

# Citizens' Guide To Environmental Protection

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# Preface

The *Citizens' Guide to Environmental Protection* gives the public information that helps plan and achieve a healthy environment. This guide is designed for community members who are concerned about both real and perceived environmental problems.

Working on environmental issues involves an *environmental triad* :

- **Citizens**
- **Regulated industry**
- **Government**
  - Legislative – elected officials from towns, cities, counties, and the state
  - Executive – people appointed by the governor to run agencies such as EPA, Commerce, Parks, ODNR, etc.

Each of these three groups has its own interests and goals. Each will evaluate problems depending on their point of view. It is not surprising that one group does not view another group's problem in the same way. This guide offers many suggestions for getting results from communication with various groups and provides useful contacts. However, with many different opinions and goals, the process can become lengthy.

Another consideration is the *comparative risk* of a problem. With enough money, time, and personnel, many environmental concerns could disappear, but that is seldom possible. Someone must evaluate how important the issue is in comparison to other threats. Deciding where the most positive environmental impact can be made with the money and people available means that other areas won't be addressed.

A specific environmental problem also has degrees of concern. Industry, citizens, and government agencies must agree on a priority list. Ideally, the whole situation should be mitigated, but that is seldom the case. However, meetings and agreements will be most effective if all three members of the environmental triad are present in meetings and kept informed.

## Communications That Get Results

This guide provides you with resources that you can contact about environmental concerns (see the Contacts section of this guide). It lists both phone numbers and web addresses so that you can find information or contract a person either by phone or e-mail who might help you with your concerns.

The information in this section will help you get meaningful results in a minimal amount of time. The areas covered are:

- Web Search
- E-mail
- Phone Calls
- Letter Writing.

If you follow the guidelines for these forms of communicating, you will save time and get results. The sections are organized in a step-by-step design so that you will be able to follow the process easily. You might even use the bulleted and numbered lists as checklists as you proceed to gather information.

## Using the Internet To Get Results

If you have access to a computer that is on the Internet and has e-mail (all public libraries offer this service), you will find many other helpful contacts. The following suggestions will give you ideas about how to use the Internet to support your efforts. The Contact section of the *Citizens' Guide to Environmental Protection* has many Internet addresses or URLs (Uniform Resource Locator) that will connect you to the agency or department that can provide you with help and information.

### ***Using the Internet if you have the Internet Address:***

1. Type in the URL of the agency, department, or organization. The *Citizens' Guide to Environmental Protection* provides these in the Contacts section.
2. When the site is on the screen, "Click" (press the left mouse button quickly) on any highlighted word or icon (picture or graphic) for more information. A "highlighted" word or words are usually written in blue or a color that isn't the main one for the page. They are sometimes also in italicized print style.
3. Look at the title list on the left hand or right hand side of the screen. Sometimes titles are in little boxes or "sausages." These are called *menus* . Just click on any of these special titles to get to the information you need. You may also find menus on the top or bottom of the page.
4. Sometimes the sections you want to find are represented by pictures (called "icons"). You can also access information by "clicking" on the picture.
5. You may print any page you want a copy of by choosing *File* on the menu bar and selecting *Print* .

### ***Searching the Internet To Find an Internet Address:***

#### **Before you begin a search:**

1. Determine the specific nouns, called *key words* , that best describe your subject. Examples might be *particulates, dioxins, landfill, nuclear, or streams* .
2. Next add at least one more word that describes or states location. Examples might be *Ohio, Greene, burning, emissions, toxic, plume, chemical, industrial, or smog* .
3. Use quotation marks (" ") around any multiple-word phrase or name. Examples are " *radioactive waste*", " *New Brunswick*", " *wastewater discharge*", or " *riparian habitat*."
4. Write down these key words for your search. Precise key words will give you the best information in the least amount of time.

## Using a Search Engine To Find a Web Page:

1. A Search Engine is a web site that helps find information by asking you to enter key words. You will need to open a search engine from the Internet. You may try any of the following addresses. In fact, each one may give you different results.

- <http://www.yahoo.com>
- <http://www.excite.com>
- <http://www.lycos.com>
- <http://www.infoseek.com>
- <http://www.altavista.com>
- <http://www.hotbot.com>
- <http://www.snap.com>
- <http://www.northernlight.com>

2. Just type one of the above URL's into the window on the opening page to your Internet browser. If you are using a public library, a librarian can help you get started.

3. When you have connected to one of these sites, you will see a lot of information and color. Find the window that is blank and has a "Search" button beside it, usually in gray or blue.

4. Type in your key words with a comma or a plus sign between them. Include any quotation marks that you determined you needed.

Examples: *particulates + coal + burning*

*sulphur, "hazardous waste", landfill*

5. The results will appear after the program finds all the entries with your key words. Read each description and **click on the blue words** at the start of the entry to get to the site with your information.

6. You may find just what you are looking for, but if you don't, try these suggestions:

- add a key word if there are over 30 entries to narrow the list
- remove a key word if there are no entries
- Change your key words if the entries are not on the right topic
- try another search engine for different results

7. If you are not successful, use one of the related URLs from the resource list in this booklet. When you have loaded that page, click on the selection for *Related Areas* , *Other Resources* , or a similar selection. This often leads you to the best information.

8. You may print the pages that have the information you want by selecting *File* on the browser menu bar and then select *Print* .

Note: Finding good results from the Internet takes a little practice and precise key words. Don't give up when your first efforts are not precisely what you expected.

# Using E-Mail To Get Results

## *Finding an E-Mail Address:*

E-mail addresses are listed on most web pages. The address will generally have a special name before the "@" symbol and a company or organization name after it. Examples are:

- [bcornett@greenlink.org](mailto:bcornett@greenlink.org)
- [bruce@greenlink.org](mailto:bruce@greenlink.org)

1. To contact a person from a web page:

Click on the e-mail address that is highlighted on the page.

*Result: An e-mail box will pop up.*

2. If there is no obvious name or title:

Click on the Web Page Master or Manager that usually at the bottom of the page

Find the menu listing titled "Contacts", "Personnel", "People Finder", "Address List", or items that imply finding a person

Go to another page on the site to find an e-mail address highlighted.

Most Internet sites have standard mail boxes set up for "info" - try sending mail to [info@](mailto:info@), when all else fails.

3. Type your message and don't forget to add a subject line (See Using E-Mail below).

4. Send the message by clicking on "Send" just as you would using your own e-mail.

5. Hint: You will get quicker results if you can find an address on a web page with a person's name instead of the general address.

Less effective: [info@greenlink.org](mailto:info@greenlink.org)

More effective: [bcornett@greenlink.org](mailto:bcornett@greenlink.org)

## *Writing an Effective E-Mail:*

1. Include important information at the beginning:

Fill in the subject line with 4-8 words that best describe the purpose of your e-mail message.

*Subject: Request information on strip mine recovery*

*Subject: Need help with possible chemical release in stream*

Give your name and organization in the first sentence.

State your purpose for writing in the next few sentences.

2. In a second paragraph, state your information or request as clearly as you can. Be sure to include any specific information like dates, names, titles, or numbers.
3. Check your facts for accuracy and correct spelling.
4. End your e-mail in a paragraph that asks the person to do any or all of the following:
  - answer you within a certain amount of time
  - tell you if your message was forwarded to someone else for a response
5. Close by repeating your purpose once again and thanking the person for reading and helping you out.
6. Effective e-mails are generally:
  - short
  - double spaced between paragraphs
  - have short sentences and paragraphs
  - maintain a pleasant, friendly tone
  - give specific requests or information
  - **not** written in all capital letters
  - justified on the left (don't indent)
  - use bullets or hyphens for lists
  - signed with your name and title.
7. Save your e-mail by printing or by saving on the hard drive or a diskette, or sending a copy to yourself.
8. File the message you sent and the the replies you received on either on the computer or in labeled folders.

