Ohio Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

FAST Facts

Clermont County

Drinking Water Loans (Water Supply Revolving Loan Account - WSRLA)

Number of Projects: 4 Funding Total: $2,397,647

Entity	Project Name	Loan Type	Award Date	Loan Amount
Milford	Oakcrest & Valley View Water Main Replac.	Construction	6/10/2014	$331,779
Milford	Main and High Water Main Replacements	Construction	6/10/2014	$489,460
Milford	WTP Improvements - Lime Slaker	Construction	10/29/2009	$222,325
Milford	Milford Wells, clearwell replacement	Construction	9/27/2007	$1,354,083

Wastewater Loans (Water Pollution Control Loan Fund - WPCLF)

Number of Projects: 16 Funding Total: $32,796,853

Entity	Project Name	Loan Type	Award Date	Loan Amount
Clermont County	HSTS Replacement Program	Construction	1/4/2012	$160,000
Clermont County	Shayler Run Segment SC - Phase II	Construction	10/29/2009	$13,000,000
Clermont County	Shayler Run Segment SC - Phase I	Construction	1/26/2006	$6,449,544
Clermont County	Stonelick WWTP Imp	Construction	10/24/1991	$2,422,200
Clermont County HD	2017 Septic Rehabilitation Program HSTS	Construction	2/24/2017	$150,000
Clermont County HD	2016 Septic Rehabilitation Program	Construction	3/25/2016	$300,000
Little Miami Conservancy	Woliver Preserve Stream Restoration	Construction	11/19/2009	$60,000
Milford	Garfield Force Main	Construction	10/29/2009	$471,926
Milford	CSO Phase II-B	Construction	9/25/2008	$491,254
Milford	WWTP Improvements	Construction	6/30/2005	$2,606,201
Milford	Refin -WWTP Imp	Construction	8/29/1991	$1,280,000
New Richmond	Sanitary Sewer Lining Project Phase 1	Construction	12/17/2009	$17,730
New Richmond	WWTP Improvements	Construction	12/15/1994	$2,851,800
Williamsburg	Phase III WWTP Upgrade Project NRD	Construction	1/4/2017	$1,952,517
Williamsburg	Todd's Run Lift Station Upgrade	Construction	1/26/2012	$169,680
Williamsburg	WWTP Upgrade Phase 1	Construction	9/24/2009	$414,001

Water Resource Protection and Restoration (Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program — WRRSP)

Number of Projects: 3 Funding Total: $2,750,678

Entity	Project Name	Award Date	Loan Amount
Clermont County Park District	Lower East Fork Riparian Corridor	1/26/2006	$1,835,777
Valley View Foundation	Batavia Low-Head Dam Removal	1/27/2016	$763,000
Valley View Foundation	Valley View Foundation - WRRSP	6/30/2005	$151,901

Recycling and Litter Prevention Grants (2012-2016)

Number of Projects: 7 Funding Total: $111,543

Grant Type	Recipient	Amount	Year
Community Development	Adams-Clermont SWMD	$4,333	2016
	Adams-Clermont SWMD	$2,160	2015
Litter Management	Adams-Clermont SWMD	$50,450	2016
	Adams-Clermont SWMD	$49,250	2014
	Clermont County	$2,000	2012
	East Fork State Park	$2,000	2012
	Clermont Soil & Water Conservation District	$1,350	2012

Encouraging Environmental Excellence (E3) Award Winners

Number of Recipients: 1

Level	Recipient	Location	Year
Silver Level	Melink	Milford	2015

HSTS – Home Sewage Treatment System
WTP – Water Treatment Plant
SWMD – Solid Waste Management District
WWTP – Wastewater Treatment Plant
NRD – Nutrient Reduction Discount
CSO – Combined Sewer Overflow

Across Ohio in 2016

Wastewater Treatment and Compliance Assistance

- 56 site visits
- 500 individuals trained
- 15 training sessions

Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention

- 3,080 businesses and 1,216 external customers assisted over the phone and in writing
- 222 site visits to 189 companies
- 700 permit or registration applications completed, saving $3.5 million in consulting fees
- 38 publications developed and 2,598 publications distributed
- 70 presentations and training events reaching 2,927 individuals

Encouraging Environmental Excellence (E3) Recipients

- Statewide in 2016: 20 Achievement Level, 1 Silver Level, 11 Gold Level
- Since program inception: 38 Achievement Level, 21 Silver Level and 28 Gold Level – 69 individual organizations

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Recycling and Litter Prevention Grants

Strengthening Ohio's recycling markets

Ohio EPA's Recycle Ohio program supports communities and businesses that initiate or expand recycling programs, encourage sustainable practices, stimulate economic growth and support litter prevention efforts.

Grants Available	Term	Community Match	Business Eligibility	Amount Available
Community Development	1 year	50%	No	$250,000
Litter Management	1 year	10%	No	$45,000
Market Development	2 years	100%	Yes	$250,000
Scrap Tire	2 years	100%	Yes	$350,000

Community Development Grant

Local governments can receive funding to address litter prevention efforts and to purchase equipment for the collection and processing of recyclables.

Litter Management Grant

Offers funding to communities and non-profit organizations to implement litter collection events and tire amnesty programs.

