

# 2010 Illinois Governor's Sustainability Awards



**October 28, 2010**  
**Hilton Garden Inn**  
**Champaign, IL**



***Illinois Sustainable Technology Center***  
*a division of the Institute of Natural Resource Sustainability*

## **Governor's Sustainability Awards**

Twenty seven Illinois companies and organizations are being honored this year for their significant achievements in protecting the environment, helping sustain the future, and improving the economy. Since 1987, the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center (ISTC) has presented Governor's Awards to organizations in Illinois that have demonstrated a commitment to environmental excellence through outstanding and innovative sustainability practices. Any Illinois public or private organization is eligible to apply for an award. Winners are selected through a rigorous process of review and examination by ISTC technical assistance experts.

Organizations that are winning for the first time receive the Sustainability Award. Those organizations that have won in past years and are continuing their environmental efforts are awarded a Continuous Improvement Award.

“The efforts of these businesses and organizations demonstrate that it is possible to meet social and economic needs while minimizing impacts on the environment. Present and future generations will appreciate their foresight,” said Manohar Kulkarni, ISTC Director.

ISTC is a division of the Institute of Natural Resource Sustainability at the University of Illinois.



**Governor's Sustainability Awards  
Agenda**

12:15 p.m. Awards Luncheon

1:00 p.m. Awards Ceremony

Manohar Kulkarni, Director of ISTC – Welcome  
Remarks & Introduction

William Shilts, Executive Director of the U of I  
Institute of Natural Resource Sustainability

Steven Sonka, Vice Chancellor of the U of I Office of  
Public Engagement and Interim Director of Office of  
Sustainability

Eric Heineman, Office of Governor Pat Quinn

1:30 p.m. Presentation of the Awards  
Manohar Kulkarni, Director of ISTC &  
Eric Heineman, Office of Governor Pat Quinn

Moderator: Bob Iverson, ISTC Outreach Coordinator

2:30 p.m. Adjourn & Photo Session

3:00 p.m. & 3:30 p.m.-- Tours of ISTC Research and  
Analytical Laboratories



## Table of Contents

	<b>Page</b>
<b>Abbott Corporation, Abbott Park</b> .....	4
<b>Amcort Rigid Plastics, Batavia</b> .....	4
<b>Autotherm Division Enthel Systems, Lake Zurich</b> .....	5
<b>Ball Corporation, Danville</b> .....	5
<b>Ball Corporation, Elgin</b> .....	6
<b>Baxter Healthcare, McGaw Park</b> .....	7
<b>City of Kankakee</b> .....	8
<b>Cooper B-Line, Highland</b> .....	8
<b>Elmhurst Park District</b> .....	9
<b>Everlights, Chicago</b> .....	10
<b>General Electric Healthcare IT, Barrington</b> .....	10
<b>Governors State University, University Park</b> .....	11
<b>Hendrickson Bumper &amp; Trim, Crest Hill</b> .....	12
<b>Hendrickson Truck Systems Group, Woodridge</b> .....	12
<b>Mahomet IGA, Mahomet</b> .....	13
<b>McDonald's Corporation, Oak Brook</b> .....	14
<b>NOW Foods, Inc., Bloomingdale</b> .....	15
<b>PC Rebuilders &amp; Recyclers, Chicago</b> .....	16
<b>PerkinsElmer, Downers Grove</b> .....	17
<b>Solvair LLC, Naperville</b> .....	17
<b>Southeastern Container, Inc., Effingham</b> .....	18
<b>Tasty Catering, Elk Grove Village</b> .....	18
<b>Uncommon Grounds, Chicago</b> .....	19
<b>University of Illinois Student Sustainability Committee, Champaign</b> .....	20
<b>Village of Schaumburg</b> .....	21
<b>Waterman Winery &amp; Vineyards, Waterman</b> .....	22
<b>WW Grainger, Inc., Lake Forest</b> .....	22



**Abbott Corporation, Abbott Park**  
***Continuous Improvement Award***

Abbott is a global, broad-based health care company devoted to discovery, development, manufacture and marketing of pharmaceutical and medical products, including nutritionals, devices, and diagnostics. The company employs approximately 83,000 people and markets its products in more than 130 countries. Abbott employs more than 13,000 people in Illinois.