**See the sample e-mail message on the next page.**

Sample E-Mail:

*Subject: Concern With Dioxin Release From Cement Plant*

*Dear Mr. Smith,*

*I am Steve Jones with the Citizens for Clean Air in Hometown, Ohio. Our group is concerned about whether ABC Cement Co. is releasing dioxin into the air during their kiln operation.*

*We would like to know the following:*

*Is dioxin produced during normal operation?*

*Do they have to report dioxin amounts to anyone?*

*What type of monitoring devices are installed to detect dioxins?*

*What is their history of dioxin release?*

*Please respond with any of this information you can provide or with any other departments and contact names that can give us the information.*

*Note: We do not have easy access to computers, so write if you can to Steve Jones, Route 1, Hometown, Ohio 45444.*

*Thanks for your help and prompt reply,*

*Steve Jones, President of Citizens for Clean Air in Hometown, Ohio*

## **Making Phone Calls That Get Results**

Making phone calls to elected officials, government agencies, or departments can be rewarding or frustrating. Sometimes the problem is that you don't have the right person or department. Sometimes the person or agency just can't help you because that person does not have the ability to help you. In order to get as much from your phone call as possible, follow these guidelines:

### **1. Write on paper before you call:**

- Your name and the organization that you represent.
- The exact wording of your request or question so that it is very clear.
- Rather than: *"I want to know about how many people died of cancer."*
- Better: *"I am interested in finding statistics on cancer deaths in Greene County from 1995 and 1996. Am I talking with the right person or could you transfer my call to someone who has this information.?"*
- Use words like *need information ... request help with ... need to know procedures for ... need data on ... want to report.>*
- Include any relevant dates or times especially of previous phone calls and letters.
- Ask if this is the right place to help you with your request. If not, have them suggest who might be able to help you.

### **2. When you get to the right person:**

- Ask the person's name and position. Also make sure you record the number and extension for future reference.
- If you were referred to this person, give the name of the person who referred you.
- Refer to the person by name as you repeat your request or question:
- *"Gloria, could you also give me some data on ..."*
- Maintain a polite tone throughout the conversation with words like:
- *"Please", "Thank you", and "I appreciate..."*.

- An opening might go like this: *"Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am a member of the \_\_\_\_\_ organization. I would like to know*
- *what Ohio's regulations on strip mine recovery are. Mary Smith in the Wildlife Division referred me to you as the authority in this field. How can you help me?"*

OR

- *"Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am a member of the \_\_\_\_\_ organization. I am concerned about a plant that is dumping its chemicals into our creek. I have been watching it daily for the last four months. Mary Smith at the Ohio EPA suggested that I call you with the information and my concern about our creek. Are you in a position to help me out with this problem?"*

● **3. If you feel you are getting a run-around or not reaching the person you need to talk with:**

- Explain that you feel you are getting a run-around.
- *"Gloria, I don't think you are guiding me in the right direction."*
- Ask if there is someone else who might help.
- Ask if you can call back again with further questions.
- Say you'll call back to keep the person updated on your progress... and follow through with your calls.

● **4. Remember that the person on the phone is trying to be helpful:**

- Show sympathy with the person and you may get extra help.
- *"Gloria, I know you are trying to help me, and it must be frustrating that you can't offer me more help on this problem."*

● **End the phone call:**

- Review what you learned.
- Get the name and address of the person so you can send a follow-up letter.
- Repeat any actions that the person or you promised to do and establish a time limit.
- *"Gloria, in closing you said you would send me the TRI data for ABC, Inc., from the last year. Could you send it in the next three days?"*
- End pleasantly...you may need to call again.
- *"Thanks for your help and interest in my call."*

● **6. After the phone call:**

- Write down the name and phone number, and address of the person you called. (*See sample log sheet*)
- Jot down the major details of the call and all of the items that were agreed on to do.
- Write a letter to the person stating: (*See letter sample*)
  - Date and time of the call
  - General points of the discussion
  - Any agreed on actions

- If the call was helpful, express your thanks for the information.
- Be prompt on anything you promised to do.

## Writing Letters That Get Results

You will find yourself writing letters as you work through finding a solution to an environmental problem. The letters may be to follow-up on a phone call or meeting. Other times it is a formal letter asking for action or expressing your concerns. Your audience may be other citizens, government officials, or a regulated industry. When composing a letter, consider the following steps for effective letters:

- 1. Send the letter to a real person. To get the name if you don't have it:
  - Look up the company or agency on the Internet. Find the personnel list if there is one.
  - Look up the company or agency in the phone book and call. Ask for the name and position of the person who deals with your issue.
- 
- 2. Use a standard letter format. (*See sample*)
- 3. State the purpose of your letter in the first few sentences including dates, names, and titles.
- 4. List any previous contacts: give the name of the person contacted and the date. Include any advice or promises made by that person to you.
- 5. Maintain a friendly, positive tone.
- 6. Repeat your main points very briefly as a summary.
- 7. End with a contact name and phone number especially if it is not in the letter heading.
- 8. Before you mail the letter, ask yourself:
  - *How will the reader react to the tone of my letter?*
  - *Is my purpose for writing very clear? (Did I state what action I want from the letter?)*
  - *What impression have I given of myself?*
  - *Can I sign the letter with confidence?*
- 9. Improve Your Letter's Appearance
  - *Center the letter on the page*
  - *Double space between paragraphs*
  - *Justify all information on the left (don't indent paragraphs)*
  - *Use short paragraphs and shorter sentences*
  - *Use bullets for lists*
  - *Use 12 point type*
  - *Sign the letter in handwriting and put your name and title under your signature .*

Sample Letter:

June 14, 1999

Susan Jones  
Citizens for Clean Air  
P.O. Box 123  
Hometown, OH 45444

Ohio EPA, Division of Water  
123 Industrial Way  
Cincinnati, OH 44444

Dear Steve Smith:

I called you on June 16, 1999, to request your help with the ABC Co. that I found was putting chemicals into the Otter Creek. I watched several employees dump large cans of liquid into the creek on five occasions, and I gave you the dates and times on the phone.

You told me you would investigate the discharges within a week and would promptly send me your findings and any further actions. I will expect to hear from you soon, and I appreciate your help.

Sincerely,

<sign letter here>

Susan Jones, President of *Citizens for Clean Air*

## Who To Contact

The previous pages to the *Citizens' Guide to Environmental Protection* offered suggestions getting quick, positive results from various types of communications. However, before you use these methods, you have to decide where to start looking for help or information.

The following section outlines what the following groups can do for you. Read the descriptions and then turn to the **Contact List** to find the best source. The groups discussed next are:

- Regulated Community
- Government
- Citizens Groups (Grassroots Organizations).

# ***What Can an Elected Official or Government Agency Do For You?***

In the *Citizens' Guide to Environmental Protection* you will find contact information for many government sources. However, contacting them does not guarantee success. There are many services available from these sources, but you need to know what to ask for. The following information should help you decide a plan of action. Keep in mind that information held in state and federal offices is public property.

## **Elected Officials can:**

- Save you a lot of time by contacting the people who can solve your problem
- Help you contact people or agencies who can help you
- Explain laws and regulations and how they apply to your concerns
- Use their influence to solve your problems and concerns.

## **Government Agencies can:**

- Provide information
- Provide a history of a company's compliance or non-compliance in meeting state regulations (called a *file search* ).
- Receive citizen complaints about an environmental problem (called *file a complaint* )
- Investigate the problem
- Levy fines
- Enforce other remedies to correct a problem
- Bring criminal charges against wrong-doers
- Work with other departments or agencies to correct a problem.

## **When you or your group wants to contact the OEPA about a concern or problem:**

- Write down your concern or problem clearly so that you can explain it to one of the representatives.
- If the problem or concern happens regularly, keep a daily chart of the activity and all information that might be useful to prove your point. It is even more useful if several people keep daily logs.
- Contact your district office (or one of the regional air pollution control offices like RAPCA ) and tell them your concern or problem.
- If the problem isn't resolved satisfactorily, set up an appointment to do a *file review*.
  - You and your group will have the opportunity to look at all the files that the OEPA has on a specific business and find the history of fines, warnings, or other actions. You can also find out what the chemical emissions are, how much is emitted, what plans they have for any increases or decreases, any other filings they have done with the OEPA.

- Copy important documents at the file search and keep them in folders.
- File a formal complaint if the problem continues. You can do this via certified mail to the OEPA central office. Formal complaints must have a response, so you will know the results.

## ***What Can A Regulated Industry Do For You?***

Citizens need to ask questions when they perceive a problem with the environment or community health possibly caused by a regulated industry. One place to start inquiries is with a company's representatives. Many companies (regulated industries) want to be good neighbors and will work with citizens to resolve a problem. When you working with a company:

### **Ask questions:**

- What chemicals are they using in their operations?
- What are the components of their emission, discharges, waste?
- Do they have a copy of their TRI data for your group?
- Have they had complaints from other groups or citizens?
- Have they been fined or warned by the OEPA or their local air pollution control agency?

