



## **Governor's Sustainability Awards**

Thirty-eight 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 John C. Marlin, ISTC Acting Director.

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



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## **Abbott Corporation**

Abbott is a global health care company devoted to discovery, development, manufacture, and marketing of pharmaceutical and medical products, including nutritionals, devices, and diagnostics. Abbott employs more than 13,000 people in Illinois.

### **Abbott, Abbott Park**

#### *Continuous Improvement Award*

Projects undertaken at the Abbott Park site in the past year include implementing a water-use reduction project, a stormwater runoff reduction project, and installation of a green roof on one of the buildings, which also helps minimize stormwater runoff at the site. In addition, Abbott expanded the existing recycling program, and implemented an energy savings initiative at Abbott's central IT hub.

### **Abbott, North Chicago**

#### *Continuous Improvement Award*

The Abbott facility in North Chicago is the Global Pharmaceuticals Operation (GPO). Over the past year, Abbott implemented an air-flow reduction initiative, a project to reduce soybean oil (SBO) raw material usage, a program to reduce amyl acetate usage, and a particle coating process improvement project. These efforts have eliminated millions of pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, created a substantial reduction in the use of raw materials, and resulted in a reduction in wastewater and nonhazardous and hazardous waste.

## **Ace Hardware, Paint Division**

The paint division is an ISO 14001-certified manufacturer of latex and oil-based paints. It markets these products at Ace Hardware stores worldwide.

### **Ace Hardware Paint Division, Chicago Heights**

#### *Sustainability Award*

The Ace Hardware Paint Division plant in Chicago Heights has implemented a comprehensive recycling program that prevents more than 50 tons of material from being sent to landfill annually. They discontinued use of methylene chloride stripper,



which eliminated 445 pounds of hazardous air pollutant (HAP) emissions annually. The company installed programmable thermostats to set back night and weekend temperatures. As a result, natural gas consumption was reduced by 15 percent in 2008. This corresponds to air pollution reductions of 102 tons. In addition, the plant instituted a process change that recovers product and reduces waste by more than 5,000 gallons annually. They also installed a waste reclaim system that conserves 176,000 gallons of water per year. These efforts involve employees at all levels of the company, improve worker safety, and save more than \$85,000 per year.

**Ace Hardware Paint Division, Matteson**

*Sustainability Award*

Ace implemented a comprehensive recycling program that prevents more than 90 tons of material from being sent to landfill annually. In order to reduce energy consumption, they have installed “environmentally responsible” lamps with lower mercury content and longer rated average life, and reduced lighting during off-hours. They also installed programmable thermostats to set back night and weekend temperatures. As a result, natural gas consumption was reduced by 14 percent in 2008, which corresponds to air pollution reductions of more than 238 tons. In addition, they have discontinued use of methylene chloride stripper, which eliminated 2,400 pounds of hazardous air pollutant (HAP) emissions annually. They instituted a process change that recovers product and reduces waste by more than 11,000 gallons annually, and they have installed distillation equipment to reclaim wash solvent generated in oil-based paint production, which reduces hazardous waste by recovering approximately 83,000 gallons of solvent annually. These efforts have improved worker safety and saved more than \$110,000 per year.



## **Allied Waste Services, Chicago**

### *Sustainability Award*

Allied Waste is a leader in assisting project construction owners to reach their sustainability goals through recycling of construction and demolition (C&D) debris. The C&D recycling facility, located on Laflin Avenue in Chicago, processes up to 1,500 tons of debris daily. The plant was designed to accept commingled loads of C&D debris, where it is separated to recover the usable portion for resale. Employing both automated technology and manual sorting, the facility processes C&D loads generated from various sources including new construction, building renovations and demolition, roads, and bridges. Materials are reused and recycled in end markets such as biofuel, wood pellets, landscaping mulch, hot-mix asphalt, cold-patch asphalt, new concrete, and recycled cardboard products.

## **AMFOTEK, Tinley Park**

### *Sustainability Award*

AMFOTEK® manufactures powdered beverages such as hot chocolates, cappuccinos, and teas. AMFOTEK developed several sustainable business initiatives: packaging carton and package size minimization, pallet volume maximization, and the Reduce–Reuse–Recycle programs. The annual economic benefit from the package size project is a savings of over \$27,000. The annual environmental benefit is the waste reduction of 625,000 square feet of plastic film. The annual economic benefit from the carton reduction project is a savings of \$6,000. This one initiative alone removes 13,500 pounds of waste from landfills annually. The Reduce–Reuse–Recycle program saves \$52,500 annually and recycles over 500,000 pounds of materials that would otherwise go into landfills. Part of this program involves a new software system to identify raw materials before they reach their expiration date.



