

ENCOURAGING ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE SILVER AND GOLD LEVEL CRITERIA EVALUATION

July 13, 2015

The Encouraging Environmental Excellence (E3) Silver Level recognizes an organization's exceptional achievements in environmental stewardship. To reach the Gold Level an organization must also demonstrate an ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship. The E3 Silver and Gold Levels are open to any business, industry, trade association, professional organization or local government of Ohio. Applications are evaluated using environmental stewardship criteria developed by Ohio EPA. Applications will be accepted annually and include both written and onsite evaluations. Applicants must be in compliance with environmental laws and regulations for a year prior to receipt of their application.

Ohio EPA will evaluate applications using nineteen environmental stewardship criteria. Applicants should provide one narrative incorporating the criteria that apply to their environmental stewardship program. Each of the applicable criteria will be evaluated using a six point scale based on the five parameters listed below. Points will be awarded to these criteria based on whether the information meets the requirements of five parameters. The following terms define the parameters used to evaluate the criteria where applicable.

Adequate Detail - Provides a level of detail that allows the reviewer to gain a complete understanding of how the application meets this criterion.

Indicative of Environmental Stewardship - Clearly explains how the information provided to meet this criterion describes an activity that is indicative of the applicant's environmental stewardship.

Quantifiable - The information provided to meet this criterion clearly describes the amount of materials reduced, pollution prevented and/or other numerical data. Applications that provide actual amounts of reductions achieved (*e.g., pounds of pollution reduced per year, quantities of inputs no longer purchased, amount of energy reduced, gallons of water conserved, etc.*) and numerical cost savings data (*e.g., \$5,000 cost savings in energy purchased, \$12,000 savings for no longer needing to treat and dispose of hazardous waste, \$10,000 saved in chemicals no longer needing to be purchased, etc.*) will receive higher scores than applications that do not include this data.

Comprehensive - The information provided to meet this criterion describes an activity that has been applied in a comprehensive manner across the organization.

Innovative - The information provided to meet this criterion describes an activity which is deemed to be new or rarely used by other similar organizations based upon the knowledge and experience of the reviewer.

The following table demonstrates how point totals are determined using this evaluation method:

Score	Adequate Detail	Indicative of Environmental Stewardship	Quantifiable	Comprehensive	Innovative
0	Not mentioned, mentioned in the negative or mentioned and not implemented				
1	No	No			
2	Yes	Yes			
3	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
4	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
4	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
5	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

- 0 - Not mentioned, mentioned in the negative or mentioned and not implemented for any parameter
- 1 - Mentioned but does not meet definition of any parameter
- 2 - Meets definition of **Adequate detail** and **Indicative of Environmental Stewardship** parameters
- 3 - Meets definition of **Adequate detail**, **Indicative of Environmental Stewardship** and **Quantifiable** parameters
- 4 - Meets definition of **Adequate detail**, **Indicative of Environmental Stewardship**, **Quantifiable** and either **Comprehensive** or **Innovative** parameters
- 5 - Meets definition of all parameters

Additional Information and Questions

Questions regarding evaluating environmental stewardship criteria should be directed to:

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Application materials are available at <http://www.epa.ohio.gov/ocapp/ohioe3.aspx> or by calling (800) 329-7518. **Applicants are encouraged to call Howard Dong at (614) 644-2130 or our hotline at (800) 329-7518 with questions anytime during the application process.**