### **Talk about your concerns:**

- What can you do to lessen our concerns?
  - What are you willing to do to help us?
  - Can we help you mitigate this problem?
- **Provide research on how other companies handled similar problems effectively:**
    - Research how other companies dealt with similar situations using the library or Internet:
    - Contact experts in the field for information or possibly to attend a meeting

### **Reach agreements:**

- Keep talking and find common ground
- Invite government agency personnel to the meetings
- Maintain a reasonable tone during the meetings.

### **Ask for a mediator to help resolve the problem if there is not satisfactory resolution:**

- Most counties have a mediator or intervention specialist
- Cities also have mediation specialists

### **When agreement is reached:**

- Get the terms agreed to in writing - this can be as simple as a letter from the company to you.
- Establish timelines for completion

- Maintain friendly dialogues to avoid starting all over again.

## ***What Can a Non-Government Organization Do For You?***

In the *Citizens' Guide to Environmental Protection* you will find contact information for many national, regional, and local non-government sources. Most have a specific area of the environment as their focus. You and your group should look for organizations that have similar interests and contact them.

### **Most of these organizations can:**

- Provide information
- Offer advice on how to proceed to solve a concern or problem
- Refer you to other groups who might help
- Provide honest assessments of what type of problems you will face and what you will need to prepare<
- Provide speakers for public meetings
- Offer help in dealing with government agencies
- Provide legal information
- Provide updated information on changing laws and regulations that will affect your cause
- Some even provide free web-space for your group to use.

### **Some organizations can also:**

- Give money to grants or gifts to help with your expenses (very rare)<
- Help with fund-raising efforts
- Provide legal help
- Help design a media campaign to highlight your concerns to the general public
- Contact interested or sympathetic public officials
- Work with you to pass tougher laws and regulations.

## **Contacts for Health Information**

### **Ohio Local and State Government Sources**

## **State Agencies and Departments**

## This page includes:

[Ohio](#) Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA)

[Other](#) Ohio Agencies and Departments

[Legislative](#) and Executive Branches, Lobbyist Lists, Ohio Rules and Codes

# Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA)

## *Ohio Environmental Protection Agency*

To protect human health and the environment through responsible regulation supported by sound science, quality service, and comprehensive environmental education. <http://www.epa.ohio.gov/>  
614-644-3020

## *Listing of all OEPA Divisions*

Quick find for Ohio EPA regional offices and web pages. <http://www.epa.ohio.gov/new/divs.html>  
614-644-3020

Central District <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dist/cdo/cdodapcmain.htm>

614-728-3778, 1-800-728-3797

Northeast Dist. <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dist/nedo/airhtml.htm>

330-425-9171

Northwest Dist. <http://www.epa.ohio.gov/dist/nwdo/nwdo.html>

419-352-8461, 419-373-3078

Southeast Dist. <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dist/sedo/DAPC.htm>

740-385-8501.1-800-686-7330

Southwest Dist. <http://swdoweb.epa.state.oh.us/>

1-800-686-8930, 937-285-6357

## *Search OEPA*

Keyword search for OEPA <http://www.epa.ohio.gov/search.html>

614-644-2917

***Air Pollution Control: AirOhio Map AirOhio*** - maps of air pollution types for all parts of Ohio.

Updated hourly. <http://airohio.epa.state.oh.us/>

614-644-2270

## *County Information for Ohio*

Find all OEPA activity that relates to the environment including the OEPA Director's schedule for your county <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/pub/>

614-644-3020

## *Drinking and Ground Water*

Regulatory department for ground and drinking water, pesticides, wellhead protection, source

water protection. <http://www.epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/>  
614-644-2752

### ***Emergency and Remedial Response (DERR)***

Prevent, respond to, remove and cleanup releases or threats of releases of hazardous waste, hazardous substances and pollutants. <http://www.epa.ohio.gov/derr/derrmain.html>  
1-800-282-9378

### ***Emergency Spill***

Report spills on highways, water, and ground. 1-800-282-9378

### ***Environmental Education***

Site for information and pamphlets. Also contact for the Ohio Environmental Education Fund. <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/other/oeef/oeemain.html>  
614-644-2873

### ***Federal Facilities Oversight***

Environmental problems on federal property. <http://offo2.epa.state.oh.us/offo.htm>  
614-644-2924

### ***Hazardous Waste Management also Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)***

Transportation, landfill, all dumping and management issues with hazardous waste transportation and disposal. <http://www.epa.ohio.gov/dhwm/welcome.html>  
614-644-2917

### ***Hazardous Waste Facilities Board***

Issues permits and enforces rules for transportation and disposal of hazardous waste. <http://www.epa.ohio.gov/hwfb/hwfb.html>  
614-644-2742, 1-800-686-1591

### ***Inspector General's Office***

Investigate waste, fraud, abuse, corruption. File a complaint (</watchdog/oigcont.htm>)  
<http://www.state.oh.us/watchdog>  
1-800-686-1525, 614-644-9110

### ***Surface Water and Watershed Map of Ohio***

Protect, enhance, and restore all water of state for health, safety, and welfare. Includes sewers, biosolids, run-off, water treatment, storm water, watersheds, wetland, TMDL. <http://chagrin.epa.ohio.gov/watershed/index.html>  
614-644-2001

### ***Solid Waste and Infectious Waste***

Garbage, landfill, industrial and municipal waste, disposal, recycling, re-use, and tires. <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsiwm/index.html>  
614-644-2621

### ***Stream Monitoring***

Rivers and creeks. <http://chagrin.epa.ohio.gov/watershed/wqjump.html>  
614-644-2884

## ***Voluntary Action Program (VAP)***

Rules allowing property owners, lenders, and developers to investigate and clean up contaminated properties. If someone wants to clean up a piece of property, it may be done voluntarily. If the clean up is done according to standards set forth by the Voluntary Action Program rules, the director of Ohio EPA will issue a covenant not to sue, which releases the owner from state civil liability. <http://www.epa.ohio.gov/derr/volunt.html>

614 644-2279

# **Other Ohio Agencies and Departments**

## ***Agency List***

List of Ohio Agencies on the Internet <http://www.state.oh.us/ohio/agency.htm>

## ***Commerce Department: State Fire Marshal and BUSTR***

Division of Industrial Compliance. Boilers, under-ground tanks, plumbing inspections, enforcement. Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulations (BUSTR).

State Fire Marshall: <http://www.com.state.oh.us/sfm/>

BUSTR: <http://www.com.state.oh.us/sfm/bustrmain.htm>

(Commerce) 614-466-3636, (Fire Marshall) 614-466-7047, (BUSTR) 614-752-7938

## ***Dept. of Agriculture***

Regulatory protection to producers, agribusinesses and the consuming public.

<http://www.state.oh.us/agr/>

614-728-6200

## ***Department. of Health (ODOH)***

To protect and improve the health of all Ohioans by preventing disease, promoting good health and assuring access to quality health care. <http://www.odh.state.oh.us/>

(614) 466-3543

## ***Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)***

Mining, excavating, water, wildlife, forests, natural resources, parks. <http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/>

614-265-6565

## ***Emergency Management Program***

Regulations and practices for promoting public safety involving nuclear power plant operations.

<http://www.state.oh.us/agr/emergMgtFrontPg.HTML>

614-728-6200, 614-889-7150

## ***Nuclear Power and Radiation***

Nuclear power and radiation Information. <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/derr/ersis/er/nuclear.html>

614-466-2253

## ***Ohio Attorney General's Office***

Environmental laws and regulations enforcement. <http://www.ag.state.oh.us/ees/ees.htm>

614-466-4320

### ***Ohio Dept. of Development: Priority Investment Area Map***

Good maps of Ohio development.

<http://www.odod.state.oh.us/osr/profiles/default.htm>

Map of Ohio Investment areas. <http://www.odod.state.oh.us/osr/priority.htm>

### ***Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)***

Planning, building, and maintaining a safe, efficient transportation system in Ohio.

<http://www.dot.state.oh.us/SERVICES.htm>

614-466-7170, 614-466-7100(env. services)

### ***Public Utilities Commission(PUCO)***

Regulate water, waterworks, electric, and gas; transportation of hazardous waste.

