



2008 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 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 Award. Applicants must be in good standing and compliant with all applicable environmental regulations in order to qualify for a NEP Award. In addition to those receiving NEP 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 2008 are eligible for a NEP Award.

➤ Applications will be accepted April 1, 2009 through April 30, 2009.

➤ DEQ award announcements will be made in June 2009.

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND SERVICES DIVISION
PO BOX 30457
LANSING MI 48909-7957
www.michigan.gov/deq
Environmental Assistance Center
800-662-9278
February 2009 • #9858



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 989-894-6238, or by e-mail at youngm1@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
401 Ketchum Street, Suite B
Bay City, Michigan 48708
Fax: 989-891-9213 Phone: 989-894-6238
E-mail: youngm1@michigan.gov**

4. **EVALUATE**

Each NEP application will be evaluated by the DEQ. Only applications received prior to the application deadline (April 30, 2009) 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.

2007
Neighborhood Environmental Partners
Award Winners

Consumers Energy – J.R. Whiting Plant

The Consumers Energy - J.R. Whiting Plant and its community partners were awarded the 2007 NEP 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.

Detroit Edison – River Rouge Power Plant

The Detroit Edison – River Rouge Power Plant and its community partners received a 2007 NEP Award for implementing several excellent local environmental projects. The Detroit Edison – River Rouge Power Plant participated in restoring a section of the Detroit River shoreline, creating a habitat for fish and wildlife using “soft-shore engineering” techniques. The Detroit Edison also participated with local business, city officials, and local citizens in the River Rouge Clean-up Days. In 2007, plant employees additionally volunteered to clean-up the entrance to Belanger Park and planted native plants at the park entrance. The Detroit Edison – River Rouge Power Plant also participated in Earth Day activities that included cleaning the greenway along Beiangar Park Drive, outside of the plant. The Detroit Edison employees annually collect Christmas trees from the community and place them on plant grounds to create a wildlife habitat. The Detroit Edison staff in addition teamed up with Southgate Anderson School to create nesting for terns (sea birds). The high school students came to the site and helped haul gravel and sand to lay the foundation for the nesting platforms. The Detroit Edison employees also worked with the local Boy Scouts to build bluebird boxes that are now located on the plant grounds. The Detroit Edison employees additionally work with local conservation groups on habitat projects, including Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Falcon Program. The facility has also raised money to assist a local raptor rescue/rehabilitator.

General Motors – Flint Metal Center

The General Motors (GM) – Flint Metal Center and its community partners received a 2007 NEP 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 (HHW) waste 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 2007 NEP Award for implementing several excellent local environmental projects. The GM - LDT plant; Michigan State University, Fisheries and Wildlife Department; and the Eaton County Conservation District organized a “Bio Blitz” event at the GM facility. The event hosted 500 scientists and community participants. Wetland and forest management needs were identified, as well as an inventory of flora and fauna. Three wildlife presentations were given to the public and a Habitat Scout Badge Program was established. The GM - LDT developed a Habitat Education program at its facility in cooperation with local community organizations and schools. The GM - LDT also 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

The General Motors (GM) - Warren Transmission Plant and its community partners received a 2007 NEP 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 with area elementary schools near the facility to celebrate Earth Day, and has also partnered with the Macomb County Health Department to offer household hazardous waste collections for employees and contractors at the plant. The GM - Warren Transmission Plant additionally developed plans to create a Wildlife Habitat Initiative on-site. The initiative plans included a ring neck pheasant habitat, butterfly garden, and habitat for native flora and fauna in the area.

The Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation

The Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation and its community partners received a 2007 NEP Award for its 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. The 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. The 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 from the project being donated to area schools. The facility also hosts environmental tours and offers environmental internships to area schools.

United States Army Garrison – Detroit Arsenal

United States Army Garrison – Detroit Arsenal (Detroit Arsenal) and its community partners received a 2007 NEP Award for implementing several excellent local environmental projects. The Detroit Arsenal participated in Earth Day activities at the Pigeon-Bay Port Lakes Schools in Elkton and at Sienna Heights University. The Detroit Arsenal also implemented a toner cartridge recycling program; the money generated by the program was donated to the installation's child development center. The Detroit Arsenal additionally setup three collection programs, an eye glass and hearing aid collection program with 1,588 pairs of glasses and 19 hearing aids collected and donated to the Lions Club, a personal cell phone collection program that has generated money for the Army Morale Welfare Recreation and Civilian Welfare Fund started in 2005; to date 1,332 cellular telephones, 108 Blackberrys, and 41 beepers have been collected and recycled and a personal computer collection program, which have resulted in nearly 7 tons (6.8825) of electronic computer equipment being collected and recycled. The Detroit Arsenal also established a vanpool. Forty-six vans are currently in service, with over 364 participants.

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 989-894-6238; or
2. E-mail Michael Young, at youngml@michigan.gov.