Increasingly, both governmental agencies and civic groups expect manufacturers to minimize the affects of operations on the local environment and community. Many organizations struggle to pursue environmental responsibilities and profits simultaneously. At this Southside Forum Event, Georgia Pacific shared how they are striving to be environmental leaders in the Southside community.

Georgia Pacific was recently accepted into the National Environmental Performance Track (NEPT: www.epa.gov/performancetrack). They are one of only 14 companies in Ohio and the only chemical facility in Ohio to be in the NEPT program. Not only have their environmental management systems resulted in reduced emissions, they have also significantly reduced water consumption and eliminated the need for water treatment chemicals.

This event included a plant tour, highlighting both technology and ongoing improvement efforts. David Mason, Jr., Columbus Plant Manager facilitated a discussion highlighting:

- Benefits of being a NEPT member
- Strategies for environmental management systems
- Best practices in environmental leadership
- Importance of partnering with local communities
- How to select environmental aspects for improvement