<http://www.puc.state.oh.us/>

1-800-686-7826, 614-466-3292

### ***Utility Radiological Safety Board of Ohio***

Utility Radiological Safety Board of Ohio <http://www.state.oh.us/ursb/index.html>

614-466-2253

### ***Wildlife Division***

Conserving and improving the fish and wildlife resources and their habitats.

<http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/odnr/wildlife/index.html>

1-800-WILDLIFE

## **Legislative and Executive Branches (Ohio Senate, House, Governor, Legislation)**

### ***Town/City Council***

District Numbers, Regulations, Zoning **Web Addresses:** Some villages, towns, cities, and counties have web sites, and others don't. You may call each agency and ask for a web address.

**Phone Numbers:** Blue pages under town, city, village, Township or county

### ***Find Your District Numbers***

Map of Ohio House Districts: <http://www.logs.org/housemap.html>

Map of Ohio Senate Districts: <http://www.logs.org/senmap.html>

**Phone:** Call Local Library, Post Office, County Board of Elections

### ***Find Your Representative***

Find out who your state representative is through maps or zip code. Also phone numbers and contact information. <http://www.house.state.oh.us/reps/>

Gongwer News Service independent site that also has information on your representative and district. <http://www.gongwer-oh.com/home.html>

## ***Find Your Senator***

Find out who your state senator is through maps or zip code. Also phone numbers and contact information. <http://www.senate.state.oh.us/senators/>

Gongwer News Service independent site that also has information on your senator and district. <http://www.gongwer-oh.com/home.html>

## ***Gongwer News Service***

Lists contact information for all Senators and Representative, schedules for government officials, and search capability. <http://www.gongwer-oh.com/home.html>

## ***Administrative Code (Ohio)***

Anderson's Search engine for Ohio's Administrative Code.

<http://onlinedocs.andersonpublishing.com/oac/>

## ***Calendar of Legislature***

Session and Hearings schedules. <http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/today.cfm>

## ***Status of Legislation***

Find out where bills are in the legislature. <http://www.lsc.state.oh.us/status/index.html>

614-466-3615

## ***Ohio Attorney General***

Oversees the activities of an administrative, policy, and public affairs section, as well as more than 25 legal and law enforcement sections. <http://www.ag.state.oh.us/>

(614) 466-4320

## ***The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee***

Oversees Ethics issues for both Ohio House and Senate. <http://www.jlec-olig.state.oh.us/>

614-728-5100

## ***JCARR (Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review) Weekly Reports and Agendas***

Reviews proposed new, amended, and rescinded rules. <http://www.jcarr.state.oh.us/#reports>

## ***JCARR Procedures Manual***

The complete JCARR manual on-line. [http://www.jcarr.state.oh.us/man\\_intro.cfm](http://www.jcarr.state.oh.us/man_intro.cfm)

## ***Ohio Administrative Code***

Complete text of all rules, including full appendices, certified to the Legislative Service Commission and the Secretary of State. <http://onlinedocs.andersonpublishing.com/oac/>

## ***Ohio Revised Code***

Complete text and search by keyword <http://www.avv.com/orc/>

## ***Ohio Session Laws***

Newest additions to the Ohio Revised Code updated annually. <http://ohioacts.avv.com>

## ***Legislation from 122<sup>nd</sup> and 123<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly***

Pending legislation and content of all passed legislation. Search by number, key word.

[http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills\\_online.cfm](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills_online.cfm)

### ***Analysis of Bills, Legislative Service Commission***

Detailed narrative description of each bill that is scheduled for a hearing in committee.

<http://www.lsc.state.oh.us/analyses/index.html>

614-466-3615

### ***Lobbyist Center, Joint Legislative Ethics Committee: Lobbyists (Agents) and Employers***

Information on Lobbying and Lobbyists. <http://www.jlec-olig.state.oh.us/lobby.html>

Listed by the Lobbyist's name. <http://www.jlec-olig.state.oh.us/FORMS/Agents.txt>

Listed by the Employer's name. <http://www.jlec-olig.state.oh.us/FORMS/Employers.txt>

614-728-5100

### ***Ohio Auditor***

Responsible for auditing all public offices in Ohio as well as the many departments, agencies and commissions of state government. <http://www.auditor.state.oh.us/auditor/>

(614) 466-4514 (800) 282-0370

### ***Capital Appropriations***

Review of where tax money is spent by agencies and their divisions. (HB 850)

<http://www.lbo.state.oh.us/123ga/ohiobudget/capitalbudget/>

(614) 466-8734

## **National Agencies and Departments**

### **This page includes:**

[Federal](#) (U.S.) Legislative Support

[U.S.E.P.A.](#) - United States Environmental Protection Agency

[Other](#) Federal Agencies and Departments

## **Federal (U.S.) Legislative Support**

### ***U.S. Representative***

Gongwer News Service web site has this information. <http://www.gongwer-oh.com/home.html>

### ***U.S. Senator***

Gongwer News Service web site has this information. <http://www.gongwer-oh.com/home.html>

### ***U.S. President***

White House contact information <http://www.whitehouse.gov/>

220-456-2226(Communication)

# U.S.E.P.A. - United States Environmental Protection Agency

## **USEPA**

All braches of the [USEPA](http://www.epa.gov/) <http://www.epa.gov/>

## **Administration**

Office of the Administrator, Carol Browner <http://www.epa.gov/epahome/OA.html>  
202-554-1404, FAX 202-260-0229

## **Air and Radiation (OAR)**

Deals with issues that affect the quality of our air and protection from exposure to harmful radiation. Areas include indoor and outdoor air quality, stationary and mobile sources of air pollution, radon, acid rain, stratospheric ozone depletion, and pollution prevention.

<http://www.epa.gov/oar/oarhome.html>

## **Brownfields**

Brownfields (abandoned, idled, or under-used industrial and commercial facilities where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination) links to information. <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields>

## **Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA)**

Responsible for ensuring the compliance of the regulated community with Federal environmental statutes including regulatory enforcement, compliance assistance, and compliance incentives.

<http://es.epa.gov/oeca/index.html>

## **EPA Envirofacts**

Database for searching many important sites <http://www.epa.gov/enviro/>

## **Environmental Justice (EJ)**

Mandates that all federal agencies with a public health or environmental mission make environmental justice an integral part of their policies and activities.

<http://www.epa.gov/oeca/main/ej/index.html>

## **EPA's National Center for Environmental Assessment**

### **, Comparative Risk data, health risk guidelines, and Integrated Risk Information System**

The national resource center for the overall process of human health and ecological risk assessments; the integration of hazard, dose-response, and exposure data and models to produce risk characterizations

<http://www.epa.gov/ncea/>

## **EPA Global Warming**

Information and assessment of Global Warming Problem. <http://www.epa.gov/globalwarming/>

## **The Inspector General's Office**

Conducts and supervises audits and investigations relating to programs and operations in the

Agency; prevent and detect fraud and abuse. <http://www.epa.gov/oigearth/>

202-260-4977

### ***The Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS)***

An electronic data base containing information on human health effects that may result from exposure to various chemicals in the environment. <http://www.epa.gov/ncea/iris.htm>

### ***Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances***

Protecting public health and the environment from potential risk from toxic chemicals. Promotes pollution prevention and the public's right to know about chemical risks. Evaluates pesticides and chemicals to safeguard citizens and threatened species and ecosystems from environmental harm. <http://www.epa.gov/internet/oppts/>

### ***ORD's National Center for Environmental Assessment (NCEA).***

National resource center for the overall process of human health and ecological risk assessments; the integration of hazard, dose- response , and exposure data and models to produce risk characterizations. <http://www.epa.gov/ncea/>

### ***Solid Waste and Emergency Response***

Divisions include Chemical Emergency Preparedness & Prevention, Federal Facilities Restoration and Reuse, Hazardous Waste Technology Innovations, Oil Spill Program, Office of Solid Waste: Hazardous, Non-Hazardous & Special Initiatives (i.e., Brownfields), Superfund Program, and Underground Storage Tanks <http://www.epa.gov/swerrims/about.htm>

### ***Office of Air and Radiation, Policy and Guidelines (OAR P&G)***

Provides access to rules, policy, and guidance documents produced by the USEPA Office of Air and Radiation (OAR). This site allows regulators, the regulated community and members of the general public to easily obtain access to both current and historical regulatory information. <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/caaa/>

### ***Office of Water***

Responsible for strengthening the protection of the Nation's water resources and drinking water. <http://www.epa.gov/ow/programs.html>

