**AAPCA 2024 BEST PRACTICES IN AIR POLLUTION CONTROL**

**Nomination and Recognition Process – Summary**

The Association of Air Pollution Control Agencies (AAPCA) is seeking nominations from public agencies, private entities, and individuals to identify groundbreaking technology, innovative practices, and exemplary operations in the field of air pollution control. Of particular interest are activities that are directly transferrable to the operation of an air pollution control agency.

**Nomination Process**

How to nominate? Anyone can identify and recommend that a certain organization, control technology, or operation be identified as a “Best Practice.” The application below should be used to provide the information for the best practice nomination.

**Evaluation Process**

The AAPCA Best Practices Committee will evaluate each nomination on a scale of ‘0’ to ‘100’ points. Nominations receiving a score of ‘85’ points or higher will be recommended as a Best Practice in Air Pollution Control. The AAPCA Best Practices Committee will provide the scoring evaluation to the Association’s Board of Directors for final voting and approval of the “Best Practice” designations.

**Sharing of Information**

The purpose of having “Best Practice” recognition is to transfer information to various parties to expand the practices to a larger group of people. The sponsor of the “Best Practice” will be invited to give a presentation at the AAPCA 2024 Fall Business Meeting (August 28, 29, 30 in Raleigh, North Carolina) and on a national webinar. In addition, individual best practices will be included in the Association’s annual *State Air Trends & Successes: The StATS Report*, social media features, and listed on AAPCA’s website.

**Questions**

Any questions on the process may be directed to AAPCA’s Executive Director at jsloan@csg.org or the co-chairs of the AAPCA Best Practices Committee at Robert.Hodanbosi@epa.ohio.gov and krause.hether@azdeq.gov.

**About AAPCA**

AAPCA is a national, non-profit, consensus-driven organization focused on assisting state and local air quality agencies and personnel with implementation and technical issues associated with the federal Clean Air Act. Created in 2012, AAPCA represents 51 state and local air pollution control agencies, and senior officials from 21 state environmental agencies currently sit on the AAPCA Board of Directors. AAPCA is housed in Lexington, Kentucky as an affiliate of [The Council of State Governments](https://www.csg.org/). You can find more information about AAPCA at: [www.cleanairact.org](http://www.cleanairact.org).

**2024 Best Practices in Air Pollution Control Application – Instructions**

**Application Instructions**

Please read all the instructions and criteria carefully before filling out the application. Applications will be scored based on the information provided. Incomplete applications will not be considered. The application consists of the following sections:

1. Contact Information
2. Name of Nomination/Practice
3. Program Areas
4. Overview
5. Description of Best Practice
6. Lessons Learned
7. Evaluation of Practice
8. Sustainability
9. Transferability
10. Uniqueness
11. How did you learn about the Best Practices Program?

***Answer each section separately*; *do not combine sections*.** Please make sure to answer all questions in complete sentences. If selected, “Best Practice” sponsors will be asked to give a presentation at the AAPCA Fall Business Meeting, with presentations placed on the AAPCA website ([www.cleanairact.org/resources](http://www.cleanairact.org/resources)). All “Best Practice” applications **must** be submitted via AAPCA’s form.

While filling out the application, please keep in mind that the goal of the Best Practices Program is: (1) to recognize outstanding air pollution prevention practices and (2) to promote sharing of these outstanding practices among air pollution control agencies and the public.

**Eligibility**

Any public agency, private entity, or individual that is associated with air pollution control is eligible to submit best practices.

**Deadlines**

To be eligible for the 2024 Best Practices Awards, submissions must be received by 11:59 PM Eastern Time on **Friday, April 19, 2024**. We strongly encourage early submissions. The forms may be submitted electronically to jsloan@csg.org or mailed to:

Jason Sloan, Executive Director, AAPCA

C/O: The Council of State Governments

1776 Avenue of the States

Lexington, KY 40511

**Contact Us**

For general information about the Best Practices Program, please visit AAPCA’s website: <https://cleanairact.org/resources/>.

**Additional Information to Assist in Completing the Form**

**Description of Best Practice**

* Goal(s) and objectives of practice
* What did you do to achieve the goals and objectives?
	+ Steps taken to implement the program/practice
* What was the timeframe for the development of the practice, program, or control equipment?
* Were other stakeholders/companies involved? What was their role in the planning and implementation process?
* What are the costs associated with the equipment or staffing with this practice? Please provide actual data, if possible. Did the project receive federal or state funding?
* What did you find out? To what extent were your objectives achieved?

**Lessons Learned**

* Lessons learned in relation to the project
* Lessons learned in relation to partner collaboration (if applicable)
* Is this practice better than what has been done before?
* Did you do a cost/benefit analysis or a cost effectiveness analysis? If so, describe.

**Evaluation of Best Practice**

* Did you evaluate your practice?
	+ List any primary data sources, who collected the data, and how (if applicable)
	+ List any secondary data sources used (if applicable)
	+ List performance measures used. Include process and outcome measures as appropriate.
	+ Describe how results were analyzed
	+ Were any modifications made to the practice as a result of the data findings?