Abbott is being recognized for projects that have resulted in the reduction of CO2 emissions, hazardous waste, water use, and nonhazardous waste. Specific projects are increasing use of more environmentally friendly cleaning agents; redesigning processes and systems to reduce methanol, nitrogen and hazardous waste; and improving the efficiency of airflow, temperature and dehumidification systems to reduce energy usage and CO2 emissions.

**Amcor Rigid Plastics, Batavia**  
***Sustainability Award***

Amcor Rigid Plastics is a provider of metal and plastic packaging for beverages, foods and household products. The Batavia facility was until recently known as Ball Corporation. The following pollution prevention projects were accomplished:

- Replacement of metal halide lighting with high efficiency fluorescent – By replacing the existing metal halide lighting with fluorescents, Amcor was able to provide lighting that requires less electricity and does not generate the level of heat.
- Removal of Plastics from Trash – The facility gathered and recycled all used plastic strapping, and stretch film by providing recycling containers throughout the manufacturing area. By removing the plastic loose materials, the compactor are able to work more efficiently and improve the waste density.

These projects resulted in a reduction of 1,037,000 kwh of power usage, and 29.6 tons of trash not land filled.




**Autotherm Division Enthel Systems, Inc. -- Lake Zurich  
*Sustainability Award***

The patented AUTOTHERM® System enables any vehicle it is installed on to eliminate the need to idle in cold weather in order to keep the interior warm. It weighs less than five pounds, is less than a quarter of a cubic foot in total volume, does not burn fuel or put out any pollution and uses about one amp of battery power to operate. It can be installed on any vehicle with a water cooled internal combustion traction engine and models are available in 12 or 24 Volt versions. The system enables a vehicle's existing heater to recover [with the engine off] the waste heat energy created while the vehicle was driven. Once the switch is turned on at the beginning of cold weather, the System operates the vehicle's heater automatically each time the ignition is turned off. The driver can return to a safely locked and warm interior with the exterior free of ice and snow.

At freezing, a large V-8 sedan will stay warm about an hour and a half; a large truck between three and four hours. The System automatically terminates operation when engine coolant temperature drops to 95 degrees F. By eliminating idling on commercial or work trucks or in taxis, limousines or police cars, savings in unburned fuel can pay for the system and its installation in two to six months. Savings in fuel costs thereafter will average between \$2,500 & \$4,500 per winter per vehicle according to the DOE Idling Study. These savings go directly to the bottom line as PROFIT.

**Ball Corporation, Danville**  
*Continuous Improvement Award*

The Danville facility is part of Ball's Food and Household Products Group. The facility produces aerosol cans, and aerosol ends in a variety of sizes. The following pollution prevention



projects were accomplished:

- Replacement of Solvents with Acetone - Isopropyl Alcohol has been used to degrease the manufacturing equipment and clean the associated can conveyors. In addition, the stripe applicator spray nozzles develop residual build-up of particulate matter that is not easily removed. The encrusted nozzles are soaked in parts cleaner dip tank that contains xylene. The “dirty solvent” is disposed as a hazardous waste. The facility replaced both materials with non-hazardous acetone.
- Installation of Large Diameter Ceiling Fans: In the winter operating fans in the “slow” mode, pushes stratified hot air downward, providing comfort heating at the operator level. The heating system does not cycle on as frequently. In the summer operating fans in the “high speed” mode conditions the entire factory, making the employees more comfortable, and eliminates the use of personal cooling devices and keeping doors open.


These projects resulted in a reduction of approximately one ton of VOC emissions, an avoidance of 120,000 kwh of power usage, and 1440 MCF of gas usage.

### **Ball Corporation, Elgin**

#### *Continuous Improvement Award*

The Elgin facility is part of Ball’s Food and Household Products Group; a fully integrated aerosol can manufacturing facility. The following pollution prevention projects were accomplished:

- Implement Combustion Maintenance Program– Coated sheets are cured inside large 30 year old wicket ovens. A burner manufacturer was retained to provide ongoing maintenance support that includes inspection and adjustment of air inlets and filters, door seals, burner air profile plates and chambers, fan drive belts; identify oven hot spots. They also improved process reliability thru planned maintenance and early identification of problems.
- Compressor Demand Controller – During the last 15 years, the



facility has doubled in capacity that resulted in the addition of more air compressors. Each compressor cycles on high or idle based on demand to the controller. A programmable compressor demand control was installed. Also, leaks have been repaired & isolation valves installed. These projects resulted in a reduction of 512,000 kwh of power usage, and 67,500 MCF of gas usage.