### ***USEPA Region 5 -***

Offices of the USEPA's Region 5 which includes Ohio and the Great Lakes states. <http://www.epa.gov/region5/>

**Air:** <http://www.epa.gov/ARD-R5/>

312-353-2212

**Enforcement:** <http://www.epa.gov/region5/enforcement/>

1-800-621-8431

**Great Lakes:** <http://www.epa.gov/grtlakes/>

312 886-4040

**Toxics:** <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/toxics/>

1-800-621-8431

**Super Fund:** <http://www.epa.gov/R5Super/>

312- 886-3616

**Waste:** <http://www.epa.gov/region5/waste/>

1-800-621-8431

**Water:** <http://www.epa.gov/r5water/>

1-800-621-8431

## ***Other Federal Agencies and Departments***

### ***Census Bureau***

Obtain Data from the 1990 Census <http://www.census.gov/>

### ***1990 Census Results from the Census Bureau***

Obtain Data from the 1990 Census <http://www.census.gov/cgi-bin/gazetteer>

### ***Center for Disease Control and Prevention***

<http://www.cdc.gov/>

### ***C.I.A.***

CIA site with includes publications <http://www.odci.gov/>

### ***Energy Department***

Emissions Information - Air, Legislation. Fuels, Coal, Oil, Nuclear Power

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/environment.html>

202-586-4073

### ***Energy Information Administration***

<http://www.eia.doe.gov>

202-586-4073

### ***FDA Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition***

<http://www.gpo.ucop.edu/search/fedfld.html>

### ***Federal Emergency Management Agency***

USFA Hazardous Materials Guide for First Responders.

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/hazmat/>

### ***Federal Register***

Search Page for the Federal Register. <http://www.gpo.ucop.edu/search/fedfld.html>

### ***Fish and Wildlife Service***

Environmental Contaminants program directs efforts to identify and assess contaminant effects on fish and wildlife in order to prevent, reduce, and/or eliminate contamination problems.

<http://www.fws.gov/index.html>

### ***General Accounting Office***

<http://www.gao.gov/>

### ***GCDIS***

*GCDIS includes multi-disciplinary data from atmospheric science, ecology, oceanography, as well as economics, sociology, global warming data.*

<http://globalchange.gov/>

### **Global Change Master Directory**

*A comprehensive directory about Earth science and global change data.*

<http://gcmd.gsfc.nasa.gov/>

### **Government Printing Office**

*Listing of all government publications. <http://www.gpo.gov>*

### **Hazardous Material Information**

*DOT's Hazmat site*

<http://hazmat.dot.gov/>

202-586-4073

### **Hazardous Materials Safety**

*Provides pertinent news specific to the hazmat program, as well as program matters discussed by the Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety.*

<http://hazmat.dot.gov/hmnews.htm>

202-586-4073

### **Library of Congress**

*Listing of all publications and information about them. <http://www.loc.gov>*

### **National GIS Program**

*Maps and GIS information. [http://www.epa.gov/enviro/html/esdls/esdls\\_over.html](http://www.epa.gov/enviro/html/esdls/esdls_over.html)*

Fax:(202)401-8390

### **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Climatic Data Center**

<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/>

Fax:(202)401-8390

### **National Science Foundation**

<http://www.nsf.gov/>

### **National Weather Service**

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/>

### **NASA**

*The official site for all NASA projects and programs. <http://www.nasa.gov/>*

### **Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)**

*Ensures adequate protection of the public health and safety, the common defense and security, and the environment in the use of nuclear materials in the United States. Medical, academic, transport, storage, and disposal, and industrial uses of nuclear materials, waste. <http://www.nrc.gov/>*

301-415-8200 (Public Affairs)

### **Oak Ridge National Laboratory Environmental Sciences Division with journal lists.**

<http://www.esd.ornl.gov/journals.html>

**OSHA Home Page Rules, Regulations, and information about Occupational Health and Safety.**

<http://www.osha.gov/>

**Transportation**

<http://www.dot.gov/>

202-366-5580 (Secretary of)

**USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service**

<http://www.usda.gov/agency/fsis/homepage.htm>

**USDA Foodborne Illness Education Information Center**

<http://www.nal.usda.gov/fnic/foodborne/>

**U.S. Geological Survey**

<http://www.usgs.gov/index.html>

## **Federal Government Health Services**

**OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Admin.)**

To save lives, prevent injuries and protect the health of America's workers. <http://www.osha.gov/>  
202 693-1999

**NIOSH (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health)**

Part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and is the only federal Institute responsible for conducting research and making recommendations for the prevention of work-related illnesses and injuries. <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/homepage.html>  
202 401-6997

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**

To promote health and quality of life by preventing and controlling disease, injury, and disability.  
<http://www.cdc.gov/>

## **Contacts for Health Information**

### **Ohio Local and State Government Sources: Local**

**Combined Health District (County)**

Data available on deaths and causes of deaths, water problems, diseases, pollutants, and controls.

**Web Addresses:** Some villages, towns, cities, and counties have web sites, and others don't. You may call each agency and ask for a web address.

**Phone Numbers:** Check local phone directory in the *blue pages* (gov.). City, town, village, and township listings are first. County listings are next. State and Federal listings are last.

### **Ohio Local and State Government Sources: State**

**Aging, Ohio Dept. of**

Advocate for the needs of all older citizens. The emphasis is on improving the quality of life for older Ohioans, helping senior citizens live active, healthy and independent lives, and promoting positive

attitudes toward aging and older people. <http://www.ohio.gov/age/home.htm>

### ***Counselor and Social Worker Board***

Protect the citizens of the State of Ohio through the licensure of Counselors and Social Workers.  
<http://www.ohio.gov/csw/>

614-466-0912

### ***Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management, Ohio Commission on***

To promote the use of dispute resolution process and conflict management skills.

<http://www.state.oh.us/cdr/>

614/752-9595

### ***Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA), Ohio***

To protect human health and the environment through responsible regulation supported by sound science, quality service, and comprehensive environmental education. <http://www.epa.ohio.gov/>

614-644-3020

### ***Health, Ohio Dept. of***

To protect and improve the health of all Ohioans by preventing disease, promoting good health and assuring access to quality health care. <http://www.odh.state.oh.us/>

1-800-282-3435

### ***Mental Health, Ohio Dept. of***

To ensure high quality mental health care is available to all Ohioans particularly individuals with severe mental illness in their communities. <http://www.mh.state.oh.us/>

614-466-2596

### ***Minority Health, Commission on***

Funds projects which are innovative, culturally sensitive and specific in their approach toward reduction of the incidence and severity of those diseases or conditions which are responsible for excess morbidity and mortality in minority populations. <http://www.ohio.gov/mih/>

### ***Public Safety***

Emergency Management Agency, Emergency Medical Services, and Highway Patrol

<http://www.ohio.gov/odps/default.htm>

614 466-2550

### ***Worker's Compensation, Bureau of***

Provides medical and compensation benefits for work-related injuries, diseases and deaths.

<http://www.bwc.state.oh.us/>

1-800-644-6292

## **How To Find Your Local Government Offices and Descriptions of Their Focus**

### ***County TRI Map and Data from Ohio EPA***

Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) for each county. <http://www.epa.ohio.gov/dapc/tri/tri.html>

### **County EPA Data**

Map of EPA district offices and contact information, county information, news releases for counties and the state. Click on County name. <http://www.epa.ohio.gov/new/actions.html>>  
614-644-3020

### **Combined Health District (County)**

Data available on deaths and causes of deaths, water problems, diseases, pollutants, and controls.

<http://www.co.greene.oh.us/health.htm>

**Web Addresses:** Some villages, towns, cities, and counties have web sites, and others don't. You may call each agency and ask for a web address.

**Phone Numbers:** Check local phone directory in the blue pages (government). City, town, village, and township listings are first. County listings are next. State and Federal listings are last.

