

# **NEO SMART PROGRAM**

## *Inspiring INNOVATION thru EDUCATION & COLLABORATION*

~ Select Sample Project Summaries ~

- ❖ **City of Ashland receives a dedicated revenue source of \$ 2.7 M to fund new storm water management program**  
The 2006 national Askew Award-winning project enabled the City of Ashland to receive a dedicated revenue source of \$2.7 M (over five years) to fund the city's new storm water management program. This will ensure consistent compliance with federal and state EPA regulations.
- ❖ **Richland County saves \$283,065 in one year in health care costs**  
Health care costs were the largest Richland County expense in 2005. This project implemented a twelve-week pilot wellness program for 100 Richland County employees in order to reduce health care costs. The program's aim was to improve the health of employees by sharing tips and strategies to modify their lifestyle choices. This program saved the county \$283,065 in one year in healthcare costs, and also improved employees' health and morale.
- ❖ **Harrison County created a multi-agency partnership to develop the 89-acre Little Stillwater Preserve for recreational and eco-tourism**  
In 2004 Harrison County purchased 89 acres of wetlands in the hopes of developing the land for recreational purposes. That development did not take place due to budget constraints. This project designed a strategic plan creating a multi-agency partnership and a mitigation bank, which will provide the infrastructure and resources needed to develop the Little Stillwater Preserve recreational site as an eco-tourism attraction.
- ❖ **Five suburban communities (Twinsburg, Bedford Hts., Macedonia, Olmsted Falls, Walton Hills) cost-share to implement a "Regional Emergency Warning System"**  
The 2005 national Askew Award-winning project involved the implementation of a regional initiative entitled: The Regional Emergency Warning System. This system provides warning alarms to alert residents in an eight community service area of potential emergency events, e.g. tornados, floods, hazardous waste spills, etc. The project was also awarded a 50% reimbursement grant from FEMA.
- ❖ **City of Solon develops model to reduce mercury processed in Water Reclamation Facility**  
The 2004 national Askew Award-winning project developed a model to reduce the amount of mercury processed through the City of Solon's - Water Reclamation Facility. This project helped the city maintain its discharge permit by meeting EPA regulations. It included an additional educational component targeting the residents of Solon to make them aware of the harmful effects of mercury.
- ❖ **Ohio's Department of Taxation and Bureau of Workers Compensation share data on suspect companies to collect millions in unpaid premium payments, taxes, and penalties**  
The Ohio Department of Taxation and the Bureau of Workers Compensation are responsible for the collection of taxes and premiums from Ohio businesses. Both agencies are burdened with identifying non-compliant companies. This project establishes a means for the two agencies to share information about suspect companies. As a pilot, the project team researched 20 companies, discovering over \$6,000,000 in unpaid premium payments, taxes, and penalties. When fully implemented statewide, this project has the potential to recoup millions of dollars that are owed to the State.