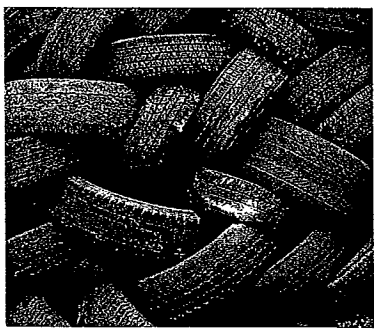
Market Development Grant*

This grant provides manufacturers and material processors opportunities to create or expand the types of recycled products that are marketed. Funding is available for equipment specifically needed to remanufacture recyclable materials into bulk raw material or finished products.

Scrap Tire Grant*

Offers manufacturers and material processors funding to create or expand the types of scrap tire products they can market. Funds are also available for beneficial use projects that incorporate the use of Ground Tire Rubber (GTR) and Recycled Asphalt Shingles (RAS).

*Requires a governmental sponsor.



Recycle Ohio
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

(614) 644-2798
recycleohio.gov

Testimonials

After becoming Village Administrator, I discovered we owed U.S. EPA more than $600,000 for five years of CSO violations. At first I had a lot of sleepless nights, but through the financial help and the great people in DEFA we are getting there. It has not been easy but we are much better off!

-Village Administrator

We now recycle/reuse all of our acetone. We went from purchasing 1,375 gallons to 770. We now have zero waste and our emissions dropped more than 38% in the first year. We are now recycling our plastic bottles and paper products.

-An aerospace manufacturer

Creating a good water and sewer system would never have happened without DEFA's help. The sheer scope seems overwhelming. You came here, you were informed about our past projects and problems, and you didn't rush. I can't express how important outreach is for struggling communities!

-Village Mayor

I am a huge fan of OCAPP. I personally believe this program is one of the best "tools in the box." Each event leaves me extremely pleased with the level of customer service and true attention to my particular issue. This program is fantastic.

An environmental remediation company

As a town with lots of sewer issues, it's been a pleasure to work with the Office of Outreach. The personal approach made us more comfortable in sharing our challenges to make the corrections needed. We applied for a planning loan and look forward to working with them for the design and construction phases. This probably wouldn't have happened without the encouragement we received.

-Small Community

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

P.O. Box 1049
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049
Phone: (614) 644-2798

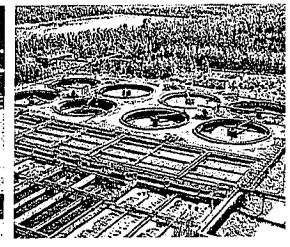
outreach.defa@epa.ohio.gov

epa.ohio.gov/defa

Compliance Assistance Hotline: (800) 329-7518
Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Need Help with Environmental Issues?



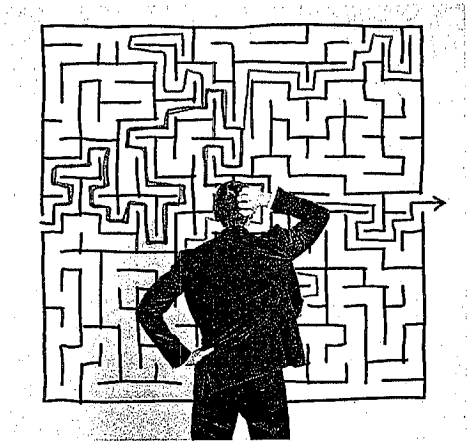
The Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance (DEFA) helps communities and businesses access compliance, technical and financial assistance for their environmental needs.

The Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance (DEFA)

Helping communities and businesses access compliance, technical and financial resources

Office of Outreach and Customer Support (OCS)

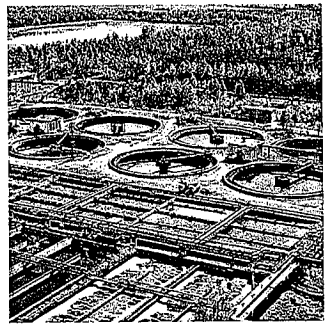
OCS reaches out to Ohio communities and businesses to help them understand what resources are available and guide them through the process of getting help, so their needs can be fully met in an expedient manner.



OCS connects customers to the environmental assistance they need, through:

- in-person meetings to guide customers to the appropriate financial and technical resources;
- coordinating outreach to specific industries, communities or other stakeholder groups;
- presenting an overview of DEFA services at meetings and conferences; and
- providing information about important topics such as compliance deadlines, training events and new resources through DEFA's monthly listserv updates and quarterly electronic newsletter. To receive this information, please email outreach.defa@epa.ohio.gov.

Office of Financial Assistance (OFA)



OFA works to improve the quality of Ohio's water resources by financing cost-effective and environmentally sound wastewater, storm water and drinking water infrastructure improvements and other water resource projects.

Infrastructure projects are primarily financed through the state's two revolving loan fund programs. OFA also provides funding to local governments, communities and businesses through the Recycling and Litter Prevention grant program. Additionally, technical assistance is available for small wastewater treatment plants struggling to achieve or maintain compliance with permit requirements.

The Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) provides financial and technical assistance to public or private applicants for planning, design and construction of a wide variety of wastewater infrastructure projects to protect or improve the quality of Ohio's water resources.

The Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) offers assistance for projects that address failing drinking water infrastructure and human health threats.

OFA's customer-focused approach includes working with applicants from the beginning of the funding process through project completion.

Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention (OCAPP)

OCAPP provides free and confidential assistance to Ohio businesses to help them comply with Ohio's environmental requirements, focusing on the needs of small business.

