



NEWS RELEASE

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Ohio EPA Director Honors University Hospitals Case Medical Center for Environmental Stewardship

Ohio EPA Director Craig W. Butler visited University Hospitals (UH) Case Medical Center today to recognize the hospital as the first in Ohio to reach the highest standard of environmental excellence and stewardship through the Ohio Encouraging Environmental Excellence (E3) program.

“As the first hospital to receive a gold level Encouraging Environmental Excellence Award, University Hospitals Case Medical Center sets an example for other hospitals to follow to improve efficiency while implementing environmentally beneficial programs,” said Director Butler. “Ohio EPA believes following their lead to find innovative ways to update processes and improve sustainability will make Ohio an even healthier place.”

“We are proud to be recognized by Ohio EPA for our commitment to environmental stewardship,” said Ron Dzedzicki, Chief Operating Officer, UH Case Medical Center. “As a health system, our sustainability efforts aim to enhance the well-being of our patients and families, employees and the local community.”

Ohio EPA’s E3 program recognizes Ohio businesses and other organizations for completing environmentally beneficial activities and is an incentive for companies to commit to ongoing environmental stewardship. E3 recognition has three levels, with gold being the highest. To earn all three awards, a business or organization must have an excellent environmental compliance record, exceed regulatory compliance obligations and complete environmental stewardship activities that show a strong commitment to reduce waste, lower emissions and improve environmental performance.

UH Case Medical Center demonstrated there are a variety of efficiency and pollution prevention opportunities in hospitals by participating in all the challenges set forth in the Practice Greenhealth Healthier Hospitals initiative, which includes: less waste; safer chemicals; leaner energy use; smarter purchasing; healthier foods; and engaged leadership challenges. UH Case Medical Center found that retrofitting lighting by changing to LEDs in operating rooms immediately improved energy efficiency and reduced maintenance costs due to longer bulb life. The hospital also reformulated contents of surgical kits to reduce costs and landfill waste, and by increasing the number of reusable containers for regulated medical and pharmaceutical waste, the hospital saved more than 70 tons of plastic from incineration. UH Case Medical Center improved its composting efforts, diverting 67 tons of food waste.

Ohio EPA’s Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention encourages hospitals to pursue recognition for their environmental stewardship efforts with assistance from programs such as the Healthier Hospital Initiative and Ohio EPA’s Encouraging Environmental

Excellence program, which recognizes outstanding environmental stewardship practices. Nominations will be accepted this fall for the 2017 awards cycle. To learn more about the E3 program and how to be nominated, visit www.epa.ohio.gov/ohioe3.aspx or contact Ohio EPA's Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention at 1-800-329-7518.

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www.epa.ohio.gov

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency was created in 1972 to consolidate efforts to protect and improve air quality, water quality and waste management in Ohio. Since then, air pollutants dropped by as much as 90 percent; large rivers meeting standards improved from 21 percent to 89 percent; and hundreds of polluting, open dumps were replaced with engineered landfills and an increased emphasis on waste reduction and recycling.