### **Baxter Healthcare - McGaw Park**

#### *Continuous Improvement Award*

Baxter Healthcare develops, manufactures, and markets a wide range of medical products and services used in the treatment of acute renal failure. Baxter has implemented the following new programs:

Energy Savings Programs: Since 2002 the energy savings programs have resulted in a 15% annual reduction in overall facility electrical use, saving of 750,000 KWH and \$64,000/year.

- 1) De-lamping of 591 fluorescent ceiling lights in non-essential areas. Cost savings \$14,956 per year. Annual reduction of 59,483 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub>.
- 2) Managing the reduction of electrical usage with the evening cleaning crew.
- 3) Reduce parking lot off-hours lighting.
- 4) Solar Panel Project/Renewable Energy: Installed solar thermal heating panels. The hot water system serves a number of washrooms and the facility cafeteria. The solar thermal heating panels provide about 25% of the energy for the system.

Water Reduction Program: Water conserving faucet aerators were installed on 80 washroom sinks. The aerator reduces water usage from 2.5 gal./min to 0.5 gal./min. per faucet.

Hazardous and Non-Hazardous Waste Reduction: Reduced hazardous waste by 2,092 lbs. (37% decrease from 2008 levels) by increasing chemical sharing, heightened employee awareness of Baxter's Sustainability goals. Reduced non-hazardous waste by 96,792 lbs. (25% decrease from 2008 levels) by "Junk Mail" reduction program, employee education to reuse and reduce.





## **City of Kankakee**

### *Sustainability Award*

Kankakee's developed a new Public Safety Center in a historic brick structure, built in 1928. It is now a 34,320 square foot LEED facility. This building was designed around: a sustainable rain garden, water saving low consumption bathroom facilities, energy efficient day lighting and motion sensors, HVAC economizer features, remanufactured recycled materials, and low VOC paints and stains. It also has a high tech environmental air quality system which reduces CO2 levels when needed.


The City created another LEED certified Administration building in 2008 by renovating the vacant historic library building. Other green practices of the City include the operation and maintenance of a Hydro Electric plant on the Kankakee River. All power generated is transmitted to the regional Wastewater Treatment facility. The City has also implemented the first 10 ton commercial geothermic HVAC system in the county. This was part of a project to renovate an abandoned Army Reserve Building for use by the City of Kankakee. All 50 traffic signal intersections were upgraded to LED's resulting in a savings of 85% in energy costs. Kankakee also implemented the first electronic waste recycling drop-off facility in the area. Collected materials are removed for processing by an electronic recycling contractor.

## **Cooper B-Line, Highland**

### *Sustainability Award*

Cooper B-Line is a leading manufacturer of quality support systems and enclosures for the electrical, mechanical and telecommunications industries. Through B-Line's continuous improvement culture, the following pollution prevention projects were identified and implemented at the Highland facility:

- Upgraded facility lighting from 400 watt fixtures to new 166




watt fixtures and installed motion sensors to reduce unnecessary energy consumption in unpopulated areas.

- Implemented a compressed air management system to minimize the high demand of energy required to sustain plant air during peak demand.
- Installed an ultra- filtration membrane system to recycle and reuse waste roller mill coolant and saving raw materials while reducing disposal costs. It also removes tramp oils from the cleaning station oily wastewater while reducing disposal costs.
- The plant began recycling cardboard and plastic wrap which resulted in saving precious natural resources. As a result of these efforts, 66 tons of material has been diverted from the landfill annually.

### **Elmhurst Park District**

#### *Sustainability Award*

The Elmhurst Park District embraces its mission to provide “lifetime enjoyment” to over 40,000 residents and is committed to protecting and improving the natural environment with regard to sustainability at its 28 parks and all indoor facilities. The “Green Team” Committee has reinforced this goal by developing an Action Plan and implementing its goals and objectives. 816 full-time, part-time and short-term seasonal employees were trained on the District’s “green” philosophies and policies. The Green Team is developing an environmental cost/benefit analysis template to evaluate and prioritize green initiatives. The District reduced smog forming emissions by 2,233 lbs. Energy audits have been conducted at facilities. The District implemented an outdoor recycling program at its athletic venues, outdoor pool and picnic areas. Twenty three organizations participated in the Adopt-a-Park program. Native plants and creation of buffer areas have reduced the dependency on mechanical maintenance, water usage, and staff hours as well as encouraging butterfly and pollinator conservation. The District also assists in the preservation of a 10,000 year old native prairie. Green Team members participate in community environmental organizations and contribute to cooperative events.