Many resources are available including:

- a toll-free hotline (800) 329-7518 staffed 8-5 Monday through Friday with environmental specialists who can answer compliance questions;
- help with Ohio EPA paperwork and permit applications;
- industry-specific compliance information, written in plain-English; and
- on-site assessment to help identify ways to achieve and maintain compliance with environmental requirements.

Free pollution prevention (P2) assessments also are available to help businesses identify and implement measures that can save money, increase business performance and benefit the environment.

OCAPP also administers the Encouraging Environmental Excellence (E3) Program. The E3 program recognizes businesses, industries, trade associations, professional organizations or local governments of Ohio for their commitment to environmental excellence.

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Onsite Pollution Prevention Assistance

*The Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention (OCAPP) provides **free and confidential** onsite assistance to help companies evaluate pollution prevention opportunities.*

Increase profits, productivity and efficiency while reducing costs and regulatory requirements with free and confidential onsite pollution prevention assistance from OCAPP.

How It Works

- OCAPP staff spend 2 - 4 hours visiting your facility at a date and time convenient to you
- Opening meeting to review background information
- Facility tour to examine processes and operations
- Closing meeting to collect additional information and review initial suggestions to reduce waste and save money

What You Receive

- Within 30 days, a draft report detailing ways to prevent pollution
- A final report focusing on those areas most important to your company
- Resources to go beyond the suggestions in the final report
- You are not obligated to complete any of the suggestions in the final report - it's yours to use at your convenience

For More Information

Contact the Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention (OCAPP) for more information.

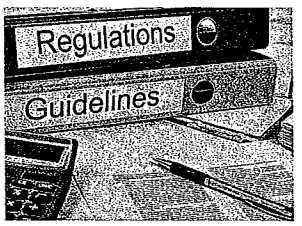
(800) 329-7518

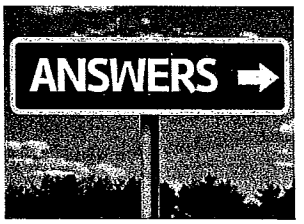
epa/ohio.gov/ocapp

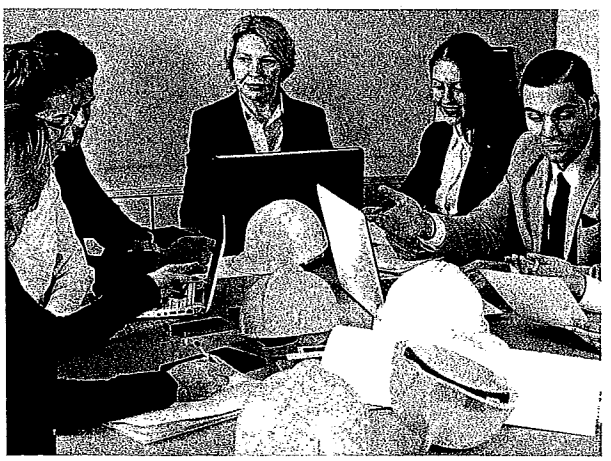
Ohio
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Need Help with Environmental Issues?

The Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention (OCAPP) provides ***free and confidential*** *onsite environmental assistance to help businesses understand and comply with environmental requirements.*





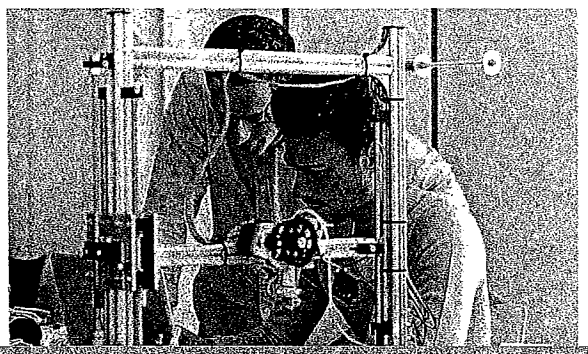


Any business in Ohio can receive free and confidential compliance and pollution prevention assistance.

OCAPP is an independent, non-regulatory office within Ohio EPA, and information obtained by the office is not subject to public records requests and is not shared with inspection or enforcement staff.

Many resources are available including:

- A toll-free confidential hotline (800) 329-7518 staffed 8-5 Monday through Friday with environmental specialists who can answer compliance questions;
- Confidential help with Ohio EPA paperwork and permit applications;
- Industry-specific compliance information, written in plain English; and
- Confidential on-site assessment to help identify ways to achieve and maintain compliance with environmental requirements.