**Sustainability**

* Sustainability – Is there sufficient commitment to sustain the practice?
	+ Describe sustainability plan

**Transferability**

* How adaptable is this practice to other organizations?

**Uniqueness**

* Is this a unique practice that has not yet been adopted by other organizations?

*Please read instructions before filling out the application below*

Submit to: Jason Sloan, Executive Director, AAPCA, jsloan@csg.org

**The deadline is April 19, 2024, for 2024 Best Practices Nominations.**

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| --- |
| Contact Information: |
| Name/Title: |       |
| Organization: |       |
| Address: |       |
|  |       |
| Phone: |       |
| Email: |       |
| Name of Nomination/Practice: |
|  |
| Program Area *(Please check one below.)* |
| [ ]  Air Quality Monitoring & Testing[ ]  Permitting[ ]  Inspections / Enforcement[ ]  Control Technology[ ]  Process Improvement[ ]  Administration of Air Quality Programs |
| Overview *(No more than 300 words.)* |
|  |
| **Description of Best Practice** |
|  |
| **Lessons Learned** |
|  |
| **Evaluation of Best Practice** |
|  |
| **Sustainability** |
|  |
| **Transferability**  |
|  |
| **Uniqueness** |
|  |
| **How did you learn about the Best Practices Program?** Check all that apply. |
| [ ]  AAPCA Brochure[ ]  Email from AAPCA[ ]  AAPCA websiteOther: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

**Thank you for your submission!**

**Below is a sample nomination:**

|  |
| --- |
| Contact Information: |
| Name/Title: |  /Chief, Permitting Section |
| Organization: | AAA Quality Air Pollution Control Agency |
| Address: | 123 Main Street |
|  | Center of World, Ohio 44444 |
| Phone: |  |
| Email: |  |
| **Name of Nomination/Practice:** |
| Air Permit Public Information Sessions |
| Program Area *(Please check one below.)* |
| [ ]  Air Quality Monitoring & Testing[x]  Permitting[ ]  Inspections / Enforcement[ ]  Control Technology[ ]  Process Improvement**Example**[ ]  Administration of Air Quality Programs |
| Overview *(No more than 300 words.)* |
| The air pollution control agency has had difficulty in providing a satisfactory approach to hold a public hearing on a controversial air pollution source and both take testimony and provide information and answer questions. The solution that was developed is a two-step process and allows flexibility to the approach. Instead of just holding a public hearing and having citizens testify into the record, the agency holds a "public information session" prior to the formal public hearing that allows the individual citizens to obtain information on the project and ask questions. There are different mechanisms and processes to hold these meetings/hearings. Flexibility is the key! |
| **Description of Best Practice** |
| Many times the public has expressed frustration at the public hearing process. Although testimony is taken, there is no opportunity to share information or answer questions. In order to provide more information to the public, the air pollution control agency set up a two-step process to address controversial air pollution sources. The first step is an attempt to gauge the level of concern/controversy with the source and the number of agencies that may be involved. For example, a new large project that involves different programs, such as a hazardous waste incinerator or coal-fired power plant, the agency may set up tables in a gymnasium with staff at the tables answering questions for several hours on agency requirements even including other state agencies such as Natural Resources or Health. Other times, such an extensive program is not needed. The agency will have a short presentation followed by questions and answers from the public for an hour before the actual hearing. In one case, with a complex chemical plant, the agency allowed the company to complete a short presentation on the process before the information session. For a source that is mildly controversial the agency will hold an information session a week before the public hearing and after a short presentation, complete a question-and-answer session for several hours to allow the public to ask questions about the facility.  |
| **Lessons Learned** |
| The most important item is to gauge the level of interest in the community, then adjust the plan to attempt to accommodate the public. For a small group of individuals, meeting with them an hour before the hearing may be exactly what is needed. For other times, having a separate information session is needed. Sometimes just meeting with a group of 4 or 5 people in someone’s home will address the concerns. The main focus needs to be how to address the main concerns of the public. |
| **Evaluation of Best Practice** |
| There was no formal evaluation process. However, the frequency of antagonistic hearings have lessened versus what has happened in the past. Having the public be able to ask questions and receive answers to most questions appears to provide a better forum for the actual hearing. |
| **Sustainability** |
| Overall, this effort does require the investment of more time, but provides for a more productive public hearing process. The amount of time is not significantly greater than the standard public hearing process so should be able to be continued into the future. Also, this approach reduces the time spent having to answer “Why won’t you answer my question?” |
| **Transferability** **Example** |
| Other organizations could easily adopt this practice without additional funds. |
| **Uniqueness** |
| We are the first air pollution control agency to try this approach, although other innovative public hearing techniques have been utilized by other organizations. |
| **How Did you learn about the Best Practices Program?** Check all that apply. |
| [ ]  AAPCA Brochure[ ]  Email from AAPCA[ ]  AAPCA websiteOther: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

**Thank you for your submission!**