

**Spring 2013**

**Ohio EPA Accepting Nominations for Encouraging Environmental Excellence Awards**

Ohio EPA is accepting applications for its program that recognizes those committed to environmental excellence. The program awards those who reduce waste, improve efficiency and work to continuously improve as an environmental steward. The program - Encouraging Environmental Excellence (E3) - is accepting nominations for the 2014 Silver Level through **June 28, 2013**. Recognition provides Ohio businesses and other organizations with credit for completing environmentally beneficial activities, and an incentive to commit to future environmental stewardship efforts.



This annual award program is designed to recognize businesses and others that have a good environmental compliance record and have completed environmental stewardship activities. The silver level recognition includes:

- An E3 flag to hang at applicant's facility;
- Ohio EPA news release highlighting the entity's environmental accomplishments;
- Invitation to an awards ceremony and possibly a site visit by the Ohio EPA director; and
- Highlight of recipient's efforts in a case study to publicize their proactive approach to environmental stewardship.

The 2013 Silver Level award winners will be announced and recognized at Ohio EPA's Compliance Assistance Conference on May 22, 2013.

To learn more about applying for recognition under the Silver Level of the E3 program, visit [www.epa.ohio.gov/ocapp/ohioe3.aspx](http://www.epa.ohio.gov/ocapp/ohioe3.aspx), or contact Howard Dong at Ohio EPA's Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention at [howard.dong@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:howard.dong@epa.ohio.gov) or (800) 329-7518.

**2012 Toxic Release Inventory Report Due July 1**

The deadline to submit your annual Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) report for 2012 is midnight on **July 1, 2013**. An Administrative Stay was lifted for TRI Hydrogen Sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S) reporting of the EPCRA section 313 toxic chemical release reporting requirements. Reporting for H<sub>2</sub>S is required for RY 2012 (i.e., for Form R and Form A Certification Statements that are due to the Agency at midnight on July 1, 2013).



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U.S. EPA's TRI program no longer supports the desktop version of the TRI-ME software reporting tool. U.S. EPA will accept only TRI-MEweb or paper submissions for the 2012 report. TRI-MEweb is a web-based version of the popular TRI-Made Easy (TRI-ME) reporting software and eliminates the need to generate a diskette or CD to mail separately to Ohio EPA. Once you certify your electronic TRI submission via TRI-MEweb, you have successfully satisfied your reporting obligations to both U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA.

U.S. EPA has developed a new certification component within the TRI-MEweb application that will allow a facility to prepare any reporting year TRI Form R/A, and transition directly into the certification process without leaving the TRI-MEweb application.

For this reporting year, U.S. EPA has implemented an alternative method for certifying officials to apply for and process an Electronic Signature Agreement (ESA) in real time using a third-party identity verification vendor named LexisNexis. Upon registering for a new CDX account at <https://cdx.epa.gov>, all newly appointed certifying officials will be prompted to consider using this third-party verification and authentication service to obtain their ESA approval in real time instead of processing the traditional paper ESA form for EPA approval.

There are two user roles involved in the reporting process to EPA of your TRI data; a preparer role and a certifying official role. The "preparer" is the person who prepares the TRI forms for submission in TRI-MEweb but is not authorized to certify them. The "certifying official" is the person of authority at a facility or a legal representative of the facility who will certify the data contained in the transmitted TRI Form R or Form A Certification Statement in TRI-MEweb to EPA and their state or tribe. Certifying officials may also prepare forms (dual role). However, the preparer cannot certify TRI forms that have been transmitted to CDX. Both of these TRI roles require creating/having a CDX user account and adding the TRI-MEweb application to their MyCDX profile. Step-by-step instructions on how to create your CDX user account for your new certifying official can be found on the TRI-MEweb Resource webpage at [www.epa.gov/tri/reporting\\_materials/trimeweb/](http://www.epa.gov/tri/reporting_materials/trimeweb/).

If you chose to file hard copy reports, you must send a copy to both U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA. As a reminder to facilities submitting paper forms, these can now be completed online prior to printing.

In Ohio, reporting facilities must submit a filing fee regardless of the manner in which the reports are submitted. If you reported last year for reporting year 2011, but find your facility does not need to report for 2012, you should complete the "negative form" so Ohio EPA will know why you have not filed a TRI report this year. No filing fee is required with a negative report.

All TRI reporting forms, fee worksheets, web links to TRI-MEweb and related contact information can be found at [www.epa.ohio.gov/dapc/tri/tri.aspx](http://www.epa.ohio.gov/dapc/tri/tri.aspx). For more information, contact Muhammad Elsalahat, Ohio EPA TRI program, at (614) 644-2260 or [muhammad.elsalahat@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:muhammad.elsalahat@epa.ohio.gov).