## ENVIRONMENTAL LINKS

**This page includes:**

[State](#) and Local Environmental Organizations

[National](#) Environmental Organizations

## State Environmental Organizations

### ***Buckeye Forest Council***

*To protect Ohio's forests and inhabitants through advocacy, education, and organization.*

<http://www.heartwood.org/Ohio/aboutBFC.htm>

614-594-6400

### ***B-W Greenway Community Land Trust***

*Greene County Wetland Preservation to educate the public about the value of wetlands and greenways; to promote sustainable use of land, and to protect, preserve, and steward open space for farming, recreation, habitat, and watershed management.*

<http://www.greenlink.org/bwgreenway/index.html>

### ***C.F. Water***

*Landfill Concerns, Clark Co., Ohio*

<http://www.greenlink.org/cfwater/index.html>

### ***Earth Day Coalition***

*To protect and restore Ohio's environment and public health through pollution prevention, student conferences, clean transportation, economic development, and EARTHFest*

<http://www.earthdaycoalition.org/>

216-281-6468

### ***Environmental Fund of Ohio***

*Site for information on and donation collection for 27 Ohio environmental and conservation groups.*

<http://www.efohio.org/>

### ***Friends of Dysart Woods***

*To preserve and protect valuable forest land in Dysart Woods State Park.*

<http://www.greenlink.org/dysart/index.html>

### ***Green Environmental Coalition***

*Advocates for Ohio's environment focused on clean water, toxic chemical reductions, urban sprawl, and public participation.*

<http://www.greenlink.org/gec/index.html>

937-767-2109

### ***Izaak Walton League, Ohio Chapter***

*To protect the Ohio's soil, air, wood, water, and wildlife and promote sustainability. (23 Ohio chapters)*

[http://www.iwla.org/chapters/ch\\_oh.html](http://www.iwla.org/chapters/ch_oh.html)

513-697-6100

### ***Miami Group Sierra Club***

*A division of the Ohio Sierra Club*

<http://www.greenlink.org/miami/index.html>

937-841-0111

### ***Neighbors In Need***

*A Dayton group concerned about Nuclear weapons.*

<http://www.greenlink.org/grassroots/neighbors/index.html>

### ***Ohio B.A.S.S.***

*To preserve bass resources. Many Ohio chapters.*

335-2078

### ***Ohio Environmental Council***

*Bringing relevant and up-to-date information for solving environmental problems to the citizens of Ohio.*

<http://www.theoec.org/>

614-487-7506

### ***Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association (OEFFA)***

*Support and promote a healthful, ecological, accountable and permanent agriculture in Ohio and elsewhere.*

<http://www.greenlink.org/oeffa/index.html>

614-267-3663

### ***Ohio Citizen Action***

*To improve the quality of life, public health, and environment through citizen action.*

<http://www.ohiocitizen.org/>

419-866-9093

### ***Ohio Family Farm Coalition***

*Supports the preservation and strengthening of family farm agriculture in Ohio.*

<http://www.greenlink.org/offc/index.html>

(419) 453-3456

### **Ohio League of Women Voters**

*To encourage active participation of citizens in government and to influence public policy.*

<http://www.lwvohio.org/index.htm>

1-800-LWV-OHIO

### **Ohio Sierra Club**

*To protect the wild places of the earth, promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources, educate, and restore the quality of the environment.*

<http://www.sierraclub.org/chapters/oh>

(614) 46

419-866-9093

### **Ohio Family Farm Coalition**

*Supports the preservation and strengthening of family farm agriculture in Ohio.*

<http://www.greenlink.org/organization.html>

(419) 453-3456

### **Ohio League of Women Voters**

*To en/oh" <http://www.sierraclub.org/chapters/oh>*

(614) 46 influence public policy.

<http://www.lwvohio.org/index.htm>

1-800-LWV-OHIO

### **Ohio Sierra Club**

*To protect the wild places of the earth, promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources, educate, and restore the quality of the environment.*

<http://www.sierraclub.org/chapters/oh>

(614) 461-0734

### **Rivers Unlimited**

*To protect and restore Ohio's 61,000 miles of rivers and streams.*

<http://www.efohio.org/RU.htm>

614/487-7511

### **Rural Action**

*To build leadership, promote sustainability, and support individuals and communities in Appalachian Ohio.*

<http://ruralaction.org/> 614-767-4938

### **Sandusky County Organized to Protect the Environment**

*Group to protect the environment in Sandusky, Ohio.*

<http://www.greenlink.org/grassroots/scope/index.html>

### **Tecumseh Land Trust**

*To preserve farmland in Green and Clark Counties in Ohio, for agricultural use.*

<http://www.greenlink.org/tecumseh/>

### **The Nature Conservancy, Ohio Chapter**

*Preserve Ohio plants, animals and natural communities by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.*

<http://www.tnc.org/infield/State/Ohio/ohio.htm>

614-717-2770

### **Ohio State University Extension Agency**

*Bulletins on many agriculture-related topics.*

<http://www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~cfaes>

## **Soil and Water Testing Facilities**

### **OARDC Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center.**

*Soil and Water testing until Dec. 1, 1999*

<http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/www/depts/realhp.htm> 1-330-263-3760

### **Alloway Testing, Soil, manure, sludge, water, specials.**

*Testing for soil, manure, sludge, water, specials*

*508 Bissman Court, Mansfield, OH 44906*

*(419) 223-1362 (Lima), (419) 525-1644 (Mansfield)*

### **Brookside Labs**

*Soil, soil-less mix, plant tissue, feed, manure, compost, sludge, nutrient solutions, water, specials*

*308 S. Main St., New Knoxville, OH 45871*

*(419) 753-2448.*

### **CLC Labs**

*Soil, plant tissue, water, specials.*

*325 Venture St., Westerville, OH 43081*

*(614) 888-1663*

### **Calmar Lab**

*Soil, soil-less mix, plant tissue.*

*130 S. State St., Westerville, OH 43081*

*(614) 523-1005*

### **Holmes Lab**

*Soil, feed, manure, water*

*3559 U.S. Route 62, Millersburg, OH 44654*

*(800) 344-1101, (330) 893-2933*

### **Na-Churs**

*Soil, plant tissue, feed, manure, water, specials.*

*Leader St., Marion, OH 43302*

*(800) 622-4877*

### **Spectrum Analytical Inc.**

*Soil, soil-less mix, plant tissue, feed, manure, compost, sludge, nutrient solutions, water, specials*

*P.O. Box 639, Washington Court House, OH 43160*

*(800) 321 -1562*

# ***National Environmental Organizations***

## ***American Forests***

*Citizen conservation organization, works with parks, tree planting, Global ReLeaf, and climate.*

<http://www.amfor.org/>

(202)955-4500

## ***American Rivers Society***

*Sharing information about the appropriate use and management of river resources including wetlands, watersheds, and water quality.*

<http://www.igc.org/rms/>

406-549-0514

## ***Defenders of Wildlife***

*Wildlife protection of all native wild animals and plants in their natural communities. Concerned with biodiversity and maintaining habitat.*

<http://www.defenders.org/>

202-682-9400

## ***EAGLE.***

*Concerned with environmental issues concerning the Great Lakes.*

<http://www.cp.duluth.mn.us/~lakes/eagle.html>

218-726-1828

## ***Environmental Defense Fund***

*Issues are stabilizing the Earth's climate, safe-guarding the world's oceans, protecting human health, and defending and restoring biodiversity.*

<http://www.edf.org/>

1-800-684-3322

## ***Environmental Defense Fund's TRI Scorecard***

*Toxic Release Index (TRI) of pollutants in each community in the US prepared by Environmental Defense Fund. Search by Zip or area of the state.*

<http://www.scorecard.org/>

## ***Environmental Law Institute***

*An internationally recognized independent environmental research and education center. ELI advances environmental protection by improving law, policy, and management.*

<http://www.eli.org/>

(202) 939-3800

## ***Friends of the Earth***

*Work for conservation and public health protection with a focus on the underlying social and economic causes of environmental problems both at home and abroad and building coalitions*

<http://www.foe.org/>

202-783-7400

## ***Greenpeace International***

*An international group concerned with forests, climate, toxics, nuclear, oceans, and genetic*

<http://www.greenpeace.org/>

31 20 523 62 22

***Institute for Global Communications (IGC).***

*Provides alternative sources of information as well as online access and comprehensive Internet services to organizations and activists working on peace, economic and social justice, human rights, environmental protection, labor issues and conflict resolution.*

<http://www.igc.org/igc/>

***Izaak Walton League***

*To protect the nation's soil, air, wood, water, and wildlife and promote sustainability.*

<http://www.iwla.org>

614-644-2873

***The League of Conservation Voters***

*The League of Conservation Voters educates citizens about the environmental voting records of Members of Congress. This edition of the National Environmental Scorecard provides objective, factual information about the environmental voting records of all Members of Congress. Also includes information on how to find your legislators.*