## **Everlights -- Chicago**

### *Sustainability Award*


EverLights was formed in 1995 to help Illinois companies safely dispose of their used bulbs and ballasts. The company played a key role in making Illinois one of the first states to pass a law in 1997 mandating lamp recycling.

Today, EverLights has a national clientele, and has expanded its services to include not only the safe disposal of lighting but also toxic materials such as hazardous waste, computers and batteries. In 2009 alone, the company recycled over 2 million light bulbs, thereby helping divert enough toxic mercury to protect more than 650,000 acres of clean water. In 2010, the company joined seven environmental organizations and established a free electronics recycling program to encourage homeowners to drop off small quantities of batteries and bulbs. EverLights launched a monthly electronic newsletter, *The Green Light*, to help educate customers and the community about the importance of recycling and buying environmentally-friendly products. Internally, EverLights expanded its own sustainability program. Its large warehouse was retro-fitted with LED Exit signs, and reflectors were added to reduce the need for lamp quantity. Automatic timers were added that reduced energy consumption by 75 percent. The company retrofitted its faucets and toilets to reduce water consumption, among numerous other changes.

## **General Electric Healthcare IT, Barrington**

### *Continuous Improvement Award*

GE has an established business strategy called “Ecomagination.” It is used to help meet customers’ demand for products that improve their bottom line and reduce their impact on the environment. The Barrington facility is committed to reducing energy consumption in support of our environmental obligation. Employee teams




focus on environmental impact awareness and implementation of sustainability initiatives. The De-lamping Project resulted in the elimination of 221 light bulbs and 132 ballasts, reducing electricity consumption and environmental waste impact. The Data Center Project resulted in a more efficient cooling system configuration and a reduction in electricity usage. The company completed its first Energy Treasure Hunt which involved employees, vendors, and utility company resources generating 31 energy saving ideas.

The Barrington Energy/Green Team met regularly to discuss ideas and organize events. Several projects were initiated to expand recycling opportunities, and provide product alternatives to consumables that are harmful to the environment. The 2009 efforts resulted in an annual reduction of 55,525 kWh and 30,958 therms which equates to a decrease of 194.9 metric tons of carbon dioxide. Additionally water consumption was reduced by 154,000 gallons.

### **Governors State University, University Park**

#### *Sustainability Award*

Governors State University's (GSU) 600,000 sq. ft. campus building is sited on 750 acres comprising organic farmland, 22 acres of ponds, and a 110 acre environmental research preserve of protected woodlands. The ponds are migratory stop-offs for Canadian geese, blue and white heron, and hawks. Associated fauna and flora and the Research Preserve corridor provide a rich educational environment for studies in natural and physical science. These preserves are also the headwaters of Thorn Creek. GSU has initiated a holistic approach to sustainability of its buildings and grounds. For instance, the university's development of comprehensive storm water best management practices directly improves public waterways. In 2008, GSU removed two asphalt parking lots and replaced them with a 220,000 sq. ft. permeable paving system including bio-swales, native plantings, and preferred parking for hybrid/fuel efficient vehicles. GSU also harvests the sun via a 64 panel solar thermal system, offsetting the cost of hot water heating for our shower rooms and 168,000 gallon swimming



pool, and displacing approximately 40 therms of natural gas daily. These two projects buttress GSU's system of sustainable practices that are integrated into the culture, practice, and protocol of the daily operation of its facilities.

**Hendrickson Bumper & Trim, Crest Hill**


*Sustainability Award*

Hendrickson Bumper and Trim produces more than two-thirds of all metal bumpers for North American Class 8 trucks. The company is ISO 14001 certified and has made significant environmental improvements throughout its operations. Its comprehensive recycling program which includes cardboard, paper, plastic covering from bumpers, wood and scrap steel has improved recycling from 11% in 2008 to 80% in 2009. Hendrickson replaced inefficient HID lighting within the facility to florescent lighting and entered the Energy Star challenge. To further advance our energy conservation efforts. In 2009, electrical consumption was reduced by 204,297 Kwh through a variety of operational improvements including air compressor optimization, ultrasonic air leak detection and work center shutdown. Hendrickson Bumper and Trim has developed an advanced material AERO CLAD® lightweight aerodynamic metal bumper that is more corrosion resistant and durable. The material provides a mirror bright surface that resists corrosion and is also lightweight for better fuel economy (30+ lbs. savings). In addition, the company combined the industry's leading weatherable film technology and advanced lightweight engineered thermoplastics with a unique manufacturing process to create HENDRICKSON AERO BRIGHT®. Both of these materials are environmentally friendly and are recyclable and have been developed to replace chrome plated bumper and trim products.