## **Ball Corporation**

Ball Corporation manufactures metal and plastic packaging for beverages, foods, and household products.

### **Ball Corporation, Danville**

#### *Sustainability Award*

The Danville facility produces aerosol cans and aerosol ends in a variety of sizes for beverages, foods, and household products. The following pollution prevention projects were accomplished at the facility:

- Mercury was originally used in electrical components in the welding operation. To eliminate the risk of mercury exposure and releases, the mercury welding system was replaced with the Discon mercury-free welding process. This project eliminated 77 pounds of mercury and mercury debris.
- The original metal halide plant lighting system was replaced with high-efficiency fluorescent fixtures and lights that have task specific features. The new system uses motion detectors in the seldom-accessed warehouse. This effort has eliminated the use of 597,000 kWh of power.
- The plant began separating paper, cardboard, and chipboard so that these materials are now recycled—saving precious natural resources. As a result of these efforts, 64,000 pounds of material have been diverted from the landfill.

### **Ball Corporation, Elgin**

#### *Continuous Improvement Award*

Ball Corporation's Elgin facility produces coated and printed tinfoil and manufactures aerosol cans and aerosol ends in a variety of sizes. The following pollution prevention projects were accomplished at the Elgin facility:

- Like the Danville facility, Ball Corporation's Elgin facility replaced the mercury welding system with a mercury-free welding process. This project eliminated 250 pounds of mercury and mercury debris.

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- The original metal halide plant lighting system was replaced with high-efficiency fluorescent fixtures and lights that have task-specific features. The new system uses motion detectors in the seldom-accessed warehouse. This effort has eliminated the use of 2,493,190 kWh of power at the Elgin plant.

### **Caterpillar, Inc. Engine Center, Mossville**

#### *Continuous Improvement Award*

Caterpillar, Inc. is the world's largest maker of construction and mining equipment, diesel and natural gas engines, and industrial gas turbines. A new engine design was rolled through assembly at the Mossville Engine Center (MEC), and new components were tested in the operational environment for the first time. The new testing took more time than the previous system. MEC was on track to increase its test fuel per engine by more than 50 percent. The challenge was clear: improve the test process or suffer severe capacity constraints and potential emissions constraints that would impact engine production and the environment.

The engine-testing investigation team created a new automated and "blended" testing procedure that resulted in a time savings in the testing process. Overall, testing-process improvements implemented greatly reduced fuel usage and air emissions. As a result of the project, MEC saved over 226,000 gallons of diesel fuel in 2008. That translates to an annual reduction of over 2,300 MT CO<sub>2</sub>-eq, 59,000 pounds of nitrogen oxide, 3,100 pounds of particulate, and over 2,800 pounds of volatile organic compounds.

### **Central Can Company, Chicago**

#### *Sustainability Award*

Central Can Company is a leading producer of high-quality steel pails and food containers, tinplate cans, and plastic containers. The Chicago plant has installed a highly innovative closed-loop cooling system that significantly reduces water consumption compared to traditional industrial cooling towers. The new system eliminated



the use of approximately 940,000 to 1,770,000 gallons of water annually compared to a conventional cooling tower. Other projects include using water-based rather than solvent-based coatings in the lithography and pail coating processes. Currently, more than 50 percent of the coatings used are water-based. Central Can's injection molding systems combine electric and hydraulic power to conserve energy. Reclaimed solvents are used for clean-up of coating equipment. Resin used in the process of manufacturing plastic containers is reprocessed to reduce waste. They also recycle approximately 90 percent of the low- and high-density paper waste generated at the facility. Finally, Central Can has a program in place so that customers can return pallets for reuse. Approximately 96,000 pallets are returned and reused each year.