<http://www.lcv.org/>

***National Audubon Society***

*Concerned with birds, migration habitats, and maintaining bird habitats.*

<http://www.audubon.org>

212-979-3080

***National Citizens Alliance***

*Concerned with cement kilns, and the fuels they use to burn.*

<http://www.cementkiln.com/>

(517) 471.2747

***National Environmental Scorecard***

*Concerned with cement kilns, and the fuels they use to burn.*

<http://scorecard.lcv.org/>

***Natural Resources Defense Council***

*The NRDC's purpose is to safeguard the Earth: its people, its plants and animals, and the natural systems on which all life depends. They also work to foster the fundamental right of all people to have a voice in decisions that affect their environment.*

<http://www.nrdc.org/>

***U.S. PIRG***

*U.S. PIRG is a nonprofit, non-partisan organization dedicated to serving as a watchdog for the nation's citizens and environment.*

<http://www.pirg.org/>

202-546-9707

***Rainforest Action Network***

*Protect the Earth's rainforests and support the rights of their inhabitants through education, grassroots organizing, and non-violent direct action.*

<http://www.ran.org/>

(415) 398-4404

### **Sierra Club**

*Promotes conservation of the natural environment by influencing public policy decisions.*

<http://www.sierraclub.org/>

1-415-977-5500

### **The Nature Conservancy**

*Preserve plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.*

<http://www.tnc.org/>

(703) 841-5300

### **The Wilderness Society**

*Preserving wilderness and wildlife, protecting America's prime forests, parks, rivers, deserts.*

<http://wilderness.org/>

1-800- THE WILD

### **Union of Concerned Scientists**

*UCS is an independent nonprofit alliance of 50,000 concerned citizens and scientists across the country. We augment rigorous scientific analysis with innovative thinking and committed citizen advocacy to build a cleaner, healthier environment and a safer world.*

<http://www.ucsusa.org/>

617-547-5552

## **Conclusion**

*This guide provides many ideas for improving environmental and health problems. Agreements between government agencies, the regulated industry, and concerned citizens provide the best means for improving the environment.*

*Asking companies to become good neighbors, keeping an open dialogue, and continuing to seek environmentally responsible technology will result in strong communities and a healthy economy.*

*Each member of the environmental triad has a responsibility. The government has the responsibility to set reachable standards and enforce these rules. The regulated industries must continue to reduce waste, emissions, and discharges as they adopt responsible manufacturing processes. Citizens also have a responsibility to become well-informed voters who are knowledgeable about the process of law-making and public participation. When all three members of the*

*triad work together, the result will be a healthy, sustainable environment.*

## ***Selected Environmental Terms and Abbreviations***

*For a more complete listing of terms and abbreviations, use the US EPA website:*

***<http://www.epa.gov/OCEPATERMS/index.htm>***

- ***Air Pollution:*** *The presence of contaminants or pollutant substances in the air that interfere with human health or welfare, or produce other harmful environmental effects.*
- ***Airborne Particulates:*** *Total suspended particulate matter found in the atmosphere as solid particles or liquid droplets. Chemical composition particulates vary widely, depending on location and time of year.*
- ***Anti-Degradation Clause:*** *Part of federal air quality and water quality requirements prohibiting deterioration where pollution levels are above the legal limit. **ATSDR:** Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry **Attainment Area:** An area considered to have air quality as good as or better than the national ambient air quality standards as defined in the Clean Air Act. An area may be an attainment area for one pollutant and a non-attainment area for others.*
- ***Audit:*** *A thorough examination conducted by Ohio EPA to ensure the NFA letter for a property was issued in accordance with Ohio's Voluntary Action Program rules and that the property complies with applicable standards for the property. An audit may involve only an examination of all available documentation reviewed by the Certified Professional in issuing the NFA letter or it may involve collection and analysis of samples from the property.*
- ***Brownfields:*** *Abandoned, idled, or under used industrial and commercial facilities/sites where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. They can be in urban, suburban, or rural areas. EPA's Brownfields initiative helps communities mitigate potential health risks and restore the economic viability of such areas or properties.*
- ***Carcinogen:*** *Any substance that can cause or aggravate cancer.*
- ***CERCLA:*** *Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (1980) **CERCLIS:** Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System*
- ***CKD: Cement Kiln Dust Clear Cut:*** *Harvesting all the trees in one area at one time, a practice that can encourage fast rainfall or snowmelt runoff, erosion, sedimentation of streams and lakes, and flooding, and destroys vital habitat.*
- ***Comment Period:*** *Time provided for the public to review and comment on a proposed EPA action or rulemaking after publication in the Federal Register.*
- ***Comparative Risk Assessment:*** *Process that generally uses the judgement of experts to predict effects and set priorities among a wide range of environmental problems.*
- ***Conservation:*** *Preserving and renewing, when possible, human and natural resources. The use, protection, and improvement of natural resources according to principles that will ensure their highest economic or social benefits.*
- ***Dioxin:*** *Any of a family of compounds known chemically as dibenzo-p-dioxins. Concern about them arises from their potential toxicity as contaminants in commercial products. Tests on laboratory animals indicate that it is one of the more toxic anthropogenic (man-made) compounds.*
- ***Ecosystem:*** *The interacting system of a biological community and its non-living environmental surroundings. **EDF:** Environmental Defense Fund*
- ***Effluent:*** *Wastewater--treated or untreated--that flows out of a treatment plant, sewer, or industrial outfall. Generally refers to wastes discharged into surface waters.*
- ***Emission:*** *Pollution discharged into the atmosphere from smokestacks, other vents, and surface areas of commercial or industrial facilities; from residential chimneys; and from motor vehicle, locomotive, or air- craft exhausts.*
- ***Emissions Trading:*** *The creation of surplus emission reductions at certain stacks, vents or similar emissions sources and the use of this surplus to meet or redefine pollution requirements applicable to other emissions sources. This allows one source to increase emissions when another source reduces them, maintaining an overall constant emission level. Facilities that reduce emissions substantially may "bank" their "credits" or sell them to other facilities or industries.*

- **Environment:** *The sum of all external conditions affecting the life, development and survival of an organism.*
- **Environmental Equity/Justice:** *Equal protection from environmental hazards for individuals, groups, or communities regardless of race, ethnicity, or economic status. This applies to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies, and implies that no population of people should be forced to shoulder a disproportionate share of negative environmental impacts of pollution or environmental hazard due to a lack of political or economic strength levels.*
- **Environmental Impact Statement:** *A document required of federal agencies by the National Environmental Policy Act for major projects or legislative proposals significantly affecting the environment. A tool for decision making, it describes the positive and negative effects of the undertaking and cites alternative actions.*
- **Environmental Sustainability:** *Long-term maintenance of ecosystem components and functions for future generations.*
- **Feedlot:** *A confined area for the controlled feeding of animals. Tends to concentrate large amounts of animal waste that cannot be absorbed by the soil and, hence, may be carried to nearby streams or lakes by rainfall runoff.*
- **Fugitive Emissions:** *Emissions not caught by a capture system.*
- **GIS:** *Geographic Information Systems; Global Indexing System*
- **Global Warming:** *An increase in the near surface temperature of the Earth. Global warming has occurred in the distant past as the result of natural influences, but the term is most often used to refer to the warming predicted to occur as a result of increased emissions of greenhouse gases. Scientists generally agree that the earth's surface has warmed by about 1 degree Fahrenheit in the past 140 years. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recently concluded that increased concentrations of greenhouse gases are causing an increase in the Earth's surface temperature and that increased concentrations of sulfate aerosols have led to relative cooling in some regions, generally over and downwind of heavily industrialized areas.*
- **Greenhouse Effect:** *The warming of the Earth's atmosphere attributed to a buildup of carbon dioxide or other gases; some scientists think that this build-up allows the sun's rays to heat the Earth, while making the infra-red radiation atmosphere opaque to infra-red radiation, thereby preventing a counterbalancing loss of heat.*
- **Ground Water:** *The supply of fresh water found beneath the Earth's surface, usually in aquifers, which supply wells and springs. Because ground water is a major source of drinking water, there is growing concern over contamination from leaching agricultural or industrial pollutants or leaking underground storage tanks.*
- **Habitat:** *The place where a population (e.g., human, animal, plant, microorganism) lives and its surroundings, both living and non-living.*
- **Hazardous Waste:** *By-products of society that can pose a substantial or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly managed. Possesses at least one of four characteristics (ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, or toxicity), or appears on special EPA lists.*
- **HAZMAT:** *Hazardous Materials*
- **Heavy Metals:** *Metallic elements with high atomic weights; (e.g., mercury, chromium, cadmium, arsenic, and lead); can damage living things at low concentrations and tend to accumulate in the food chain.*
- **High-Level Radioactive Waste (HLRW):** *Waste generated in core fuel of a nuclear reactor, found at nuclear reactors or by nuclear fuel reprocessing; is a serious threat to anyone who comes near the waste without shielding. (See: low-level radioactive waste.)*
- **Integrated Pest Management (IPM):** *A mixture of chemical and other, non-pesticide, methods to control pests.*
- **IPM:** *Inhalable Particulate Matter. Integrated Pest Management*
- **IRIS:** *Instructional Resources Information System. Integrated Risk Information System. EPA's Integrated Risk Information System, an electronic data base containing the Agency's latest descriptive and quantitative regulatory information on chemical constituents.*
- **Landfills:** *1. Sanitary landfills are disposal sites for non-hazardous solid wastes spread in layers, compacted to the smallest practical volume, and covered by material applied at the end of each operating day. 2. Secure chemical landfills are disposal sites for hazardous waste, selected and designed to minimize the chance of release of hazardous substances into the environment.*
- **LLRW:** *Low Level Radioactive Waste, Wastes less hazardous than most of those associated with a nuclear reactor; generated by hospitals, research laboratories, and certain industries. The Department of Energy, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and EPA share responsibilities for managing them.*
- **Medical Waste:** *Any solid waste generated in the diagnosis, treatment, or immunization of human beings or animals, in*