Confidential Hotline
(800) 329-7518
epa.ohio.gov/ocapp

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

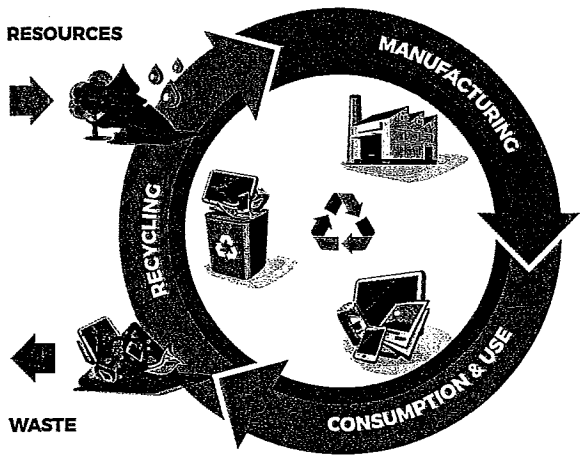
Ohio Materials Marketplace

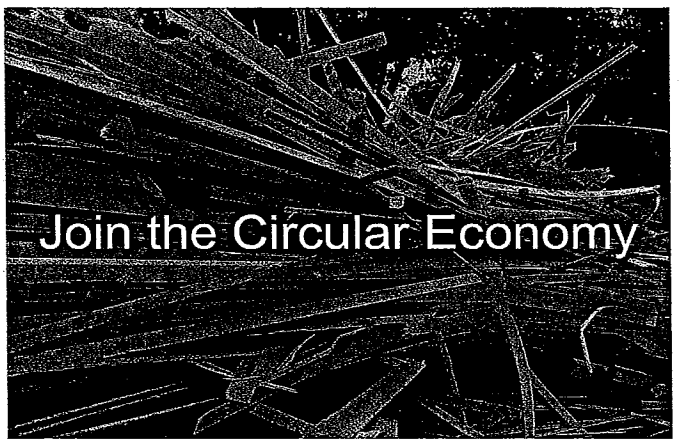
A Free Online Materials and Waste Exchange

The Materials Marketplace allows businesses and organizations to connect and find reuse and recycling solutions for waste and by-product materials.

Members of the marketplace can:

- **Post** *needed* and *available materials* for reuse/recycling
- **Communicate** with other users through an interactive messaging system
- **Save** money through substitution of raw material feedstocks or by avoiding landfill fees
- **Achieve** Zero Waste Goals while participating in Ohio's emerging Circular Economy





"This new service positions Ohio as a leader in the circular economy - promoting jobs, allowing for better efficiency and savings and helping remove materials from the waste stream."

-Craig W. Butler, Director

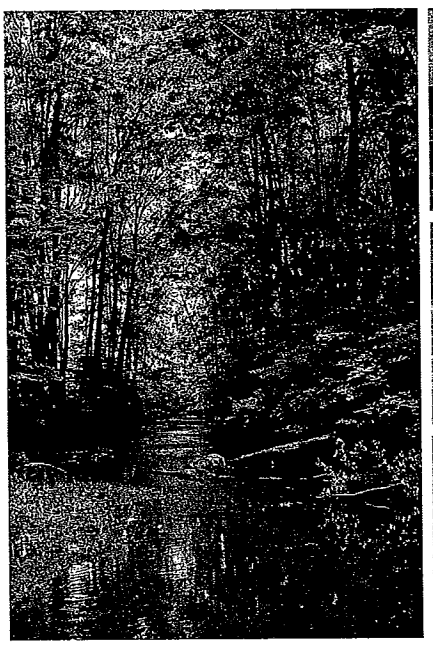
Get more information or join today

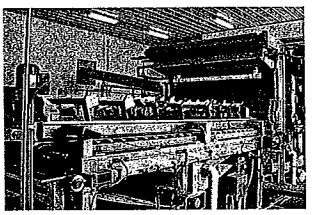
ohio.materialsmarketplace.org

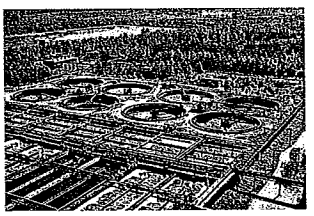
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

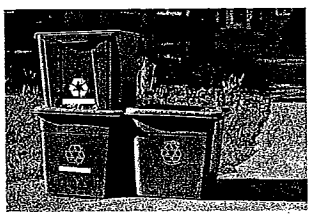
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

RESOURCE GUIDE









An overview of technical, compliance and financial assistance programs and resources to help Ohio communities and businesses with their environmental needs.

June 2016

Dear Partners and Stakeholders:

Ohio EPA's Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance (DEFA) has developed this Resource Guide to highlight several compliance, technical and financial assistance programs available to help Ohio communities and businesses with their environmental needs.

The development of this guide is part of DEFA's ongoing effort to seek new and more effective ways to reach our customers and share information about our services. Whether you need help with achieving regulatory compliance, building water-related infrastructure or even reducing operating costs and increasing profitability through waste minimization, DEFA can help!

We hope you find this guide a helpful resource. My staff and I are eager to hear from you, so we can help you identify and access the programs and resources that fit with your needs.

Sincerely,

Laurie Stevenson

Laurie Stevenson
Deputy Director for Business Relations
Chief, Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance
Ohio EPA

Contents

General Assistance

Outreach and Customer Support 4

Financial Assistance

Wastewater Infrastructure Funding 5

Storm Water Infrastructure Funding 6

Drinking Water Infrastructure Funding 7

Water Quality Restoration and Protection Funding 8

Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Funding 9

Home Sewage Treatment Repair and Replacement Funding 10

Recycling and Litter Prevention Funding 11

Technical and Compliance Assistance

Wastewater Treatment Plant Compliance Assistance Unit 12

Small Business Compliance Assistance Program 13

Materials Management and Exchange 14

Pollution Prevention Program 15

Awards and Recognition Programs 16

Webinars 17

Online Tools and Resources 18

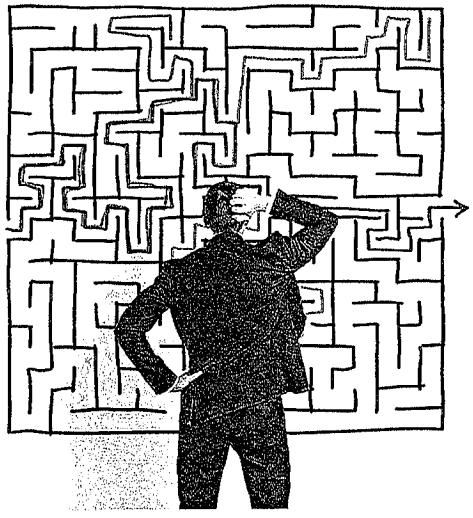
Outreach and Customer Support

DEFA's Office of Outreach and Customer Support (OCS) connects customers to the environmental assistance they need, through:

- In-person meetings to guide customers to the appropriate financial and technical resources.
- Providing speakers to present an overview of DEFA services at meetings and conferences.
- Coordinating outreach to specific industries or communities.
- Providing information about important topics such as compliance deadlines, training events and new resources through DEFA's monthly listserv updates and quarterly electronic newsletter.

