

Neighborhood Environmental Partners Program (NEP) Awards

Michigianians are blessed to be surrounded by one of the most unique and pristine environments found anywhere in the world, yet, we must all work to ensure that it stays that way. The DEQ has the responsibility to take action when our environment is threatened, but it is also important to recognize the efforts of those who take it upon themselves to improve our environment, as well as their communities.

The Neighborhood Environmental Partners (NEP) Program was created by the DEQ in 2004 to identify businesses that have taken the initiative to work together with their local community to implement environmental projects that will have lasting results for years to come.



Six facilities received the NEP Award this year. They were:

- Consumers Energy – J.R. Whiting Plant
- General Motors – Flint Metal Center
- General Motors – Lansing Delta Township and Regional Stamping Plant
- General Motors Powertrain – Warren Transmission Plant
- Pfizer Global Manufacturing – Kalamazoo
- Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation – Ontonagon Mill

In order to receive an award, businesses must participate in projects that have an ongoing beneficial effect on the environment as well as their communities. Businesses are also separated into small businesses (having fewer than 500 employees) and large businesses (having more than 500 employees). These six companies were awarded certificates of recognition for their outstanding efforts. Each participated in projects ranging from river clean-ups to helping preserve endangered plant species.

Ed Piasecki, Director of Regional Operations with General Motors, discussed the importance of these efforts by saying, “We’re very proud of GM for winning this award. We’ve been working quite awhile to improve our environmental performance – and to minimize our impact on the local ecosystem.”

For more information on NEP or how to participate in the future, please visit www.michigan.gov/deqnep.