



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OAQDA Celebrates Small Businesses Preserving Ohio’s Air during National Small Business Week

COLUMBUS –The Ohio Air Quality Development Authority salutes small businesses across Ohio during National Small Business Week, May 5-11 that are working to preserve air quality and provide safe, healthy environments for customers, employees and communities.

“Small businesses are a key component of our national economy. OAQDA is pleased to work with many of these companies on fulfilling their environmental and economic goals by investing in newer, cleaner technologies that assists their growth while reducing harmful air emissions for their community,” Christina O’Keeffe, OAQDA Executive Director, said.

The small business arm of OAQDA, known as the Clean Air Resource Center (CARC), is focused on reaching out and assisting small businesses that are required to comply with the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. CARC provides cost-effective financing assistance to help these businesses reduce regulated air pollutants through the issuance of bonds and grants as well as makes technical assistance available and understandable.

During National Small Business Week, OAQDA is highlighting several small businesses recently approved for clean air financing, including:

- A ribbon-cutting ceremony on Thurs., May 9, at Kistler Ford, 5555 W. Central Ave., Toledo, which purchased and installed three new, energy-efficient paint booths with \$250,000 in financing through CARC to allow the dealership to better utilize environmentally-friendly water-based paints and control emissions.
- Esteem Cleaners, 6475 Pearl Rd., Parma Heights, OH, that used up to \$100,000 in financing from OAQDA to replace outdated dry cleaning equipment with a new solvent dry cleaning machine and a wet cleaning machine to eliminate hazardous emissions;.

- Henry's Dry Cleaners, 11601 Kinsman Rd., Cleveland, a small, family-owned business serving the area for 50 years. The business was approved in April for up to \$48,000 in financing to purchase and install equipment that uses environmentally-friendly cleaning solvents to preserve and protect the environment for customers and employees.

CARC provides funding to qualified businesses that emit less than 75 tons of all regulated pollutants and less than 50 tons of any single regulated pollutant annually and have fewer than 100 employees. Examples of businesses utilizing CARC funds to purchase pollution control equipment include dry cleaners, small manufacturers, auto body shops, metal working companies and many others.

In 2018, OAQDA approved up to \$1.6 million in CARC funds for 14 small Ohio businesses across the state. This investment impacts 187 existing and 33 new jobs with these local community businesses. Most notably, OAQDA worked with drycleaners in 2018 to eliminate the use of a known carcinogen solvent from their process and replaced it with a more environmentally-friendly solution. As a result, this change will have a positive health impact felt by 51 employees in these neighborhood businesses.

-30-

The Ohio Air Quality Development Authority (OAQDA) is a non-regulatory government agency created to help Ohio businesses comply with clean air regulations. Since its creation in 1970, the Authority has provided technical and financial help to hundreds of large and small Ohio businesses, awarding more than \$8 billion to finance air quality projects. For more information about OAQDA and its services, please visit its web site at www.ohioairquality.org.