### **Cintas, Romeoville**

#### *Continuous Improvement Award*

Cintas in Romeoville is an industrial laundry providing uniform programs, entrance mats, mops, and restroom supplies. This year Cintas removed 13 tons of nonylphenol ethoxylates (NPE) from its wastewater by changing detergents to a new "green" formula. Cintas is the first major industrial launderer in the United States to convert all wash chemicals to NPE-free. In addition, Cintas studied its delivery routes and was able to identify and eliminate inefficiencies in its route structure. By modifying the delivery routes, Cintas saved \$22,000 in fuel costs and 100 tons per year of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Cintas also introduced a new service that eliminates the need for its customers to use solvent-based parts washers. Cintas's "Safewasher" parts washers uses bioremediation to safely break down oils and grease. Replacing one solvent-based parts washer with a Cintas Safewasher eliminates 2,318 pounds of solvent waste and 228 pounds of ozone-depleting VOCs per year. Finally, by increasing recycling efforts, plastic bag and hanger waste was reduced by 58 tons annually.



**City of Chicago Department of Aviation—O’Hare  
Modernization Program, Chicago**

*Continuous Improvement Award*

The objective of the O’Hare Modernization Program (OMP) is to update O’Hare Airport’s intersecting airfield into a more modern parallel configuration, thereby allowing the airport to operate more efficiently, reducing delays and congestion. The City of Chicago has made efforts to make the OMP an environmentally friendly program, starting with the development of the *Sustainable Design Manual* (SDM), which guides design and construction toward environmentally sustainable buildings and civil infrastructure. Daily implementation of the SDM serves to drive consideration of the use of best management practices. Those have become standard operating procedure with OMP—for example, choosing “green” when cost and other considerations are equal and applying innovative green initiatives whenever possible.

Since OMP construction began in October 2005, over 4.9 million gallons of ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel have been used onsite. In addition, all but the newest equipment is retrofitted with oxidation catalysts or particulate filters. Contractors currently use approximately 76 percent new equipment and 24 percent retrofits. To date, approximately 90 percent of all materials from properties demolished to enable OMP construction and at least 50 percent of onsite construction waste materials (resulting in excess of 170,000 tons of steel, brick, concrete, asphalt, and other materials) have been recycled or salvaged and diverted from area landfills. This has saved the OMP over \$1 million in material costs. Additionally, the OMP’s Balanced Earthwork Plan has kept at least 5 million cubic yards of excess earth onsite, resulting in a savings to the OMP in excess of \$100 million. Finally, to date, OMP has installed over 33,000 square feet of vegetated “green” roofs at four airport facilities, which are designed to benefit the airport and the larger surrounding communities through reduction of stormwater runoff, reduction of the urban heat island effect, reduction of building energy requirements, and air quality improvements through the reduction of airborne particles.



## **ComEd, Oakbrook Terrace**

### *Sustainability Award*

In November 2007, the Illinois Legislature passed the Affordable, Clean Energy Standards Act providing requirements, and a funding source, for a whole new level of energy efficiency programs. Within five months of the bill passage, ComEd created its first Energy Efficiency and Demand Response program, in April 2008. ComEd's consumer-friendly, high-impact conservation programs add Illinois to the list of states successfully reducing energy and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. ComEd's Smart Ideas for Your Home program offers 3.4 million residential customers access to rebates, rewards, and suggestions for reducing their energy use—in addition to helping the environment. ComEd's Residential ENERGY STAR Lighting initiative leverages existing manufacturer/retailer and retailer/consumer relationships to efficiently promote use of high-efficiency fluorescent bulbs and fixtures. To compliment this program, ComEd also sponsors The Home Depot's CFL recycling and implemented a CFL recycling program with participating Ace Hardware locations. Other initiatives include the Appliance Recycling Program, the Multi-Family, All-Electric Efficiency Upgrade, and the Central Air Conditioning Cycling Program, which promotes “doing with less” by providing incentives to customers to accept a warmer house on hot days to save energy and money.

## **Consolidated Printing Company, Chicago**

### *Continuous Improvement Award*

Consolidated Printing Company has been committed to doing what's right for the environment for 36 years. Today, Consolidated Printing believes green printing is much more than recycled paper and soy-based inks. Over the years, it has worked with vendors and staff to create a green printing process called Printedgreen.™ In 2008, Consolidated began using alternative cleaning products made from plant extracts, began using inks that emit very little VOC, contain no heavy metals, no phthalates, and do not contain any petroleum oils; they also utilize a methyl ester based parts cleaning system and have converted to a printing plate (image carrier) setter system that uses 50 percent less energy than traditional plate making systems.



