



ARKANSAS  
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT



ARKANSAS  
**NSTEP**  
Natural State Environmental Program

# Natural State Environmental Program (NSTEP)

**A Program of Arkansas Department of Energy & Environment**

## Beyond Compliance Project Ideas:

This list contains environmental improvement project examples that demonstrate what's been done previously or what's possible. All project proposals are reviewed by DEQ Staff on a case-by-case basis to assess environmental benefits.

**PROJECTS MUST:** Be measurable | Provide an environmental benefit | Go beyond compliance

### Air:

1. Reduce the amount of paint used on products by using higher transfer efficiency methods - Automate processes at your facility.
  - For example: installing an automated paint line. This can reduce material consumption by up to 30% and reduce the amount of VOCs emitted, among other benefits.
2. Switch to water-based or low VOC-containing materials.
3. Utilize emission controls by installing catalytic oxidizers, regenerative thermal oxidizers (RTOs), rotary concentrators, fabric filters, scrubbers, or other air pollution control devices.
4. Establish routine inspection and maintenance procedures on air pollution control devices and air pollution emitting sources.
5. Implement Ozone Action Days, cutting off vehicles that produce harmful emissions of designated ozone alert days.
  - Check DEQ's Office of Air Quality webpage for more information:  
<https://www.adeq.state.ar.us/air/planning/ozone/>
6. Implement anti-idling policies for company vehicles.
7. Utilize EPA-certified "Safer Choice" products in your cleaning supplies.
  - This can help improve both indoor and outdoor air quality.
8. Look into incorporating a work-from-home policy, if possible, to reduce emissions related to vehicle use.

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## Beyond Compliance Project Ideas

### Energy:

1. Update older, inefficient light fixtures and replace bulbs with LEDs.
  - Engineering, Compliance, & Construction Inc. (ECCI) was admitted into NStEP as a Silver member in 2021. ECCI replaced ten (10) light fixtures with LEDs within their first year of membership, with more to come.
2. Automate lighting controls for the facility. You could install motion sensors for lights that are used less frequently.
3. Create start-up and shut-down procedures for specialty production/manufacturing equipment. Set equipment to maintain a zero-energy use status while not operating and interface the systems to operate only when needed.
4. Turn off exhaust systems when not in operation. You could also add variable frequency drives to fan motors.
5. Replace any old motors with newer, premium efficiency motors. You can also add variable frequency drives here.
6. Monitor compressed air use. Reduce air leaks in pipes and equipment and/or turn off unnecessary compressed air; this can be a major source of energy loss.
  - Pratt & Whitney is a world leader in the design, manufacture, and service of aircraft units and auxiliary power units and has been a Platinum member in the program since 2019. Pratt & Whitney partnered with SWEPCO, an Arkansas energy utility company, to conduct a survey of the facility's compressed air system. In 2021, the survey detected 198 leaks which were subsequently repaired. The following year (2022), only 98 leaks were discovered and repaired, none of which were previous leaks. The project will help save Pratt & Whitney an estimated \$12,000 in energy usage per year.
7. Install a solar array, or utilize other renewable energy sources, to reduce dependency on fossil fuels.
  - The Arkansas Department of the Military, a Platinum member, installed a solar array on-site at Camp Joseph T. Robinson to assist in the agency's commitment to energy reduction.
8. Apply weather stripping to all entrances and exits of your facility.
9. Install energy-efficient windows and/or roofing.
  - Dassault Falcon, Jet, a Platinum member since 2019, utilized a water-based roof coating that provides a water membrane and creates reflectivity. The roof coating will assist in reducing energy consumption at the facility and will result in both energy and monetary savings for the company.
10. Implement technologies for the combustion of municipal solid waste to result in energy recovery.
11. Install ENERGY STAR-certified appliances and machines.
12. Retrofit bathrooms with water and energy-efficient fixtures.
13. Replace traditional fume hoods with more efficient, lower-flow versions.
14. Switch to an electric fleet for company vehicles, or slowly transition a few at a time.
  - You can also install electric vehicle chargers in your company parking lot.



