



E3 2016 Gold Level Recipient: ConAgra Foods

[Success Story: Ohio's Encouraging Environmental Excellence Program recognizes ConAgra Foods in Troy at the Gold Level for their environmental achievements.](#)

Ohio's Encouraging Environmental Excellence Program

ConAgra Foods in Troy, Ohio is recognized as a Gold Level recipient in the Encouraging Environmental Excellence (E3) Program for their comprehensive environmental stewardship program and exceeding regulatory compliance obligations. The E3 program recognizes an organization's exceptional achievements in environmental stewardship. Any business, industry, trade association, professional organization or local government of Ohio can be recognized for their commitment to environmental excellence. Applications are evaluated using environmental stewardship and related criteria developed by Ohio EPA. The goal of environmental stewardship is to reduce the impact of business or organizational activities on the environment beyond measures required by any permit or rule, producing a better environment, conserving natural resources and resulting in long-term economic benefits.

Applicants must be in compliance with environmental laws and regulations. E3 Silver, Gold and Platinum applications include both written and onsite evaluations while there is no onsite evaluation for the Achievement Level.

The E3 Gold Level

The gold level recognizes organizations that have comprehensive environmental stewardship programs and exceed regulatory compliance obligations. Applicants need to submit a narrative describing the activities that are part of an overall environmental stewardship program. Ohio EPA evaluates E3 applications using nineteen environmental stewardship criteria. It is recognized that not all criteria may apply and some descriptions may apply to multiply criteria. There is no application form or specified format for E3 applications. Applicants must be in compliance with environmental laws and regulations for a year prior to submittal of their application and during the application review process. Applicants may be asked to host a site visit to provide reviewers with a better understanding of the application, to view the activities described in operation and to clarify information provided in the application. Gold level applications are accepted on an annual basis. ConAgra was one of eight organizations recognized at the gold level for 2016.



Environmental Stewardship

The ConAgra plant in Troy, Ohio sits on approximately 38 acres in Miami County and has approximately 700 employees. The main building was built in 1949 and has undergone 4 major expansions to its current size of 303M square feet. The plant produces pizza, dough enrobed products and Slim Jim meat snack sticks.

ConAgra Foods regards environmental protection as an essential requirement of all of their operations and implements a robust environmental management system (EMS), best practices in compliance and environmental sustainability. They use a team approach to look for and to implement changes in procedures to limit impacts and improve the environment. They have a system in place to ensure all employees are involved in process improvements. They use a process called I-Tag and F-Tag to have ideas presented to Cell teams for consideration. I-Tag is an improvement idea and F-Tag is a defect that needs repaired. The ConAgra Troy plant has written 4,000 tags over the last 14 months prior to end of 2015.

Many projects have been submitted through this system to reduce their environmental impact. These projects have also resulted in cost reductions, allowing further investment in the business and towards more environmental improvements.



E3 2016 Gold Level Recipient: ConAgra Foods

There are several innovative projects that have been implemented in 2015, as well as a continuation of others, that show a commitment to continual improvement, creativity and prevention of pollution. Highlights include:

Glycol cooling

The plant replaced the water cooling system on the Vemag Stuffer with a Glycol loop, utilizing a system that was already in place. This resulted in a reduction in plant water consumption by 2MM gallons per year. Cost savings based on \$0.046 per pound water savings equates to \$92K per year.

Aluminum can and plastic bottle recycling

The plant implemented a recycling program for aluminum cans and plastic bottles resulting in 6,280 pounds of materials diverted from landfill and recycled.

Animal feed

Scrap dough and food waste is diverted from landfill and utilized as animal feed. The plant worked with third party support to process more than 8,728,655 tons of products into animal feed in 2015.

Composting

Food waste not suitable for animal feed is utilized by a third party to be processed in composting material that is land applied. More than 370 tons of waste was recycled this way in 2015.

Cardboard recycling

The facility found an outlet for “bloody” cardboard. This has significantly reduced the amount of cardboard previously going to landfill with approximately over 60 tons a month being recycled. Over 679 tons of cardboard was recycled this way in 2015.

Water Conservation and Energy Efficiency

For every pound of product manufactured in FY15 at the ConAgra plant, water usage was reduced by 14.4% and electricity use was reduced by 4%. In FY16 water usage was reduced by 21.89% and electricity use was reduced by 5.5%.

Environmental Management System

The Troy facility utilizes Intalex and the Sustainable Development Reporting Tool (SDRT) as the environmental management system. Intalex is a third party web-based software application to track components of their environmental process such as permit management, completion of environmental tasks, environmental incidents, audit findings and corrective actions. The Sustainable Development Reporting Tool is a proprietary, web based application used to manage sustainability performance indicators that are included in ConAgra Foods Environmental Management System. ConAgra believes that an effective EMS is one that meets the organization’s needs, produces results and has staying power. Management reviews of the tasks and processes assess how changing circumstances might influence the suitability, effectiveness and adequacy of the environmental management system.

Environmental Policy

ConAgra Foods regards environmental protection as an essential requirement of all of their operations and implements a robust EMS and shares best practices in compliance and environmental sustainability. Key objectives are to:

- Ensure compliance with relevant environmental laws, regulations, permits and other requirements;
- Prevent pollution by continuously assessing and monitoring the environmental impacts of their operations;
- Promote continual improvement of their environmental management system and performance by setting and reviewing environmental goals.

This policy is prominently displayed in the main hallway of the plant, providing communication to their associates and showing the management commitment to the environment.

Contact

For more information about Ohio EPA’s Encouraging Environmental Excellence program and the recognition levels, visit www.epa.ohio.gov/ohioE3.aspx. Achievement Level applications are accepted at any time. The deadline to apply for a 2017 Silver, Gold or Platinum Level award is Oct. 14, 2016.