



Focus on **2004 Governor's Award**

from Ecology's Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program

2004 Governor's Award for Pollution Prevention & Sustainable Practices

Awards go to visions for the future

Gov. Gary Locke has honored seven Washington facilities with the 2004 Governor's Award for Pollution Prevention and Sustainable Practices.

The winners invested in innovative ways to offer their services and products while minimizing waste, and conserving energy, water and other vital resources. They reduced their material and disposal costs, increased their product quality, and improved worker health and safety.

Why they won

The winners showed the benefits of reducing or eliminating the use of toxic materials, preventing solid and hazardous waste, reducing emissions to the air and discharges to the water, and conserving natural resources. They demonstrated excellence and leadership through their commitment to environmental quality and their willingness to share their knowledge of pollution prevention and sustainable practices. Sustainable practices let a facility meet its resource needs successfully, without jeopardizing the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

The judging process

A past winner, pollution-prevention experts, representatives from business, labor and environmental groups, and academia comprised the panel of judges that selected the winners.

2004 Governor's Award recipients

BetterBricks Daylighting Lab

The **BetterBricks Daylighting Lab**, which is managed by the University of Washington's School of Architecture in Seattle, promotes using natural light through windows or skylights as the primary source of interior lighting. Research indicates that daylighting not only saves energy, but also improves workplace health and productivity.

The work of the Daylighting Lab helps reduce the energy needed for lighting and cooling work, saving more than \$1 million in electricity costs each year in the Northwest.

Electric lighting accounts for 40 percent of the total electrical energy consumed in commercial buildings. It also generates heat and adds to the building's cooling load. A building that fully uses daylighting strategies can reduce total energy costs by as much as a third.

The Daylighting Lab also advises clients on meeting the U.S. Green Building Council's requirements for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED™) certification. The Lab is involved in more than 50 building projects that are LEED™ registered or certified. The American Institute of Architects recognized one of the lab's projects – the Pierce County Environmental Services Building – as a Top Ten Green Project for 2004.

The BetterBricks Daylighting Lab provides its services for free, courtesy of the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, a non-profit organization funded by the regional utilities across the Northwest. The Daylighting Lab's goal is to transform the market for lighting energy conservation by providing free education and consulting for high-performance building design.

Columbia Plateau Producers

Columbia Plateau Producers, of Reardan, grows and markets wheat under the Shepherd's Grain™ label, the first dry-land eco-friendly trademark in the marketplace. The co-owners and member farmers grow their crops using direct-seeding systems, which avoid traditional tilling of the soil. This preserves the soil's natural biosystems, saves fuel, prevents soil erosion and limits water runoff.

With direct seeding the farmer uses less fuel. In fact, long-term members have reduced their fuel consumption by 54 percent and newer members have reduced it by 32 percent. It is also healthier for the soil and the farmer. One owner's farm is located in an extreme wind erosion area where particles blown into the air are a size that can contribute to respiratory disease. The direct seeding has nearly eliminated wind erosion on his farm.

The farmers in Columbia Plateau Producers are committed to providing fair and safe working conditions according to the requirements of the Food Alliance, a non-profit organization promoting sustainable agriculture. They buy and ship their seed and grain products in bulk, reusable containers. And they educate other farmers and college students on sustainable farming.

Corry's Fine Dry Cleaning

Corry's Fine Dry cleaning, on Mercer Island, is the first dry cleaner in Washington to provide carbon dioxide cleaning. This change required a \$280,000 investment in new equipment, but increased business and money saved by avoiding hazardous-waste disposal and air-quality permit costs are quickly making up for the expenditure. The quality of the company's work has been recognized by a national trade association.

Before the switch, Corry's bought, used and paid to dispose of hazardous chemicals, such as perchloroethylene (perc). Perc is a known carcinogen in laboratory animals and has contributed to groundwater contamination in many areas of the state. Another bonus surrounding the change is that Corry's employees no longer have to work around hazardous chemicals and the facility's water-use has stayed about the same, while business has increased significantly.

Corry's switched to energy efficient fluorescent bulbs and conserves natural gas by using the leftover steam from the pressing machine to heat the water used for laundry. In response to customer requests, the company cut down on customer travel by providing convenient pickup/drop-off kiosks, which also allows the recycling of about 24,000 wire hangers each year. Also, the company has switched from disposable shirt boxes to re-usable shopping bags.

The company makes the carbon dioxide cleaning available for other dry-cleaners to try, provides educational materials to anyone curious about the process and donates clothes cleaning services to charity.

A reviewer noted “this facility has gone, in my opinion, above and beyond what is expected of a small business ... Corry’s is making a conscious effort to make it easy for its customers to do the right thing.”

