



2007 NEIGHBORHOOD ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERS PROGRAM



Fact Sheet

Introduction

The Neighborhood Environmental Partners (NEP) Program is a competitive environmental awards initiative created by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to encourage and reward businesses and their neighbors who work together locally on projects. These projects improve environmental awareness and the quality of life in their communities. The NEP Program also provides an avenue for business and community groups to share social and environmental responsibility goals in their community.

How it Works

Businesses and neighborhood groups can participate by developing an environmental mission statement and completing "Neighborhood Partner" activities. Activity categories include: environmental improvements, environmental education, and environmental mentoring. Participants then apply for a NEP Gold Award. The NEP Program is currently only open to facilities designated as DEQ, Clean Corporate Citizens, Pollution Prevention Partners **(see list of eligible Pollution Prevention Partners)*, and their surrounding communities.

Applications for a NEP award will be separated into two categories, small- to medium-size business applications (businesses with fewer than 500 employees) and large business applications (businesses with greater than 500 employees). The best projects from each category will be selected to receive a NEP Gold Award. Applicants must be in good standing and compliant with all applicable environmental regulations in order to qualify for a NEP Gold Award. In addition to those receiving NEP Gold Awards, there will be honorable mentions for those facilities that have made notable environmental accomplishments.

****Eligible Pollution Prevention Partners:*** Clean Marinas; Michigan Great Printers Project; Michigan Business Pollution Prevention Partnership; Pulp, Paper & Products Pollution Prevention; Michigan Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program; and Department of Defense/State of Michigan Pollution Prevention Alliance.

Awards Schedule



Activities completed within 2007 are eligible for a NEP Gold Award.

➤ Applications will be accepted April 1, 2008 through April 30, 2008.

➤ DEQ award announcements will be made in June 2008.

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND SERVICES DIVISION
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Environmental Assistance Center

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The Neighborhood Environmental Partners (NEP) Program is made up of five easy to follow steps:

1. Plan
2. Implement
3. Apply
4. Evaluate
5. Award

1. **PLAN**

Start by developing an environmental mission statement, or by using an existing one. Organize a community or neighborhood stakeholders group. Share your mission statement and discuss the environmental needs in your area. Then, select a project that is sensitive to the community's needs. The DEQ's NEP Web site at, www.michigan.gov/deqnep has resources available to help you plan and implement an environmental project. The Web site also includes a list of NEP project ideas, and sample environmental mission statements that you can use to get started. For additional information please contact Michael Young at 989-686-8025, extension 8390, or by e-mail at youngmw@michigan.gov.

2. **IMPLEMENT**

Businesses and neighborhood groups can participate by implementing "Neighborhood Partner" activities. Examples of NEP activities can also be found on the DEQ's NEP Web site at, www.michigan.gov/deqnep.

3. **APPLY**

Fill out the attached NEP Award Application. Attach the application to a description of your environmental project, your organization's environmental mission statement, and a list of all participating partner organizations.

Send your application to:

**Michael Young
NEP Coordinator
MDEQ-ESSD
503 North Euclid Avenue
Bay City, Michigan 48706
Fax: 989-686-0727 Phone: 989-686-8025 Ext. 8390
E-mail: youngmw@michigan.gov**

4. **EVALUATE**

Each NEP application will be evaluated by the DEQ. Only applications received prior to the application deadline (April 30, 2008) will be evaluated. The DEQ Director reserves the right to make a final decision on all awards. Successful award winners will be notified prior to the award announcement.

5. **AWARD**

The NEP Awards will be announced in June of this year. A NEP award certificate will be mailed to each participating group or organization listed on your NEP application. A DEQ press release will be developed for each award cycle, recognizing all NEP award winners. This press release will be published on the DEQ Web site.

2006
Neighborhood Environmental Partners
Gold Award Winners

Consumers Energy J.R. – Whiting Plant

The Consumers Energy – J.R. Whiting Plant and its community partners were awarded the 2006 NEP Gold Award for their excellent work with American Lotus Beds Project and for organizing an annual Lake Erie Shoreline Clean-Up. The Consumers Energy – J.R. Whiting Plant works closely with the Lotus Garden Club of Monroe Michigan to propagate, transplant, and protect the endangered American Lotus. They also host an annual shoreline clean-up program during National Shoreline Clean-up Week. Sixty volunteers, including the Erie Shores Birding Association and the area Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts participated in the shoreline clean-up program.

