

BUEHLER FOOD MARKETS INC. IS A GREEN GROUNDBREAKER IN OHIO

Buehler Food Markets Inc. has become the first and only Ohio-based supermarket chain to join an Environmental Protection Agency program that enlists food retailers in the fight against ozone-layer depletion and climate change.

Headquartered in Wooster, Ohio, Buehler's opened its first store in 1929. It now has 13 locations throughout the state.

Buehler's is the newest member of EPA's GreenChill Partnership. The partnership works with supermarkets to reduce harmful refrigerant emissions from stores and decrease their impact on the ozone layer and on climate change.

Company Vice President Scott Buehler signed the GreenChill agreement. Buehler's will be represented in the partnership by Becky Foster, director of construction and maintenance.

"GreenChill is just another part of our sustainability program that includes new technologies to reduce power consumption, water consumption, recycle our food waste into compost we sell in our stores, recycling centers, building green for our new ACE hardware in New Philadelphia, Ohio, and burning our used fryer oil as fuel in our diesel trucks," Buehler said. "As technology develops we will continue to improve our sustainability efforts."

According to the EPA, the public wants to do business with companies that share their environmental values. By joining GreenChill, Buehler's is making a commitment to the public to go above and beyond regulatory requirements to help the earth's ozone layer and fight climate system.

"As the one and only supermarket chain from Ohio to join GreenChill, Buehler's is setting an excellent example of environmental leadership in the state," says Keilly Witman, the EPA's GreenChill manager. "Buehler's is proof that you don't have to be bigger to make an environmental difference; you just have to be better!"

By joining GreenChill, Buehler's is committed to do the following:

- Require that all of its new and remodeled stores use environmentally friendlier refrigerants.
- Lower the amount of refrigerant they use and eliminate refrigerant leaks over time.
- Adopt green refrigeration technologies, strategies, and practices.

The GreenChill Partnership was launched in 2007. Since then it has grown to include 48 partners with more than 6,500 stores throughout the nation. GreenChill's supermarket partners have refrigerant leak rates that are about 50 percent lower than the industry average, the EPA estimates.

By going above and beyond what laws and regulations require, GreenChill partners help prevent deterioration of the earth's protective ozone layer and combat climate change, the EPA says. Ozone in the upper atmosphere protects the planet from harmful ultraviolet radiation, which can cause skin cancer, cataracts and other ailments.

Under an international treaty and federal law, ozone-damaging refrigerants gradually are being phased out of the marketplace. But those still in cooling systems can continue to leak. And even replacement refrigerants that don't damage the ozone layer can contribute significantly to global warming. That's why reducing stores' refrigerant emissions is doubly important, the EPA adds.

Family-owned Buehler's opened its first store in New Philadelphia, Ohio, in 1929. The company moved to Wooster in 1932. It now also has stores in Ashland, Brunswick, Canton, Coshocton, Delaware, Dover, Medina, Orrville and Wadsworth. More information about the company is at www.buehlers.com.

For more information about the GreenChill Partnership go to www.epa.gov/greenchill. (end.)