## Free Online Training for Ohio Businesses

Ohio EPA's Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention (OCAPP) has coordinated seven online training webinars to help Ohio businesses comply with environmental requirements. Each webinar covers a specific environmental topic and provides a step-by-step review of what your business should do to comply with Ohio's environmental regulations. A question and answer session occurs at the end of each webinar and is included as part of the recorded package. Topics covered so far include:



- Helping Ohio Small Businesses Finance and Comply with Federal Clean Air Standards
- Inadvertent Returns from Horizontal Directional Drilling
- Ohio's Used Oil Rules for Generators
- Proper Management of Universal Waste
- Air Permitting Basics
- Compliance and Pollution Prevention Assistance for Ohio Businesses

Each webinar can be viewed through Ohio EPA's website or a copy of the slide presentation can either be viewed or downloaded for each topic. New topics are added every other month. To take advantage of this free online training resource, go to [www.epa.state.oh.us/ocapp/train/tabid/6067/LiveTabId/126541/Default.aspx](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/ocapp/train/tabid/6067/LiveTabId/126541/Default.aspx).

In addition, OCAPP has free online pollution prevention training to help Ohio businesses save money and reduce waste. There are 13 topics ranging from sustainability to water conservation that can be accessed at [www.epa.state.oh.us/ocapp/train/tabid/6067/LiveTabId/126541/Default.aspx](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/ocapp/train/tabid/6067/LiveTabId/126541/Default.aspx).

## Recommendations for Salt Storage Guidance Finalized

In January 2012, the Ohio Water Resources Council established a workgroup to develop guidance on how to best site, design and operate a salt storage pile to prevent water resource contamination. The guidance, *Recommendations for Salt Storage: Guidance for Protecting Ohio's Water Resources* was finalized in February 2013 and is available at [www.ohiodnr.com/tabid/23948/Default.aspx](http://www.ohiodnr.com/tabid/23948/Default.aspx).

## Green Chemistry Workshop at Ohio State University this May

Ohio EPA, University of Toledo, Ohio State's BioProduct Innovation Center and others are co-sponsoring a green chemistry workshop; *Safe Products, Made Safely: Tools for Businesses* on May 30, 2013. This day-long workshop will provide a framework for evaluating the best approach and tools for your business in meeting goals for environmental sustainability and reducing or eliminating the use of toxic chemicals in consumer products.



Workshop topics covered include:

- Regulatory landscape, chemicals of concern
- Evaluating chemical hazards, identifying needs
- Overview of hazard assessment tools
- Green Screen for Safer Chemicals
- U.S. EPA toxicity assessment tools
- Alternatives assessment

Thursday, May 30, 2013 - 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Ohio State University, The Fawcett Center  
2400 Olentangy River Rd.  
Columbus, Ohio 43210

For more information and registration, please visit [www.greenchemistrymn.org/events/safe-products-made-safely-tools-businesses](http://www.greenchemistrymn.org/events/safe-products-made-safely-tools-businesses).

## Safer Chemistry Challenge Program Accepting Applications



The 2025 Safer Chemistry Challenge Program (SCCP) recognizes and rewards companies for finding safer alternatives to the hazardous chemicals they currently use. This program builds on ongoing business efforts and helps to sustain the momentum to make toxic chemical reduction a business reality. The SCCP targets the reduction or elimination of toxic chemicals through pollution prevention or source reduction approaches.

Companies have the flexibility to select the chemicals for which they wish to focus their reduction activities to meet specific business objectives. Members of the program are provided access to SCCP resources, especially state and regional technical assistance staff with knowledge in manufacturing processes and product chemistries.

Companies that participate in the SCCP will be nationally recognized for their commitment and achievements in safer chemistry through publicity of company successes on the SCCP website, news releases, legislative briefings, conference recognition and association newsletter articles.

For information on how to become a member of the SCCP, visit [www.p2.org/challenge/](http://www.p2.org/challenge/). Facilities in the Great Lakes basin can join the program at no cost for two years under the current U.S. EPA grant. Please direct questions to [saferchemistry@gmail.com](mailto:saferchemistry@gmail.com).

## EnergyStar Portfolio Manager Updates

In June 2013, U.S. EPA will release a complete upgrade for its Portfolio Manager tool. This tool, currently in use by more than 40,000 individual accounts to measure, track, assess and report on the energy and water performance of more than 250,000 commercial buildings, will get a new interface, streamlined functionality and improved usability.



U.S. EPA estimates that Portfolio Manager will be unavailable for at least two weeks in June 2013 to allow for the migration of data to the new, upgraded system. Those who have data in Portfolio Manager **will not** lose their data. For more information, please visit [www.energystar.gov/istar/pmpam/](http://www.energystar.gov/istar/pmpam/).

Compliance and Prevention Quarterly cost saving information — If half of all Quarterly readers received the newsletter electronically, we could save nearly \$1,000 worth of printing costs each quarter. Plus, it's good for the environment! To receive an electronic copy, please send your e-mail address\* to Dave Foulkes at [dave.foulkes@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:dave.foulkes@epa.ohio.gov) or call (800) 329-7518.

\*Please include '**Compliance and Prevention Quarterly**' in the subject line.

### Need Help?

Ohio EPA's Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention is a non-regulatory program and one-stop location for information about environmental requirements, compliance concerns and pollution prevention. Services are free. Contact us at (800) 329-7518 or (614) 644-3469. Visit us at [www.epa.ohio.gov/ocapp](http://www.epa.ohio.gov/ocapp).

### Compliance and Prevention Quarterly

Published by Ohio EPA's  
Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention  
Laurie Stevenson, Chief  
Dave Foulkes, Editor

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