## **Continental Tire North America, Mount Vernon**

### *Continuous Improvement Award*

Continental Tire North America (CTNA) manufactures radial tires. The company's environmental actions affect southern Illinois in regard to air quality, water purity, energy usage, and environmental preservation by reducing landfilled materials. The following pollution prevention projects were accomplished in 2008:

- The carbon black handling system was modified to capture and reuse the material, saving roughly three million pounds of carbon black material annually.
- The plant successfully developed a method to recycle carbon black. This activity has diverted an estimated 325,000 pounds of carbon black from landfill for the 4th quarter 2008.
- Uncured rubber-related scrap was cut by roughly 400,000 pounds by modifying equipment and placing better controls on raw material usage and technology improvements.
- CTNA now receives raw materials on multiple-use plastic pallets or metal shipping containers rather than on single-use wooden pallets. This activity lowers the overall carbon footprint of the facility and has cut wood consumption by 125,000 pounds.
- All plant general lighting was replaced with high-efficiency T8 florescent fixtures. The replacement project produced a savings of 250 watts per fixture, with more than 2,500 fixtures replaced. This activity has produced annual kilowatt-hour savings of 5,500,000 per year.
- An ultrasonic air leak survey of the steam lines was performed and completed. The survey identified 300+ leaks, which were repaired—resulting in an annual savings of 2,500,000-kilowatt hours annually.
- By installing an economizer on one of the plant boilers, natural gas consumption was minimized—saving over \$150,000 per year in natural gas costs.



## **Electro-Motive Diesel, Inc., LaGrange**

### *Continuous Improvement Award*

Electro-Motive Diesel (EMD) is a manufacturer and rebuilder of diesel engines and locomotive components. While EMD's standard labor hours decreased by 2 percent in 2008, the total waste output decreased by 13 percent over that of 2007. EMD replaced a mixture of high-pressure sodium and self-ballasted mercury lamps with new T5HO fluorescent lighting in the engine rebuild area, saving 134,351 kilowatt-hours of energy, eliminating 201,500 pounds of carbon dioxide emitted to the atmosphere, and saving \$15,800 per year. In addition, they received a \$12,000 rebate from Commonwealth Edison's "Smart Ideas" rebate program. The facility also instituted other energy conservation projects, including equipment modifications and revised procedures, saving another 33,000 kilowatt-hours and 42 billion BTUs of natural gas, and eliminating 5,150,000 pounds of carbon dioxide emitted to the atmosphere, saving \$315,800.

Additionally, EMD reduced the amount of industrial waste to landfill by 32.83 tons, or 7 percent, by improving segregation, instituting visual control enhancements, and continuing to educate employees. This resulted in a savings of \$1,500. EMD reduced water usage by 6.1 million gallons and saved \$22,875 by changing a process from once-through potable water to a cooling tower and replacing an existing cooling tower. EMD reduced its cutting fluid disposal volumes by an additional 110,830 gallons compared to the previous year by continuing to improve the scheduling of equipment cleanouts, which led to fewer emergency equipment cleanouts.

## **Frigel North America, East Dundee**

### *Continuous Improvement Award*

Frigel is a market leader in process cooling around the world. The company has introduced three new sustainable technologies that are part of a closed-loop dry-cooling system that saves up to 95 percent of water consumption when compared to traditional cooling tower systems. The new system eliminates chemical evaporation into the atmosphere and eliminates discharge of



chemically treated water into the wastewater stream. Fuel usage can be minimized by as much as 80 percent with the new system. In addition, the new system optimizes process parameters such as pump rotation, fan running time, and precise temperatures that allow the system to run using minimal energy. The system's ability to provide precise water temperatures and flow to individual process machines means manufacturers generate less scrap and produce fewer bad parts.

**General Electric Healthcare Information Technology,  
Barrington**

*Sustainability Award*

GE Healthcare's Information Technology business provides comprehensive clinical and financial information technology solutions to help its customers (healthcare providers) streamline healthcare costs and improve the quality of care. GE Healthcare IT is committed to GE's plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce the intensity of GHG emissions, and improve energy efficiency. In 2008, an energy management project was initiated at the Barrington facility to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. GE Healthcare adjusted HVAC settings, controls, and temperatures. Lighting schedules were modified, 226 nonessential accent lighting fixtures were removed, and incandescent bulbs were replaced with compact fluorescent lamps. Hot water temperatures were regulated, and solar-powered, energy-efficient green faucets were installed. The 2008 efforts resulted in a reduction of 192.8 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> along with energy cost savings of \$30,853.