OCS's goal is to proactively reach out to Ohio communities and businesses to help them understand what resources are available and guide them through the process of getting help, so that their needs can be fully met in an expedient and efficient manner.

OCS staff has connected more than 100 Ohio businesses and communities to valuable technical and financial resources.



Contact:
Joy Padgett
Office of Outreach
and Customer Support
(614) 644-3783
Joy.Padgett@epa.ohio.gov

Contact:
Pejmaan Fallah
Office of Outreach
and Customer Support
(614) 644-3666
Pejmaan.Fallah@epa.ohio.gov

Wastewater Infrastructure Funding

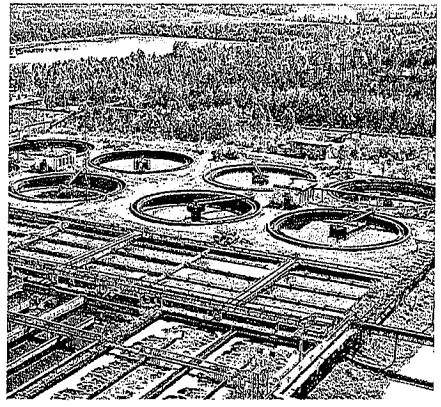
Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) Program

The WPCLF program provides funding to communities for planning, designing, upgrading and constructing public wastewater systems.

The WPCLF offers below-market interest rate loans. Direct loans offering standard, small and hardship interest rates are available to borrowers.

Since it began, the WPCLF has awarded more than $7 billion for infrastructure improvements in Ohio, and awards an average of $400 million in loan funding annually.

Special discounted interest rates to support green infrastructure and other water-quality improvement priorities are available for qualifying projects. Local governments may use WPCLF loans to start up their own local revolving loan funds or linked deposit programs.



The WPCLF can fund all eligible portions of proposed projects, or it can be combined with any other funding sources.

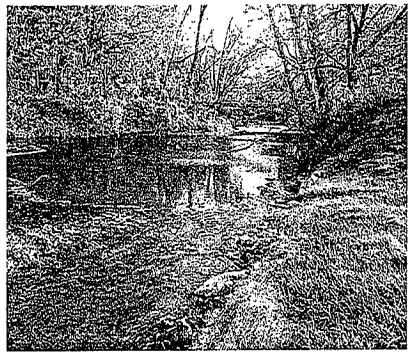
Technical staff in DEFA's Office of Financial Assistance have extensive experience in assisting communities in planning, design review and project implementation.

DEFA's customer-focused approach includes working with applicants from the beginning of the funding process through project completion.

Contact:
Kevin Spurbeck
Office of Financial Assistance
(614) 644-3645
Kevin.Spurbeck@epa.ohio.gov

Water Quality Restoration and Protection Project Funding

Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program (WRRSP) Program



In conjunction with a sponsoring entity participating in the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) program, the WRRSP finances projects that protect or restore Ohio's high quality water resources, based on designated aquatic life uses under Ohio Water Quality Standards.

An eligible WRRSP project must, by itself or in combination with other activities, protect or restore aquatic habitat sufficient to fully meet or protect the designated uses of the benefitted water resource, as defined under Ohio's water quality standards. It must also help implement Ohio's Nonpoint Source Management Plan.

Eligible projects include restoration activities such as stream bank stabilization, dam removal, riparian re-vegetation, and protection activities such as the purchase of land or use limitations for permanent conservation.

Contact:
Steve Malone
Office of Financial Assistance
(614) 644-3663
Steve.Malone@epa.ohio.gov

Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Loan Funds

Linked Deposit Program

The Linked Deposit Program offers low-interest financial assistance to individuals, private entities, or governmental entities that implement projects to control a source of nonpoint pollution recognized in Ohio's Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Management Plan.

Through this program, linked deposit loans from participating financial institutions can produce a savings of up to five percent when compared to market rates.

The Linked Deposit Program applies to large scale (county, watershed or statewide) projects with individual activities that are approved by local agencies.

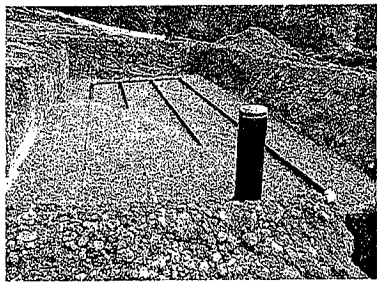
Eligible projects include agricultural best management practices, forestry best management practices and home sewage treatment system repairs or replacements.

Contact:
Kevin Spurbeck
Office of Financial Assistance
(614) 644-3645
Kevin.Spurbeck@epa.ohio.gov

Home Sewage Treatment Repair and Replacement Funding

HSTS Linked Deposit Program

The Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF), in conjunction with local health districts and participating banks, has also offered individual property owners reduced interest rates on bank loans to repair or replace failing home sewage treatment systems (HSTS). The local health district must have an established linked deposit program with Ohio EPA in order for a property owner to participate in the program.