**Hendrickson Truck Systems Group, Woodridge**

*Sustainability Award*

Hendrickson Truck Systems Group designs and manufactures a complete line of heavy- and medium-duty truck, bus and




RV suspensions available. Hendrickson is the world's largest independent suspension supplier. The Woodridge facility is headquarters for the Truck Systems Group which is comprised of seven locations and is the global research and validation facility for the company's truck suspension systems. In 2009, Hendrickson addressed a strategic initiative for energy management and implementing green initiatives. These sustainability efforts included managing conservation and waste recycling efforts, and capital expenditures to improve the environment.

The company created two teams to meet its Green Initiatives. Both teams consist of volunteer employees across different functional areas, working together to achieve a combined outcome, a staggering 52% reduction of energy. The waste reduction efforts eliminated 126,713 Styrofoam cups from Illinois landfills. The company's recycling efforts have resulted in over 1,200 cubic yards of landfill waste reduction, a reduction of waste management costs by 59%. Hendrickson entered the Energy Star challenge committing to reducing our energy usage by 10%. A white solar reflective roof was installed that will be 50 to 60 degrees cooler during peak summer weather to reduce electricity demands for air conditioning. Installation of compact fluorescent lighting, removal of unnecessary lighting, new hydraulic pumps, and lab equipment shutdown procedure were all part of our energy conservation projects to achieve our 52% energy reduction.

**Mahomet IGA, Mahomet**  
*Sustainability Award*

Grocery and food stores use more KWh per square foot than any other commercial business. In a grocery store, 87% of the energy used is used in refrigeration, heating, cooling, water heating, and lighting. The Mahomet IGA worked with the Smart Energy Design Assistance Center (SEDAC) during the planning for a expansion/remodel of the store. The most significant benefit in the project was using a ground source open loop geo thermal loop to not only



cool the store, but cooling the compressor system that is used for refrigeration. The implementation of the an open loop ground source for heating and cooling the compression system was the first documented use of geo thermal for this purpose.

The new HVAC system uses a Geothermal Heat Pump to provide full heating and cooling requirements within the building. This includes hot water for the facility. Geothermal Units replaced rooftop units which were a mix of gas-fired and air-source heaters. The Geothermal Units are water-source heat-pumps which make use of heat reclaimed from refrigeration equipment during the winter. In summer months, the geothermal system is responsible for exhausting heat from the refrigeration system and from the AC units.


The site has a somewhat unique geology which impacts the design of the geothermal system. It is located adjacent to the Sangamon River on a parcel of land that at one time was a gravel pit, but is now a large pond. The availability of a water-bearing sand-gravel formation at a relatively shallow depth made the use of an open-loop geothermal system viable. A duplex water well system of two wells provides the energy source to drive the open-loop geothermal system. The pond acts as a recharge source for the shallow aquifer being used for the geothermal system, thus eliminating any impact upon ground water resources of the area.

Projected energy savings achieved through this project are \$55,000 per year. With the expansion of the store the savings will be over \$85,000 per year.

**McDonald's Corporation, Oak Brook**

*Continuous Improvement Award*

McDonald's is committed to being a good environmental steward while doing what is right for its business. In 2009 McDonald's took on the challenge of transforming its 40 year old




US Headquarters Building (the Plaza) into a more eco friendly workplace. Completing a retro commissioning project helped McDonald's create a more energy efficient building that is more cost effective to maintain. Through a reduction in consumption by close to 10%, McDonald's was able to achieve an Energy Star rating of 75, the first ever for this building. This was no small task as it started with a score of 59. McDonald's has made positive environmental impacts by more widespread implementation of plant material native to Illinois, installing permeable pavers in the parking lot, and reducing the amount of waste generated for the landfill. The company took a creative, cost effective approach to cleaning the exterior of the building which resulted in a reduction in the use of water and toxic chemicals as compared to similar exterior cleaning processes. McDonald's implemented a more disciplined approach to measuring and reporting, enabling it to apply for LEED certification for the Plaza. Throughout this transformation the company kept its 1150 building occupants educated and engaged, driving desired changes in individual behavior, and enlisting the help of supplier partners to rethink how we do business together. Lastly, McDonald's shared its best practices with other organizations in an attempt to promote a broader environmental impact.

