



WHAT IS THE ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE & RECOGNITION PROGRAM (EPRP)?

The Environmental Performance & Recognition Program (EPRP) is an environmental leadership program for all types of businesses and organizations. The EPRP offers three levels of recognition — Commitment, Achievement and Excellence. The Achievement and Excellence levels require the implementation of a performance-based environmental management system (EMS). The overall goal of the program is to produce **real** environmental improvements, such as reducing air emissions, improving water quality, preventing pollution, and improving compliance. The basic premise of the EPRP is that waste is the result of inefficiency and by reducing waste an organization can increase its productivity and therefore, its profits. **Waste that is never created does not pollute.**

The Environmental Performance and Recognition Program (EPRP) is a voluntary Program that:

- Supports and assists all Oklahoma businesses to achieve environmental excellence through continuous improvement and effective energy management
- Encourages integration of environmental excellence into business operations and management practices through the establishment of a prevention-based environmental management system
- The EPRP emphasizes the establishment of a system to provide a framework for continuous environmental improvement that will assure compliance and reduce or eliminate pollution. The EPRP is based on the Malcolm Baldrige Business Performance Excellence Criteria and the Oklahoma Quality Award Foundation program.

The DEQ Pollution Prevention Program administers the EPRP with guidance from the Pollution Prevention Advisory Group.

Who Should Participate In This Program?

Large and small organizations — any business, organization or community will benefit by participating in the Environmental Performance and Recognition Program, regardless of size.

- Any operation that generates waste or uses resources such as electricity or water can strive for continuous environmental improvement.

- Communities can use the EPRP to work with local businesses to meet community environmental and economic sustainability goals.
- Local governments can apply the EPRP to operations such as fleet maintenance, waste handling and other operations to reduce waste and save money!
- Other types of organizations, such as economic development organizations and environmental groups, can also benefit from using the tools associated with the EPRP.

Why Apply?

- Get an independent assessment of your organization's environmental performance.
- Understand how your organization can reach new levels of environmental excellence while satisfying customers
- Understand how environmental activities can be integrated into overall business practices.
- Learn to improve efficiency and productivity by adopting proactive environmental management techniques
- Achieve morale-boosting recognition and awards and enhance your competitive position

NOTES

1. Nonregulated sites—such as retail establishments, schools, farms, or ranches—may join either on a site-by-site or group basis. (A shopping mall and/or individual stores within a shopping mall may participate.)
2. Organizations must also meet applicable compliance standards. Your organization may not participate if its compliance screen indicates any of the following:
 - A “poor” compliance history
 - A criminal conviction for violation of environmental laws within the past three years.In addition, DEQ will also consider whether there are significant problems or patterns of noncompliance in your organization's overall compliance history.

COMMITMENT OF PARTICIPATION IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE & RECOGNITION PROGRAM

We are interested in the Environmental Performance & Recognition Program (EPRP). We intend to participate at the following level:

— **Commitment Level:** The Company

- Has made a strong commitment to environmental improvement or effective energy management
- Is beginning to put a prevention-based environmental management system in place that will allow improved environmental performance.

— **Achievement Level:** The Company

- Has made a strong commitment to pollution prevention
- Has established a basic, systematic pollution prevention program
- Is developing the pollution prevention program into a prevention-based environmental management system and can demonstrate measurable results

— **Excellence:** The Company

- Has a fully integrated pollution prevention-based environmental management system in place
- Can demonstrate significant process improvements, substantial regulatory compliance, measurable waste reduction and leadership in innovative approaches to environmental issues, both within the company and in the community.

— We aren't ready to apply this year, but we want to be put on the EPRP mailing list to keep informed on training schedules and other important news!

Name: _____

Company Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Fax Number: _____

Email: _____

SENIOR MANAGEMENT COMMITMENT

PARTICIPATION STATEMENT

I, *(name)* _____, *(title)* _____ of *(organization name)* _____, certify that I have personally examined all information provided in this application, including the attachments, and all information provided is true, accurate, and complete, to the best of my knowledge.

I am a senior organization leader and have been duly authorized to execute this statement on behalf of the organization applying for the Environmental Performance & Recognition Program.

Signature of senior management: _____

Phone number: (____) _____

Date: _____



Please return this form and application materials to:
Environmental Performance & Recognition Program
Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality
Pollution Prevention Program
P.O. Box 1677
Oklahoma City, OK 73101-1677
Dianne Wilkins (405) 702-9128 or (800) 869-1400

E-mail: dianne.wilkins@deq.state.ok.us