If a local health district wants to offer a linked deposit HSTS loan program to their residents, they need to submit a WPCLF nomination form to Ohio EPA's Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance (DEFA). The health district needs to prepare a plan to show how it will administer the program, including identifying the number of failing systems, types of improvements and how it will monitor the performance of the HSTS installations. Once the plan is approved, the health district will enter into an agreement with Ohio EPA for the implementation of the HSTS linked deposit program. A formal agreement between a participating bank and Ohio EPA must also be in place before the program can be administered.

Program Year 2016 Principal Forgiveness

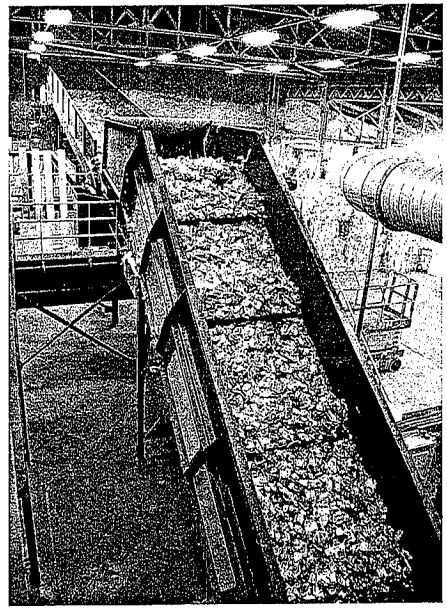
During the WPCLF Program Year 2016 (January 2016-December 2016), Ohio EPA will make funding available for home sewage treatment system repairs and replacements.

The total (maximum) allocation of principal forgiveness funds for 2016 is $13.3 million and will be made available to 57 local health departments (LHDs) submitting applications to the WPCLF for funding. The program and the funds will be administered directly from Ohio EPA to the LHDs.

Contact:
Adam Pierce
Office of Financial Assistance
(614) 644-3642
Adam.Pierce@epa.ohio.gov

Recycling and Litter Prevention Funding

Ohio EPA's Recycling and Litter Prevention Grant program provides funding to support communities, businesses and non-profit organizations that initiate or expand programs, facilities and operations that will strengthen recycling markets and support litter prevention efforts. Available grants include:



Community Grants

For local governments to address litter prevention efforts and to purchase equipment to collect and process recyclables.

Litter Management Grants

For local communities and non-profits to implement litter collection and tire amnesty programs.

Recycling Market Development Grants

For Ohio businesses and non-profit organizations, through a governmental sponsor, to create or expand the types of recycled products that are marketed. Funding is available for equipment specifically needed to remanufacture recyclable materials into bulk raw material or finished products.

Scrap Tire Grants

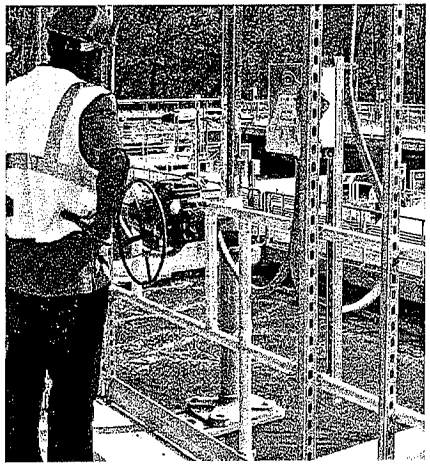
For Ohio businesses, communities and non-profit organizations, through a governmental sponsor, to create or expand the types of scrap tire products they can market. Funds are also available for beneficial use projects that incorporate the use of Ground Tire Rubber (GTR) and Recycled Asphalt Shingles (RAS).

Contact:
Chet Chaney
Office of Financial Assistance
(614) 728-0043
Chet.Chaney@epa.ohio.gov

Wastewater Treatment Plant Compliance Assistance Unit

Technical experts in the Compliance Assistance Unit (CAU) of DEFA work with local wastewater treatment operators to help identify, troubleshoot and resolve operational issues at the plant. The goal of the unit is to partner with the plant and local community to help resolve issues and return the plant to compliance through technical assistance and training. The unit is a non-regulatory program within DEFA and CAU staff work statewide.

Services of the CAU include:



- performing plant performance evaluations;
- troubleshooting plant problems;
- helping to find solutions for improving plant performance;
- training plant operators on more effective methods of process control;
- determining current plant loadings and capacities;
- helping to formulate and implement preventive maintenance programs;
- helping to facilitate inflow and infiltration evaluation of sewer system;
- reviewing/evaluating new treatment technologies; and,
- providing training presentations at wastewater trade seminars and workshops.

Many plants not only achieve compliance, but have lowered their operating costs by participating in the program.