**NOW Foods, Inc., Bloomington**

*Continuous Improvement Award*

NOW Foods manufactures a comprehensive line of natural health products, including dietary supplements, sports nutrition, foods, and personal care items. Many NOW products utilize organic and raw materials, as well as many trademarked ingredients. In addition to a passion for nutritional excellence, NOW continues to support many social and environmental causes throughout the industry and community. NOW regularly hosts conservation and clean-up events in support of Make a Difference Day and Earth Week. Recent progress toward sustainability goals include:



- 
- the conversion to a closed-loop kettle cooling system which saves over one million gallons of water per year,
  - conversion to plant-based PLA film for bottle shrink wrap,
  - installation of recycled-content carpeting,
  - installation of an energy efficient air compressor unit..

NOW strives to serve as an inspiration to anyone concerned with protecting our planet and its precious natural resources.

NOW recently participated in the Illinois SEDAC (Smart Energy Design Assistance Center) energy audit program. This audit not only provides clear, obtainable, energy conservation objectives; it helps lay the groundwork for pursuing LEED certification for existing buildings.

### **PC Rebuilders & Recyclers, Chicago**

#### *Sustainability Award*

Founded in 2000, PC Rebuilders & Recyclers wants to bridge the digital divide and support environmental responsibility through the refreshment of prematurely retired computer systems. In doing so, PCRR provides an inexpensive way for corporations to dispose of their unwanted equipment as well as an inexpensive way for schools to invest in technology for their children. PCRR was launched in basement of a Chicago home. Since then it has grown into a 13,000 square foot refurbishing facility. To date the program has placed over 40,000 computers in schools, non-profit organizations and need-based homes proving that limited funding does not preclude access to technology.

PC Rebuilders & Recyclers refurbishes and upgrades equipment with genuine Microsoft software keeping current with educational technology standards. As the first Microsoft Authorized Refurbisher (MAR), PCRR offers a complete refurbished computer systems as a cost-effective alternative to new equipment. With this model PCRR is able to customize systems to support school technology requirements and individual non-profit office needs while maximizing limited budget resources.



## **PerkinsElmer, Downers Grove**

### *Sustainability Award*


PerkinElmer Inc. in Downers Grove has been implementing conservation measures over many years, and has increased efforts within the past three years to achieve significant improvements in key sustainability areas. A Green Team was established to evaluate and implement sustainability practices at the site. The team focused on two major opportunities for reducing waste: electricity usage and recycling. Through a combination of engineering controls and employee behavior changes, PerkinElmer reduced its electricity consumption by 35% compared to 2005 levels. To reduce the rate at which the site was filling dumpsters destined for a landfill, the team established recycling programs for many items including paper, cardboard, and aluminum cans. In addition, a very successful kitchen scrap composting program was begun to remove biodegradables from the trash. These efforts contributed to a reduction in tonnage of waste going to a landfill by over 50% since 2008. These efforts have saved the company over \$80,000 in electricity and waste disposal costs over the past three years, showing that sustainability really is good business practice. Moreover, the Green Team has instilled at the site a “green” culture, and employees have embraced changes to conserve natural resources. Their work resulted in PerkinElmer earning an Earth Flag from DuPage County; this was just the 11th one awarded in the county and the first in Downers Grove.

## **Solvair LLC, Naperville**

### *Sustainability Award*

Solvair LLC is the inventor, manufacturer and marketer of the Solvair Cleaning System. Solvair is a breakthrough technology developed to replace traditional dry cleaning which is facing increasing regulatory attention across the US and a proposed phase-out in Illinois. Solvair answers the need for a cleaning method that is not only green, but is also effective, providing benefits to cleaners and consumers. The Solvair Cleaning System:

- Uses process liquids that have both beneficial cleaning and environmental profiles in place of solvents of concern to



regulators.

