



2009

## NEIGHBORHOOD ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERS PROGRAM

*Fact Sheet*

### Introduction

The Neighborhood Environmental Partners (NEP) Program is a competitive environmental awards initiative created by the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) 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 DNRE, 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 2009 are eligible for a NEP Award.

➤ Applications will be accepted February 1, 2010 through March 31, 2010.

➤ DNRE award announcements will be made in June 2010.

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT  
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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 DNRE's NEP Web site at, [www.michigan.gov/deqnep](http://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](mailto: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 DNRE's NEP Web site at, [www.michigan.gov/deqnep](http://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  
DNRE-OPPCA  
401 Ketchum Street, Suite B  
Bay City, Michigan 48708  
Fax: 989-891-9213 Phone: 989-894-6238  
E-mail: [youngm1@michigan.gov](mailto:youngm1@michigan.gov)**

4. **EVALUATE**

Each NEP application will be evaluated by the DNRE. Only applications received prior to the application deadline (March 31, 2010) will be evaluated. The DNRE 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 DNRE press release will be developed for each award cycle, recognizing all NEP award winners. This press release will be published on the DNRE Web site.