research pertaining thereto, or in the production or testing of biologicals, excluding hazardous waste identified or listed under 40 CFR Part 261 or any household waste as defined in 40 CFR Sub-section 261.4 (b)(1).

- **Monitoring Well:** 1. A well used to obtain water quality samples or measure groundwater levels. 2. A well drilled at a hazardous waste management facility or Superfund site to collect ground-water samples for the purpose of physical, chemical, or biological analysis to determine the amounts, types, and distribution of contaminants in the groundwater beneath the site.

- **Non-potable:** Water that is unsafe or unpalatable to drink because it contains pollutants, contaminants, minerals, or infective agents.

- **NRDC:** Natural Resources Defense Council

- **Ozone Depletion:** Destruction of the stratospheric ozone layer which shields the earth from ultraviolet radiation harmful to life. This destruction of ozone is caused by the breakdown of certain chlorine and/or bromine containing compounds (chlorofluorocarbons or halons), which break down when they reach the stratosphere and then catalytically destroy ozone molecules.

- **Particulates:** 1. Fine liquid or solid particles such as dust, smoke, mist, fumes, or smog, found in air or emissions. 2. Very small solids suspended in water; they can vary in size, shape, density and electrical charge and can be gathered together by coagulation and flocculation.

- **Permit:** An authorization, license, or equivalent control document issued by EPA or an approved state agency to implement the requirements of an environmental regulation; e.g., a permit to operate a wastewater treatment plant or to operate a facility that may generate harmful emissions.

- **Pesticide:** Substances or mixture thereof intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest. Also, any substance or mixture intended for use as a plant regulator, defoliant, or desiccant.

- **Plume:** 1. A visible or measurable discharge of a contaminant from a given point of origin. Can be visible or thermal in water, or visible in the air as, for example, a plume of smoke. 2. The area of radiation leaking from a damaged reactor. 3. Area downwind within which a release could be dangerous for those exposed to leaking fumes.

- **Pollution:** Generally, the presence of a substance in the environment that because of its chemical composition or quantity prevents the functioning of natural processes and produces undesirable environmental and health effects. Under the Clean Water Act, for example, the term has been defined as the man-made or man-induced alteration of the physical, biological, chemical, and radiological integrity of water and other media.

- **Potable Water:** Water that is safe for drinking and cooking. **PPM/PPB:** Parts per million/ parts per billion

- **Public Hearing:** A formal meeting wherein EPA officials hear the public's views and concerns about an EPA action or proposal. EPA is required to consider such comments when evaluating its actions. Public hearings must be held upon request during the public comment period.

- **Public Notice:** 1. Notification by EPA informing the public of Agency actions such as the issuance of a draft permit or scheduling of a hearing. EPA is required to ensure proper public notice, including publication in newspapers and broadcast over radio and television stations. 2. In the safe drinking water program, water suppliers are required to publish and broadcast notices when pollution problems are discovered.

- **RAD:** Radiation Adsorbed Dose **RAPCA:** Regional Air Pollution Control Agency **RCRA:** Resource Conservation and Recovery Act

- **RCRIS:** Resource Conservation and Recovery Information System **Release:** Any spilling, leaking, pumping, pouring, emitting, emptying, discharging, injecting, escaping, leaching, dumping, or disposing into the environment of a hazardous or toxic chemical or extremely hazardous substance. **Remedial Action (RA):** The actual construction or implementation phase of a Superfund site cleanup that follows remedial design.

- **Remediation:** 1. Cleanup or other methods used to remove or contain a toxic spill or hazardous materials from a Superfund site; 2. for the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response program, abatement methods including evaluation, repair, enclosure, encapsulation, or removal of greater than 3 linear feet or square feet of asbestos-containing materials from a building.

- **RICO:** Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act **Riparian Habitat:** Areas adjacent to rivers and streams with a differing density, diversity, and productivity of plant and animal species relative to nearby uplands.

- **Risk:** A measure of the probability that damage to life, health, property, and/or the environment will occur as a result of

a given hazard. **Risk Assessment:** Qualitative and quantitative evaluation of the risk posed to human health and/or the environment by the actual or potential presence and/or use of specific pollutants.

- **Risk Factor:** Characteristics (e.g., race, sex, age, obesity) or variables (e.g., smoking, occupational exposure level) associated with increased probability of a toxic effect.
- **Sludge:** A semi-solid residue from any of a number of air or water treatment processes; can be a hazardous waste.
- **Smog:** Air pollution typically associated with oxidants.
- **Smoke:** Particles suspended in air after incomplete combustion.
- **Solid Waste:** Non-liquid, non-soluble materials ranging from municipal garbage to industrial wastes that contain complex and sometimes hazardous substances. Solid wastes also include sewage sludge, agricultural refuse, demolition wastes, and mining residues. Technically, solid waste also refers to liquids and gases in containers.
- **Source Reduction:** Reducing the amount of materials entering the waste stream from a specific source by redesigning products or patterns of production or consumption (e.g., using returnable beverage containers). Synonymous with waste reduction.
- **Sprawl:** Unplanned development of open land.
- **Stakeholder:** Any organization, governmental entity, or individual that has a stake in or may be impacted by a given approach to environmental regulation, pollution prevention, energy conservation, etc.
- **Superfund:** The program operated under the legislative authority of CERCLA and SARA that funds and carries out EPA solid waste emergency and long-term removal and remedial activities. These activities include establishing the National Priorities List, investigating sites for inclusion on the list, determining their priority, and conducting and/or supervising cleanup and other remedial actions.
- **Toxic Chemical:** Any chemical listed in EPA rules as "Toxic Chemicals Subject to Section 313 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986."
- **Toxic Release Inventory:** Database of toxic releases in the United States compiled from SARA Title III Section 313 reports.
- **Toxic Waste:** A waste that can produce injury if inhaled, swallowed, or absorbed through the skin.
- **TRI:** Toxic Release Inventory
- **Voluntary Action Program (VAP):** Ohio's Voluntary Action Program was created by Senate Bill 221 and signed into law by Governor George V. Voinovich in June of 1994. The program encourages people to redevelop and reuse land that is contaminated by hazardous substances or petroleum. The amount of cleanup required for a particular piece of property depends on how that property will be used in the future. Land that will be reused for industrial purposes, such as a factory, is not required to be cleaned up as much as land that will be reused for residences.
- **Waste Stream:** The total flow of solid waste from homes, businesses, institutions, and manufacturing plants that is recycled, burned, or disposed of in landfills, or segments thereof such as the "residential waste stream" or the "recyclable waste stream."
- **Wellhead Protection Area:** A protected surface and subsurface zone surrounding a well or well field supplying a public water system to keep contaminants from reaching the well water.
- **Wetlands:** An area that is saturated by surface or ground water with vegetation adapted for life under those soil conditions, as swamps, bogs, fens, marshes, and estuaries.