- Maximizes recovery of solvents within the machine with a design that helps prevent emissions.
- Uses a closed loop supply delivery and process waste management and machine maintenance systems as an integral part of machine operation and system ownership.
- Significantly reduces waste, creates no contact waste water, and does not dispose of process waste on site. Waste is non-hazardous under federal regulation, and may be further reclaimed off site
- Significantly reduces supply use and packaging.

The first commercial Solvair installation was in Evanston, Illinois in 2007. Machines are now operating throughout the world.

### **Southeastern Container Inc, Effingham**


#### *Sustainability Award*

Southeastern Container is a plastic bottle manufacturer located in a relatively rural community. The facility's sustainability efforts really gained momentum in 2009 with some engineering and process design changes, the installation of new equipment and software, innovation, and the formation of a "Green Team" in the facility. The installation of an air recovery system decreased energy consumption by an estimated 1.6 million kWh/year. It is estimated that a minimum of 288 tons of "trash" was diverted from landfills due to recycling efforts in the plant in 2009. The facility is also purchasing 50% of its annual energy consumption as Green e-certified power as of winter of 2009.

### **Tasty Catering, Elk Grove Village**

#### *Sustainability Award*

Tasty Catering, is a catering and event planning services company that has been serving the catering needs of Chicago area corporations and organizations for more than 20 years. Tasty Catering embarked upon a Corporate Responsibility mission over the past few years. The Tasty Catering "green" initiatives include




a recycling program which not only reduces waste sent to landfills by over 55%, but also creates a small profit. Profit produced by the recycling program is applied to purchasing carbon credits to offset every mile driven by Tasty Catering's delivery fleet. Tasty Catering reduces the use of electricity at its facility through the use of zoned and natural lighting. Petroleum resin plastics have been replaced by eco-friendly sustainable products on the more than 450 outdoor events Tasty Catering executes each summer. They are available as an option for its corporate clients. Tasty Catering's employees volunteer for semi-annual Friends of the Parks forest preserve clean ups each year. A section in the weekly intra-company newsletter, Inside the Dish, provides sustainability tips in an effort to educate employees on how to be more sustainable at home. The Tasty Catering Green Team performs presentations on sustainability to its clients. These initiatives, along with Tasty Catering's involvement in several "green groups", sponsorship of the United States Green Building Council, and its development of an eco-responsible spin-off company, help to demonstrate Tasty Catering's commitment to sustainability.

### **Uncommon Grounds, Chicago**

#### *Sustainability Award*

Uncommon Ground is operating the nation's first certified organic rooftop farm. The company harvests the food from an 2,500 square foot farm and incorporate the harvests into the menu.

Uncommon Grounds is 'Green Restaurant Certified' and 'Guaranteed Green' by the Green Chicago Restaurant Co-op. The company intended from the start to build an organic production farm on the roof, so they reinforced the brick load-bearing walls to hold steel beams. This supports a roof top deck made of the composite material that is a combination of recycled plastic and wood. Excess water from the roof is collected in rain barrels and is used to water the ground level plants. Solar thermal panels were



installed to heat water and reduce gas consumption. And low VOC paints were used.


Locally harvested wood was used from fallen timbers (white oak and silver maple) for tabletops, fireplace mantel, host stand, and stage door. Wood was purchased from Horigan Urban Forest Products, a past Governor's Sustainability Award winner. Uncommon Grounds also eliminated taking wood scraps to a landfill by designing a mosaic pattern of end pieces to be used in mantel, host stand and stage door. The restaurant purchased chairs from a local source, that is a certified sustainable forestry.

### **University of Illinois Student Sustainability Committee, Champaign**

#### *Sustainability Award*

The Student Sustainability Committee (SSC) is a sub-entity of the University of Illinois, with the primary purpose of bringing potential sustainable projects to fruition on the campus. Students on the committee, advised by University administrators and faculty members, evaluate and select sustainable projects to fund. Through its selection process, the committee exercises its enormous potential in seeding and developing novel and innovative sustainable practices in construction, building and grounds management, and energy production. Examples of SSC-aided landmark sustainability projects and initiatives:

- Photovoltaic array on top of the LEED-Platinum certified Business Instructional Facility, which produces 55,000 kWh of electricity per year.
- 25 units of Thin Client computing devices to replace traditional energy-intensive desktop computers, which resulted in a 90% savings in consumed energy. This successful pilot project has resulted in the further expansion of the project for 200 additional units to continue the installation of these efficient devices.
- The Solar Decathlon 2009 team, which designed and built a



100% solar-powered and energy-efficient that won second place in the international competition.