General Motors – Flint Metal Center

The General Motors (GM) – Flint Metal Center and its community partners received a 2006 NEP Gold Award for implementing several excellent local environmental projects. The GM – Flint Metal Center participated in water quality sampling and Earth Day celebrations with area schools. The GM – Flint Metal Center also distributed tree seedlings to employees and area school children. The trees were purchased from the Genesee Conservation District and packaged for the GM – Flint Metal Center by the employees at the Genesee County Association for Retarded Citizens. The GM – Flint Metal Center and Goodwill Industries of Flint additionally partnered to recycle miscellaneous plastic scrap generated at the GM facility. The GM – Flint Metal Center also hosted several household hazardous waste (HHW) collections in conjunction with the Genesee County Health Department. The collections were open to GM employees and the public, thousands of pounds of HHW was collected.

General Motors – Lansing Delta Township and Regional Stamping

The General Motors – Lansing Delta Township and Regional Stamping plant (GM – LDT) and its community partners received a 2006 NEP Gold Award for implementing several excellent local environmental projects. The GM – LDT developed a Habitat Education program at its facility in cooperation with local community organizations and schools. The GM – LDT partnered with the Global River Environmental Education Network to perform water quality sampling with Lansing area high schools collecting water quality data from several locations in the Lansing area. The GM – LDT facility additionally participates in annual school “science and career” days with area elementary and high schools. The GM – LDT Wildlife Team also partnered with several non-profit organizations and schools in the Lansing area to implement programs to enhance and sustain wetlands and woodland habitats at its facility. The GM – LDT additionally received a gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program in 2006. The building is the only automotive manufacturing plant in the world to ever receive LEED certification.

General Motors – Warren Transmission Plant

General Motors (GM) – Warren Transmission Plant and its community partners received a 2006 NEP Gold Award for its exceptional work with students teaching them to perform water quality sampling in the Clinton River Watershed. The GM – Warren Transmission Plant also annually visits area

elementary schools near the facility to celebrate Earth Day, and has partnered with **the Macomb County Health Department** to offer household hazardous waste collections for employees and contractors at the plant.

Pfizer Global Manufacturing – Kalamazoo

Pfizer Global Manufacturing – Kalamazoo (Pfizer) and its community partners received a 2006 NEP Gold Award for implementing several significant local environmental projects. Pfizer has opened its 3,600 acre facility to the community to learn about area wildlife and habitats through educational activities offered at the manufacturing site. Pfizer also annually participates in Earth Day activities at their facility including: creating earth-day posters, exhibits, nature walks, and lunch and learning series. Pfizer also partnered with Western Michigan University’s bio-diesel program, supplying the university with waste cottonseed oil. Pfizer also donated thousands of dollars worth of used office furniture and laboratory equipment and supplies to non-profit charities and local schools and universities. Pfizer annually sponsors Emergency Response training to over 100 firemen in Kalamazoo County. Pfizer additionally provides volunteer chemical handling experts to the Kalamazoo County Hazardous Materials Response Team. The Environmental Health and Safety Team at Pfizer also adopted a four mile stretch of state road in Kalamazoo County. It is estimated that nearly 600 bags of trash have been collected for disposal.

The Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation

The Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation and its community partners received a NEP Gold Award for their significant environmental contribution to its community by undertaking projects ranging from fish planting and habitat restoration projects, to initiating community recycling programs, and working with area schools. Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation, with the help of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and sportsmen’s organizations has helped plant thousands of fish in area lakes and streams. Their employees partnered with an area Boy Scout troop to resort an unattended community park by donating materials and volunteers to the park restoration project. Over 500 volunteer hours were spent on the project. Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation also maintains a community recycling program for corrugated cardboard (recycling about 580 tons a year.) The facility additionally coordinated a community recycling program for glossy paper, office paper, and newspapers with all profits (\$37,950) from the project being donated to area schools. The facility also hosts environmental tours and offers environmental internships to area schools.

Comments and Suggestions

We welcome your comments and suggestions on the NEP Program! There are two easy ways to let us know what you think of the Neighborhood Environmental Partners Program:

1. Call Michael Young, at 989-686-8025, extension 8390; or
2. E-mail Michael Young, at youngmw@michigan.gov.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) will not discriminate against any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, color, marital status, disability, or political beliefs. Questions or concerns should be directed to the MDEQ Office of Human Resources, PO Box 30473, Lansing, MI 48909.