**ENTERPRISE SERVICES**  
Environmental Compliance Assistance

## Land:

1. Conduct strategic tree plantings.
2. Plant and maintain or expand a pollinator garden.
  - At Camp Joseph T. Robinson, the Arkansas Department of the Military has expanded its existing pollinator garden. This is an effort to preserve and protect the State's natural resources, native plants and pollinators, and their habitats.
3. Grow a community garden for community use.
4. Partner with a wildlife group to sustainability stock ponds with fish and aquatic wildlife on facility grounds.
5. Conduct ecosystem (prairies, grasslands, forests, wetlands, etc.) restoration/revitalization projects.
6. Conduct prescribed burns or prescribed burn trainings/school.
  - The Arkansas Department of the Military hosts annual prescribed burn trainings at the Camp Joseph T. Robinson site. This week-long, multi-agency collaboration provides classroom learning and hands-on participation to local area youth.
7. Create water retention installations (Rainwater collection, green roofs, biowales, etc.)
  - Pratt & Whitney installed a rainwater harvesting system in 2020 to collect water and supply the facility's evaporative cooling tower. The project helps Pratt & Whitney save around 240,000 gallons of water and approximately \$500 annually.
8. Start a composting pile; this is a good opportunity for collaboration.

## Waste:

1. Implement a continuous recycling regimen AND/OR host an annual recyclable collection event.
  - The Arkansas Department of the Military hosts an annual week-long recyclable collection event at Camp Robinson. This is an effort to encourage and promote recycling for DOTM employees on-site and at home.
2. Implement an email-only communication chain at your facility to reduce paper communication.
3. Donate/sell e-waste to entities that will reuse the product if it is in good working condition rather than redirecting it to a waste stream (Schools, non-profits, etc.).
4. Start an Affirmative Procurement program, where new products are manufactured using recycled materials and subsequently sold for profit.
  - The Arkansas Department of the Military maintains an ongoing buy-recycled purchasing program to help stimulate recycling in the local community.
5. If your facility produces glass waste, you could use this glass as a replacement for sand in cement and hazardous waste kilns. This can help reduce the amount of waste glass produced and sent to a landfill from your facility while reducing the amount of external resources used in production.
6. Switch to an environmentally-friendly alternative packaging solution.
7. Look into partnering with local farms. You could donate food scraps to help feed pigs and other farm animals, among a number of useful alternatives.
8. Utilize smart waste management tactics, such as sorting robots or smart waste bins.
9. Switch to launderable, reusable versions of oil absorbents.

## Beyond Compliance Project Ideas

### Water:

1. Design a good water treatment system to reduce the concentration of PFAS in your business practices; contact your local commercial water treatment facility for further information.
2. Optimize any cooling systems, and determine if they are eligible for alternative water sources.
3. Meter any and all possible water supply lines; you can even install a water meter data management system to assist in identifying water usage abnormalities.
4. Replace single-pass cooling systems with air-cooled or recirculating models to conserve water.
  - Pratt & Whitney replaced an older Carbtrol filtration system with a newer closed-loop fluorescent pentrant indicator system. This system allows the company to monitor their water usage, maintain healthy water quality levels, and alert appropriate officials of any associated issues.
5. Install membrane processes, like reverse osmosis, to separate purified water from contaminants. Ensure that all contaminants are disposed of properly.
6. You can also install carbon filtration or deionization processes to assist in increasing water quality.
7. Fit fume hoods with wet scrubbers to capture, trap, and dispose of hazardous substances (AKA: liquid fume hood scrubbers).
8. Collect and subsequently treat gray water for reuse in the facility.
9. Install WaterSense water-efficient faucet aerators in sinks. Likewise, look into installing WaterSense pre-rinse spray valves in kitchens. WaterSense-labeled products also include irrigation controls, toilets, and sprinkler systems. You could even use drain water to help in irrigation and sprinkler system!
10. Utilize more permeable pavements for parking lots. These are considered more porous surfaces, allowing stormwater to infiltrate the soil and groundwater more efficiently.

### Miscellaneous:

1. Undertake a climate vulnerability assessment to identify future risks related to your facility and how to mitigate them.
2. Partner with local schools to promote environmental education.
3. Consider hosting annual environmental and sustainability trainings for your facility's employees.
4. Assist other entities in complying with environmental requirements; or even assist in the development of the entity's EMS.
5. Develop an Environmental Management System (EMS), like ISO 14001 (Gold members only).