- A comprehensive overhaul of the water system at various recreational facilities on campus. This project is on track to reduce water consumption by 6.5 million gallons annually, which represents over half of the current annual consumption of around 13 million gallons.

The committee is funded through a fee approved by the University of Illinois students.

### **Village of Schaumburg**

#### *Sustainability Award*

The Village of Schaumburg developed a Comprehensive Green Action Plan to address the following sustainability categories:

- CO2 emissions,
- Land Use,
- Transportation,
- Green Power,
- Energy Efficiency,
- Green Buildings, W
- water Conservation and Management,
- Recycling and Waste Reduction,
- and Education and Outreach.

Village staff from across four departments collaborated over a one year period to produce an action plan. The Village Board incorporated 13 of the goals into Village planning. Individual staff members as well as Schaumburg's Green Team were assigned these goals to be completed. New goals were then assigned to staff and team members. Schaumburg will continue to advance the implementation of these green goals. The goals are supported by village staff from all departments, the Green Team, the Environmental Committee, Elementary School District 54, Schaumburg and Conant High Schools, the Schaumburg Township District Library, and through partnerships with the Hoffman Estates Environmental Commission.




**Waterman Winery & Vineyards, Inc., Waterman**  
*Sustainability Award*

Waterman Winery is located on Tuntland Farms, a four-generation operation based on sustainable activities, implemented before “sustainable” was cool. Sustainability needs to be an ongoing process with each generation adding new knowledge and improved skills. The farm’s sustainable activities include: planting hundreds of trees, maintaining grass waterways, Illinois Acres for Wildlife, Roadsides for Wildlife, Conservation Stewardship Program, Illinois Wind Energy (FP&L) wind-farm project, minimum tillage, no-till and GPS fertilizer application. Over 50 years of stewardship and conservation have created a productive and healthy environment. The Tuntlands received a “Sustainable Agriculture Award for DeKalb County” from the DeKalb County Soil and Water Conservation District. As a way to enhance the farm operation, a sustainable vineyard was planted in 1998. The vineyard and winery represent another sustainable venture. Located near a creek, the vineyard helps to stabilize the soil. The vineyard trellis system is made of re-used materials. Equipment for the vineyard is dual purpose, also being used on the farm. Use of chemicals is limited. Grapes grown on the Tuntland Farm begin the process of becoming wine within minutes of their harvest, without trucking or refrigeration. Inside a vintage barn, the wines are fermented in reusable stainless steel tanks and later bottled by hand. Thus, the whole wine making process takes place on the farm. Visitors enjoy seeing a productive, sustainable Illinois farm and are able to sample and purchase wine made by Waterman Winery and Vineyards, Inc. Sustainability at its best!

**WW Grainger Inc., Lake Forest**  
*Sustainability Award*

Grainger’s sustainability journey began in 2007 when we joined the US Green Building Council. Since then, Grainger has focused on continuous improvement of its operations and how to serve customers to help preserve the environment. Today, Grainger operates 12 LEED certified facilities, including our 295,000 square foot Corporate Headquarters in Lake Forest. LEED facilities



typically use 24-50% less energy and 40% less water while creating 70% less waste and 33-39% fewer carbon emissions. Grainger has made a commitment to build all new construction projects (branches, distribution centers and corporate facilities) to meet LEED standards.

In 2009, Grainger recycled over 1,800 tons of cardboard, paper, shrink wrap and plastic in the distributions centers, an increase of 34% over the previous year. In addition to keeping the equivalent of 3 football fields (6,600 cubic yards) worth of waste out of landfills, Grainger was able to work with local recycling companies to sell the recyclable materials and use the funds to offset the remaining waste hauling charges for a net-zero cost for waste management at our distribution centers.

Grainger also took the proactive step of working with over 100 carrier partners to become an EPA SmartWay Transport Partner. This means that Grainger is working with carriers to continuously improve the fuel efficiency and associated emissions from transportation activities.





## Notes





Illinois Sustainable Technology Center  
1 Hazelwood Drive  
Champaign, IL  
217-333-8940

[www.istc.illinois.edu](http://www.istc.illinois.edu)

*A division of the Institute of  
Natural Resource Sustainability*



ILLINOIS

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN