, Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water (DSW), ***STREAMS Indirect Discharge Permit (IDP) Applications***
- Oct. 4, 2016 — Webinar, Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water (DSW), ***STREAMS NPDES Individual Permit Applications***
- Oct. 12, 2016 — Webinar, ***Green Chemistry, Safer Choices***, hosted by Spartan Chemical Company, Inc., the University of Toledo, Ohio EPA, and U.S.EPA
- Oct. 19, 2016 — DEFA Webinar, ***Air Pollution Risk Management Program (RMP) (112r) for Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendents/Operators***
- Nov. 16, 2016 — DEFA Webinar, ***2017 Recycling and Litter Prevention Grants: Opportunities to Implement Recycling and Litter Prevention***

Have you missed a DEFA webinar? Go to our ***YouTube channel*** to view the recording or our ***Training Catalog*** for archived training. View our ***Training Calendar*** for more training opportunities.

### Other Training Opportunities

- Oct. 21, 2016 — ***Summit On Sustainability 2016***, Columbus, OH, Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC)
- Oct. 25, 2016 — ***Asset Management Workshop for Small Water Systems***, Delaware, OH, hosted by partners of the Environmental Finance Center Network, Wichita State University, American Water Works Association, Ohio American Water Works Association

The ***Ohio Rural Community Assistance Program*** (RCAP) offers many free online and classroom training sessions around the state of Ohio. Go to their ***Training*** webpage for details.

### LEARN THE LINGO

#### ***Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) Program***

Also known as "Wellhead Protection" and "Drinking Water Source Protection," Ohio's Source Water Assessment and Protection program helps more than 4,500 public water systems protect their drinking water sources (streams, lakes and aquifers) from contamination. The SWAP program does not address private residential water systems.

#### ***Sole Source Aquifers (SSA)***

U.S. EPA defines a Sole Source Aquifer as an aquifer that supplies at least 50 percent of the drinking water consumed in the area overlying the aquifer. These areas may have no alternative drinking water source(s) that could physically, legally and economically supply all those who depend on the aquifer for drinking water. The SSA designation protects an area's ground water resource by requiring U.S. EPA to review certain proposed projects within the designated area. All proposed projects receiving federal funds are subject to review to ensure that they do not endanger the water source.

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#### ***Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance (DEFA)***

Helping communities and businesses access technical and financial assistance for their environmental needs.

#### ***Contact Us***

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