Fairchild Air Force Base

Fairchild Air Force Base, near Spokane, is one of the largest refueling wings in the Air Force. The base has reduced its use of hazardous materials by more than 93 percent and its energy consumption by more than 33 percent, while still fulfilling its mission as the tanker hub of the northwest.

Much of the energy savings has occurred in the last two years. The base recently replaced the original 1940 light fixtures in four hangars with innovative light pipe technology and installed radiant heat systems in the hangars and drive-thru areas. This achieved a 42-percent energy savings for these areas.

A base-wide energy conservation program reduced natural gas consumption and saved \$1 million. Fairchild now purchases all their electricity as renewable energy, primarily wind power.

An aggressive leak-repair program reduced water use by more than 35 million gallons in one year and the base captures and re-uses aircraft deicer collected during dry weather. In addition, the base’s worksite commute-trip-reduction program has eliminated more than 2 million miles of single-occupancy driving and 114,400 pounds of air emissions annually.

One reviewer stated, “I see [Fairchild] as the leader in the way employees examine their problems, create bold solutions and achieve results in excess of those they expect or that others achieve. They are consistently among the leaders in innovation and results.”

Granum, Inc. (Choice Organic Teas)

Granum, Inc., in Seattle, manufactures Choice Organic Teas, a line founded on the principles of sustainable-agricultural practices and organic farming. Many of the teas are Fair Trade Certified™, a program that ensures a reasonable return to the farmers and their communities. Granum was an early entrant into the organic product field and the first US tea crafter to introduce Fair Trade Certified™ teas.

The company offsets all of its facility’s energy use by buying green certificates for wind power. This amounts to 240,000 kilowatt hours and offsets 160,920 pounds of (greenhouse gas) carbon dioxide.

Granum uses recycled and recyclable material in its packaging and office supplies, has replaced facility lighting fixtures with low mercury, high efficiency units, and rewards employees who use alternative transportation to commute. The company constantly looks for ways to reduce its consumption of materials and energy throughout its operations.

The company participated with student groups in World Fair Trade Day activities, educates its employees in sustainability and pollution prevention, and donates ten cents for every box of Choice Organic Teas sold at PCC stores to a fund to save local farmland.

Seattle University

Seattle University is an urban campus with 28 buildings on 48 acres, in Seattle's First Hill neighborhood. It has an average enrollment of 6,000 students and more than 1,000 faculty and staff members. The campus has been maintained organically for nearly 20 years, using no herbicides or pesticides. The university achieved a 62 percent recycling rate in 2002, has built an on-site compost facility that handles more than a ton of food waste each week, and is upgrading the irrigation system to conserve water.

The new Student Center and the renovation of the old Student Union were built following Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED™) standards. In addition, all systems furniture is made with recycled material. The Campus Support Services Office has created an environment that promotes "green" product purchasing, for example encouraging the purchase of 100 percent post-consumer recycled paper.

Seattle University has saved an average of more than \$57,000 in disposal costs each year through its recycling program. A decade of energy conservation efforts has saved almost \$350,000 each year. The irrigation system upgrade could save more than two million gallons of water and \$5,700 each year. And the University's Surplus Store sold or donated more than nine tons of furniture and office equipment in 2002 and over 14 tons in 2003.

In 2003, the US Environmental Protection Agency gave Seattle University the WasteWise Program Champion Award in the university/college category. That same year the university received the BEST Award for Environmental Leadership from the Resource Venture in Seattle and the Recycler of the Year Institution of Higher Learning from the Washington State Recycling Association.

University of Washington Motor Pool

The **University of Washington Motor Pool** buys, rents and maintains the University's fleet of 700 vehicles, 175 of which are alternative-fuel vehicles. There are also eight Flexcars on campus, which offer an alternative to car ownership.

The facility's sustainable practice efforts apply to all aspects of fleet management, from a nearly paperless reservations system to using soap and hot water instead of chemical solvent for parts cleaning. Much of the fleet runs on re-refined motor oil, about 9,000 gallons each year. The motor pool recycles everything it can, including oil, antifreeze, lead-acid batteries, even the toner cartridges used in the office.

Recycling the spent antifreeze has reduced new antifreeze purchases by 300 – 600 gallons per year. Also, changing to the soap and water parts washer means 400 less gallons of solvent purchased each year. No solvent used also means no disposal costs and no exposure to solvent fumes for employees.

The motor pool switched to more fuel efficient buses for the Health Science Express. The engines produce 60 to 80 percent fewer exhaust emissions, 20 percent less nitrogen dioxide (a greenhouse gas) and 30 percent fewer particulates. In addition, there is a "no idling" policy for UW buses and diesel trucks operating on campus.

For more information

Contact Mariann Cook Andrews of the Department of Ecology's hazardous-waste program, 360-407-6740, or visit the Governor's Award Web site at: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/sustainability/GovAward/gov_awards.htm

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