**Guardian West, Urbana**

*Sustainability Award*

Guardian West, a division of Flex-n-Gate Corporation, is an original equipment manufacturer (OEM) supplying front and rear bumpers to major auto manufacturers, such as GM, Ford, Chrysler, and Nissan. Guardian West has made several improvements to reduce waste and improve their process, including installation of



a nickel recovery unit, reduction in treatment waste, reduction in water consumption, and recycling chemical containers. The nickel recovery unit has allowed for previously wasted chemicals to be returned directly to the process. Guardian West has reduced the treatment frequency in nickel baths, thus reducing the overconsumption/cost of treatment chemicals and waste generation. By tightening controls on the process, the company has greatly reduced water consumption for rinse overflows. Finding new avenues for recycling chemical containers has reduced waste generation. They have also implemented projects to reduce emissions from their paint line, reduce overall energy consumption, and reduce lubricant usage.

**Harris Corporation–Broadcast Communications Division,  
Quincy**

*Continuous Improvement Award*

The Harris Corporation–Broadcast Communications Division (BCD) manufactures radio and television transmitters, including high-definition TV and high-definition radio. Harris Corporation (BCD) has a long-standing pollution prevention program. Harris has reduced the consumption of noncontact cooling water by approximately 18,000,000 gallons per year by making continuous improvements to their closed-loop cooling water systems.

Waste heat from the radio frequency (RF) testing process is now captured and reused, netting a savings of \$10,616 per year. By upgrading the air compressor equipment, eliminating improper uses of compressed air, and repairing compressed air leaks, Harris was able to save \$19,474 per year. By modifying the wastewater treatment chemistry, sludge volumes have decreased by over 75 percent. Consumption of sodium hydroxide was reduced by over 75 percent, and the use of ferric chloride, sodium metabisulfate, and calcium chloride were eliminated in the new treatment scheme. Harris also changed its production-area lighting system to reduce the cost of relamping the fluorescent fixtures and to improve the quality of lighting generated. This effort netted an annual savings of \$4,333 per year.



**Hitachi Metals Automotive Components USA, LLC, Effingham**  
*Continuous Improvement Award*

Hitachi Metals Automotive Components (HMAC) specializes in precision machining and assembly for the automotive industry. A significant amount of energy is used for machining equipment, general lighting, and HVAC control. To reduce operating costs and minimize energy usage, a partnership with a local energy management system group was formed. The energy audit proved that great savings could be reaped with a comprehensive plant-lighting upgrade. The lighting retrofit and upgrade consisted of replacing 276 metal halide fixtures with new, energy-efficient fluorescent fixtures and lamps, retrofitting 175 interior office fixtures to more-efficient lamps and electronic ballast, and replacing all exterior parking lot and wall pack lighting with new, energy-efficient fluorescent fixtures. With these improvements, light levels in the manufacturing plant have significantly improved while reducing annual electrical usage by over 400,000 kWh. This provides over \$35,000 operating cost savings each year.

**Illinois Correctional Industries, Menard**  
*Continuous Improvement Award*

Illinois Correctional Industries (ICI) is a self-supporting program that employs skilled inmates to make products that are commercially sold. ICI operates factories, farms, and service programs throughout Illinois. Illinois Correctional Industries–Menard has undertaken initiatives and projects during the past year that have resulted in greater sustainability. ICI manufactures third-party certified “green” cleaning products. ICI also allows customers to return all product packaging, at ICI’s expense, to the Menard facility where the packaging is reused or recycled. In addition, ICI has increased use of organic and recycled-content fabrics and materials in its knit and sewing operations, including making all mops from recycled materials. Finally, within the past year ICI has provided the expertise, equipment, and business plans for start-ups at the Shawnee, Pinckneyville, and Lincoln/Logan correctional centers. At the end of the first year, each of these sites saw a reduction of approximately 60 percent of their waste going into landfills.



