



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
LANSING



DAN WYANT
DIRECTOR

April 29, 2015

Dear Michigan Residents:

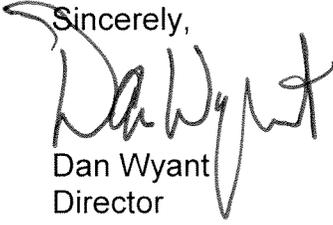
The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is pleased to announce that it will be accepting applications for the 2015 Neighborhood Environmental Partners (NEP) Program. All entities, public and/or private, are eligible and encouraged to apply.

Two important guiding principles for the DEQ are to be leaders in environmental stewardship and partners in economic development. The NEP Program exemplifies these principles, recognizing communities, businesses, and their partners for their environmental stewardship activities.

You can apply for NEP recognition by having completed environmentally-focused projects in your community in 2014. Applications will be accepted through June 1, 2015, and all applicants meeting the basic criteria will be announced in July 2015. More information regarding the application process may be found at <http://www.michigan.gov/deqnep>.

If you have questions concerning the NEP Program, please contact Mr. Jeff Spencer, NEP Coordinator, Pollution Prevention and Stewardship Unit, Office of Environmental Assistance, at 517-284-6879 or spencerj3@michigan.gov.

Sincerely,


Dan Wyant
Director



2015 NEIGHBORHOOD ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERS PROGRAM

Introduction

The Neighborhood Environmental Partners (NEP) Program is an environmental recognition program created by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to encourage and reward communities, 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

Communities, businesses, and neighborhood groups can participate by completing "Neighborhood Partner" activities. Activity categories include: environmental improvements, environmental education, and environmental mentoring. Participants can then apply for NEP recognition.

Applications for NEP recognition should be focused on the "project," not an individual facility. All projects meeting the basic criteria of a community project will be recognized, including all partner organizations (i.e., community groups, businesses, local units of government, non-profits, schools, and institutions).

Application Schedule

Activities completed within 2014 are eligible for NEP recognition.

Applications will be accepted from April 29, 2015 through June 1, 2015.

A recognition for all projects will be made in July 2015.

The NEP Program is made up of five easy-to-follow steps:

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

1. **PLAN**

Organize a community or neighborhood stakeholders group. Share your environmental vision 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 that you can use to get started.

2. **IMPLEMENT**

Communities, 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 NEP Application Form and attach a description of your environmental project, including pictures, flyers/publications, photos, any other promotional materials, and a list of all participating partner organizations.

Send your application electronically to Jeff Spencer, NEP Coordinator, at spencerj3@michigan.gov.

For additional information and questions, please contact Jeff Spencer at **517-284-6879** or spencer3@michigan.gov.

4. **EVALUATE**

Each NEP application will be evaluated by the DEQ. Only applications received prior to the deadline (June 1, 2015) will be reviewed. The DEQ Director reserves the right to make a final decision on all applications.

5. **RECOGNIZE**

A listing of all NEP-eligible projects will be announced in July 2015. An NEP certificate will be mailed to each participating group or organization listed on your NEP application. A DEQ press release will be developed, recognizing all NEP applicants who meet the program criteria. This press release will be published on the DEQ Web site.



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSISTANCE
PO BOX 30457
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NEIGHBORHOOD ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERS 2015 APPLICATION FORM

AUTHORITY: PA 451 OF 1994, AS AMENDED; COMPLETION IS VOLUNTARY
Activities completed in 2014 are eligible for recognition under the 2015 Neighborhood Environmental Partners (NEP) Program. Applications will be accepted through June 1, 2015. The complete listing of 2015 NEP recognized projects will be announced in July of 2015. Facilities, communities, and any other entities are eligible to apply for NEP recognition.

Please complete this form and provide required information listed below.

NEP Project Name: _____

Project Partners: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, ZIP Code: _____

Applicant Phone: _____ - _____ - _____ **Applicant Fax:** _____ - _____ - _____

Contact Person: _____

Applicant's E-Mail: _____

State Representative's Name _____ **District #** _____

State Senator's Name _____ **District #** _____

All applicants must submit the following:

- A detailed description of the environmental project and its goals. A good description will include information on the project (i.e., who, what, when, where) and all partnering organizations.
- A description of how the projects activities have improved the neighborhood and/or community.
- Please attach a list of all participating partner organization(s). Include the organization name(s), mailing address, telephone number, and the contact person's name and e-mail.
- A description of the projects ongoing and any future commitments to the neighborhood environmental project(s).
- A description of how your organization has worked in partnership with neighborhood, business, or community groups to implement this environmental project.

"I have reviewed this application and its attachments for accuracy and to ensure that the project(s) meet the requirements for receiving Neighborhood Environmental Partner recognition. I certify that this project was implemented as described."

Sponsoring Organization _____

Authorizing Official's Signature _____ **Date** _____

Authorizing Official's Name (Printed Name and Title)

Send your application and nominations to (electronic submissions preferred):

**Jeff Spencer
NEP Coordinator
MDEQ-Office of Environmental Assistance
P.O. Box 30457
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7957
spencerj3@michigan.gov**

Each NEP application will be evaluated by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Only applications received prior to the deadline of June 1, 2015 will be evaluated for 2015 recognition. The Director of the DEQ reserves the right to make the final decision on all community projects receiving recognition. All successful applicants will receive recognition in the form of a certificate identifying the "project" including all partnering organizations.

An NEP certificate of recognition will be mailed to each participating group or organization listed in your NEP application. A DEQ press release will be developed recognizing each identified project and participants and published on the DEQ Web site.

For additional information, please see the Neighborhood Environmental Partners Web site at: <http://www.michigan.gov/deqnep>.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will not discriminate against any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, color, marital status, disability, political beliefs, height, weight, genetic information or sexual orientation. Questions or concerns should be directed to the Quality of Life – Office of Human Resources, P.O. Box 30473, Lansing, MI 48909-7973.