

Environmental Improvement Projects

Participation in Tiers Two and Three requires that the applicant work on two approved projects designed to significantly reduce or prevent pollution. In addition, participants in Tier Three must also work on a leadership project. A project is defined as something that is not required by statute or by rule and that falls within the guidelines listed below. “Significant” will be determined in relation to the industry sector and to previous environmental improvement efforts of the applicant.

To be eligible, the applicant must propose a project that benefits at least one of the Core areas and a project from one of the Suggested areas. A Leadership project should benefit one of the Core areas. “Significance” must be demonstrated by the applicant. DEQ staff specialists will review the project to determine whether it goes beyond compliance, is viable, and whether the timeframe makes sense. The multi-interest review panel will also generally review and make a recommendation on the proposed projects.

Core Project Areas

Waste Reduction - The overall goal of the project would be to either reduce the amount of waste being generated or to substitute more harmful products with those that are less harmful to the environment. Projects may fall within any of the following categories:

1. Solid Waste
2. Hazardous Waste
3. Waste Management

Water Management - The overall project focus should be on protecting water sources and/or using water more efficiently. Projects may fall within any of the following categories:

1. Storm Water
2. Waste Water
3. Surface Water
4. Ground Water
5. Wetlands
6. Water Conservation
7. Water Efficiency

Air Emissions - The focus of projects proposed in this area should be the reduction of pollutants below standards outlined in the permit.

In addition, the applicant must select at least one project from the Suggested list to compliment and augment the Core project. This list is not comprehensive. Other projects may be considered, based on the applicability and environmental benefit.

Suggested Project Areas

Transportation Management

1. Clean fuels and related technology – may include dedicated CNG and zero emission vehicles
2. Fleet management
3. Trip reduction and consolidation
4. Commuter trip reduction
 - Support use of mass transit
 - Flex schedules, compressed work week
 - Telecommuting

Recycling/Reuse

1. Paper/Office
2. Cardboard
3. Metal
4. Plastics
5. Electronics
6. Others

Procurement

1. Buy recycled products
2. Purchase less toxic products
3. Look at where production materials are coming from and favor lowest environmental impact
4. Purchase more efficient, more environmentally protective products

Energy Conservation

1. Purchase or generate renewable energy
2. Energy efficiency measures and buildings
3. Reduce use of electricity/natural gas
4. Reduction of greenhouse gases
5. Reduction of peak power use

Land Use Management

1. Brownfield or USTfield development
2. Voluntary cleanup project
3. Establish a conservation easement
4. Quality Growth Community
5. 21st Century Community