Contact:
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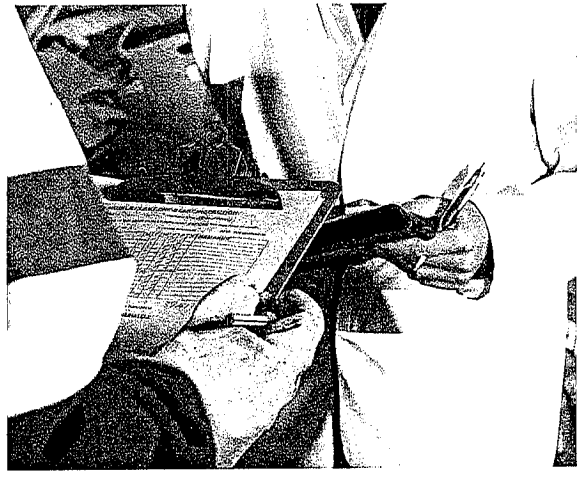
Small Business Compliance Assistance Program

DEFA's Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention (OCAPP) provides free and confidential assistance to help small businesses comply with Ohio's environmental requirements. OCAPP services include:



- a toll-free hotline (800) 329-7518 staffed 8-5 Monday through Friday with environmental specialists who can answer compliance questions;
- help with Ohio EPA paperwork and permit applications;
- industry-specific compliance information, written in plain-English;
- a quarterly newsletter and monthly email update with information on the latest regulations, publications and training events;
- workshops and webinars; and,
- on-site compliance assessments to help identify ways to achieve and maintain compliance with environmental requirements.

Contact:
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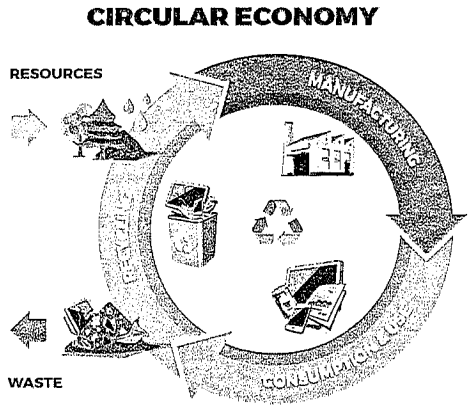
Sustainable Materials Management Program

DEFA's Sustainable Materials Management Unit (SMMU) focuses on promoting the sustainable and efficient use of materials throughout their life cycles, from the point of resource extraction through material recycling or final disposal



SMMU actively engages in partnerships with local governments, regional planning organizations, businesses, trade organizations and academia to develop economic opportunities for Ohio businesses and not-for-profit organizations to facilitate the reuse of industrial and commercial materials.

Services of the Sustainable Materials Management Unit include:

- Establishing and maintaining the Ohio Materials Marketplace to facilitate the reuse of industrial and commercial materials.
- Assisting in identification and expansion of end uses for materials that have limited markets due to insufficient supply, quality, processing capacity, or transportation issues.
- Advancing the research and development of source materials or products manufactured with recyclables.
- Supporting landfill diversion to aid Ohio in achieving the state's recycling goals.
- Generating economic savings, environmental sustainability and new business development.

Contact:

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Pollution Prevention Program

DEFA's Pollution Prevention Program is available to help businesses, organizations and other entities find ways to reduce waste and save money.

The program offers on-site pollution prevention (P2) assessments to identify and evaluate opportunities to reduce wastes and pollution. Companies can use P2 assessments to identify ways to reduce costs associated with waste generation and disposal. OCAPP's P2 assessments will challenge your company to optimize the use of resources, minimize non-product related losses and increase productivity.

P2 assessments can help companies who lack the available time, resources and technical expertise to identify and evaluate potential opportunities to reduce losses. If your company is struggling with losses from operations or processes and is looking to improve both economic and environmental performance, you should consider a P2 assessment.

DEFA performs on-site assistance and P2 assessments for many types of businesses including chemical manufacturers, electroplaters, metal product manufacturers, printers, dry cleaners, food processors, plastic product manufacturers and wood finishers.

The office also has plain-English factsheets, guidance documents and toolkits to help businesses identify P2 ideas that work for them.

Contact:

Mike Kelley

Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention

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Awards and Recognition Programs

Encouraging Environmental Excellence (E3) Awards Program

The Encouraging Environmental Excellence (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. The program provides three levels of recognition.

Achievement Level

Recognizing organizations that complete environmentally beneficial activities.

Silver Level

Recognizing organizations that exceed regulatory compliance obligations and have exceptional achievements in environmental stewardship.

Gold Level

Recognizing organizations that exceed regulatory compliance obligations and commit to long-term achievements in environmental stewardship.

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Webinars

DEFA's Office of Outreach and Customer Support (OCS) hosts webinars throughout the year to provide relevant and timely information about current regulations, programs and services.

Previous webinars have included topics such as Understanding the Asbestos Notification Requirements, Storm Water Control Requirements, Pollution Prevention services and how to apply for funding programs.

These free webinars include a live presentation and the opportunity to submit questions for discussion at the conclusion of the presentation. Following the completion of the webinar, participant feedback is requested to confirm that the information provided was understandable and on-target in helping businesses and communities understand their compliance responsibilities and the compliance assistance resources that are available from DEFA.

We invite you to sign up for our monthly eBlast newsletter that includes notifications about these upcoming events by contacting us directly. In addition to airing live, each webinar is recorded and posted to youtube.com/user/PIC1049 for viewing at your convenience.

Contact:

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Online Tools and Resources

Ohio EPA Permit Wizard
https://ohioepa.custhelp.com/app/opa

An online tool to help you identify the EPA permit, licensing and registration requirements that may apply to your business. You are asked a series of questions to help pinpoint your permitting requirements. The tool is especially useful if you are starting a business, however, it can also be used for existing businesses to check on whether they have the proper environmental permits.

