



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

JIM SYGO
INTERIM DIRECTOR

Dear Clean Corporate Citizens and Pollution Prevention Partners:

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is pleased to offer the "Neighborhood Environmental Partners" (NEP) Program to its Clean Corporate Citizens and all of its Pollution Prevention Partners again this year. The DEQ values the importance of interaction and communication between businesses, local government, and their communities. The goal of the NEP Program is to competitively award businesses and communities who together commit the time and resources necessary to achieve environmental excellence in their community. Only the best projects submitted will be selected and recognized for their environmental achievements.

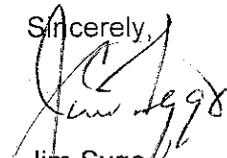
The NEP Program reinforces many of the strong relationships and creative projects you have already implemented that improve the environment and quality of life within your communities.

The NEP Program seeks to encourage creativity in engaging the community to improve the local environment. You and your community partners can participate in the NEP Program by developing an environmental mission statement and completing environmental projects and/or initiatives in your community. In order to provide some ideas, the NEP Program has established activity categories that are posted on our Internet site, at www.michigan.gov/deqnep; however, this by no means is meant to limit your options or opportunities.

We hope you will consider participating in this initiative and serving as a role model for businesses throughout the state. We have enclosed for your use the NEP Application and Fact Sheet. Applications for the 2009 awards will be accepted beginning February 1, 2010, and are due by March 31, 2010. The 2009 awards will be announced in June 2010.

If you have questions concerning the NEP Program, please contact Mr. Michael Young, NEP Program Coordinator, Pollution Prevention and Compliance Assistance Section, Office of Pollution Prevention and Compliance Assistance, at 989-894-6238, or you may contact me.

Sincerely,



Jim Sygo
Interim Director
517-373-7917

Enclosures

cc: Ms. JoAnn Merrick, Chief of Staff, DEQ
Mr. Frank J. Ruswick, Jr., Senior Policy Advisor, DEQ
Mr. Bryce Feighner, DEQ
Ms. Marcia Horan, DEQ
Mr. Richard Alexander, DEQ
Mr. Michael Young, DEQ