Online Customer Support Center
https://ohioepa.custhelp.com

Additional online tools and resources that can help you in navigating your environmental compliance requirements including:

- **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) database**
  Search for frequently asked questions about regulations, permitting and compliance
- **Online Form to Submit a Question to Ohio EPA**
  If you can't find what you're looking for, ask Ohio EPA for help
- **Publications Catalog**
  Look for publications from Ohio EPA
- **Training Catalog**
  Look for compliance-related training information and resources
- **Subscribe to Information from Ohio EPA**
- **Submit a Question**

Contact:

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101 E Main St, Batavia, OH 45103, USA

My name is Chris Hicks. I live at 444 Woodwick Court, Cincinnati Ohio 45255 which is in Union Township, Clermont County.

For some time now Commissioner Uible, with at least an awareness of the other Commissioners, has been involved in a secretive scheme to have our county join the ranks of counties, like Hamilton, who subsidize professional sports teams. His plan, which is still secret, I believe involves issuing debt through the port authority for land in Batavia Village made possible in part on raising the hotel tax across the county which impacts Miami and Union Townships, where most all of the hotels are located.

In a June 9 email to me, Mr. Uible confirmed the plan involves a sports team with a $5m payroll. That team is FC Cincinnati. Mr. Uible defended the deal as having been approved by hoteliers 6-8 months ago which means the plan, ant that it would be hidden, was known before last November's elections. Uible's claim of hotelier support was also interesting because, in writing, he said this of a hotelier who opposed the plan: " **I will likely report him to his management if the 1% doesn't go through and he will be fired."**

This seems an incredible abuse of power and calls into question the use of threats and coercion to achieve hotelier support but I have actually seen nothing to even substantiate that claim.

The clandestine plan may be a great plan. Who knows. It has been hidden from the public and hidden from all the elected officials in Miami and Union Township. I am disturbed by two things in particular:

1. FIRST - Mr. Uible is head of the Republican party, the head commissioner and on the CVB board. This is too much power in one man and has already been used in corrupting ways. The threat to a hotel employee is one example. A more disturbing example is that just last week Mr. Uible tried to use his authority as head of the party to target me. He called an Emergency CCRCC Executive Committee Meeting to "address a newly appointed committee member", me, and in a separate note described me to Rick Grant, the party Executive for Wayne Township, as follows: "**I believe that Chris Hicks' goals are insincere and nefarious.**" It fizzled but was a clear abuse of power to target me for exposing and opposing his secret plan.

   Additionally, Mr. Uible creates an illusion that his role on the CVB is mandated in some way. Last week he said in the same email to Rick Grant "As a commissioner, I am on the nine-member board of the CVB as per the Ohio Revised Code." The ORC does not require a Commissioner to be on the CVB board and, in fact no other county in our region has a Commissioner on their CVB board. It allows for backdoor deals not visible to the public, like this FC Cincinnati plan.

   The appearance and actual actions of Mr. Uible are not in keeping with the public interest. I call for immediate change.

2. SECOND - Moving our county to the ranks of those who subsidize pro-sports, FC Cincinnati in this case, is a major strategic decision. It should be being discussed in the

clear light. Mr. Uible is at the center of the secrecy but I believe all Commissioners were aware of this deal and allowed it not to be discussed in public and for it not to be shared with elected officials in the townships impacted. In that sense, you all are responsible.

It is wrong that there was no public visibility or engagement of elected officials. It is outright bizarre that, Mr. Uible and maybe this whole commission, does not seem to have a single relationship with any elected official in the two biggest townships in the county to have even quietly sought the advice and counsel of one single elected or appointed official in either of the two biggest townships in the County. Not one.

As a Union Township resident that scares the heck out of me. It is not what I expect of my leaders, in concept, all united in the same party.

On June 13, Mr. Uible offered the following in writing: "if any of you copied on this email would like to sit down and discuss this further I'm available." Even to this day he has refused all meetings including with me and with Matt Beamer, Union Township Trustee. I mention Matt only because Mr. Uible acknowledged his request in writing but will not actually meet. Most of us are simply ignored.

As you all know, last week Miami Township Trustees and Union Township Trustees went on the record as unanimously opposing this deal and how we got here. The State rep for the impacted area, John Becker, opposes this deal and has offered to re-introduce the tax increase clean, if it were pulled from the budget now, after Miami and Union Township later approve the plan. Representative Green, who has pushed this but does not represent the impacted areas and Sen. Uecker refuse to stand with the people. We will see how that plays out in an environment where "drain the swamp" is chanted by millions. The tax, though, will eventually come before this body. On the current course, I fear a "well" so positioned that it will become an impossible political choice. A vote for the tax may well amount to an endorsement of backroom lobbyist driven deals making major strategic shifts for the county without the input of the people or their elected officials. It is a bad course.

So, what do I ask? I would like one of you to make a motion that Clermont County send a letter to the Governor forthwith asking that if this tax increase should survive in the passed budget, that it be line item vetoed. Then vote as transparent leaders on the record up or down right now, today. Let the public see clearly where you stand not just on the tax but on the horrific and divisive process that has led us here.

Mr. Uible, you make the motion to show you are against backroom deals kept secret from the public and our elected officials.

Mr. Painter or Mr. Humphrey, you make the motion to show you were not willing accomplices in this series of events.

Frankly, let it get then voted down if it must but be on the record for the people. One of you make the motion. Be on the record. If none of you will, or no one will second it becomes clear – you are all complicit in the series of events. Make the motion. Be on the record. Stand for the people not the swamp.

I thank you for the opportunity to get what I have said on the public record.