## **Jesse Brown VA Medical Center, Chicago**

### *Sustainability Award*

The Jesse Brown VA Medical Center consists of a 200-bed, acute care facility and four community-based outpatient health clinics. In May 2008, a new tower was completed at the facility. It is one of the most ecologically constructed medical facilities in the nation. To conserve energy and improve the healing environment, the building takes full advantage of the southern sun. To maximize day lighting, the lobby, public corridors, waiting rooms, and chapel are all concentrated on the building's south side. A green roof was developed that insulates the building, controls stormwater runoff, and returns oxygen to the atmosphere. Other project highlights include using recycled materials for the woodwork and flooring, installation of thermal windows for temperature control, and a central garden/courtyard to provide a campus-like community. A reusable sharps container program was installed at the facility, and as a result, the facility has removed over 15,216 pounds from their medical waste stream. The VA is working to eliminate over 8.3 tons of plastics each year from the regulated medical waste.

## **Jet Lithocolor, Inc., Downers Grove**

### *Sustainability Award*

Jet Lithocolor, Inc. is a commercial lithographic printer, bringing over 60 years of print expertise as a premier specialty printer. In 2008, Jet's management and employees established and implemented several sustainability projects to mitigate Jet's environmental impact by reducing waste, pollution, and energy consumption while improving employee health and safety, production efficiency, and stakeholder communication. Projects include reducing material usage by minimizing the gauge of film materials, retrofitting lighting systems to improve lighting conditions while saving energy, and utilizing an alternative parts washing system that reduces VOC emissions and extends the life of the solvent.



## **Kankakee Community College, Kankakee**

### *Sustainability Award*

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) funded a pilot project creating a network called the Illinois Community College Sustainability Network (ICCSN), which is a network of sustainability centers at Kankakee Community College, Heartland Community College, Lewis and Clark College, and Wilbur Wright College. The network has served over 13,000 clients with workshops, programs of study, and information sharing. The colleges have produced and shared resources for a wide range of workshops and programs including solar photovoltaic technician, solar thermal technician, small wind turbine technician, biodiesel process, energy auditing and energy rating, geothermal systems, alternative fuel vehicles, industrial energy efficiency, home energy ratings system certification, and many others. In addition, information on community options for sustainability has been sent to over 100,000 residents in each college district. The pilot project has demonstrated that networked campus sustainability centers are an efficient mechanism to reach consumers, business, and industry. All of the 48 community colleges in Illinois are now members of the ICCSN, and the network has become a valuable ally for statewide sustainability and environmental issues.

## **Lions Park Elementary School, Mount Prospect**

### *Sustainability Award*

In 2008, Lions Park Elementary School in Mount Prospect undertook a schoolwide, concerted effort to “Go Green.” People all levels—the district administration, the PTA, the teachers, and the students—contributed toward the goal of a sustainable, green, environmentally friendly school. Some of the activities that were undertaken included going paper-free as much as possible, converting schoolwide bulletins to electronic newsletters; going completely pesticide-free on all school grounds; holding waste-free lunches; reassessing and implementing a more comprehensive recycling program, including having students monitor lunch wastes;



recycling old gym shoes, printer cartridges, batteries, pop top rings, and plastic bags; researching Illinois native plants and planting a native garden; purchasing a rain barrel and painting it with environmentally friendly scenes; starting a “Green Team” Club for the kids; holding the first annual “Earth Night”; going fully toxic- and chemical-free with cleaning products, soaps, scents, and air fresheners; and fully implementing the Green Cleaning Act. Finally, the school district implemented a district wellness policy that had as its centerpiece a “green” mission statement.

**McDonald’s Corporation, Oak Brook**

*Sustainability Award*

McDonald’s has a broad commitment to environmental stewardship, spanning from the front counters to the corporate office on through to their extensive supply chain. This approach requires collaboration and information sharing across all aspects of business. In 2008, McDonald’s completed a LEED certification project for their world headquarters building in Oakbrook. This was done by taking a holistic approach to sustainability and placing additional emphasis on measurement and reporting, collaboration, and their employee engagement process. These workplace results, coupled with accomplishments in other areas of their business, such as “green meetings” and the recent LEED Gold Certification for one of their newest restaurants in Chicago, further demonstrate McDonald’s commitment to sustainability.

**McHenry County Schools Environmental Education Program, Woodstock**

*Sustainability Award*

The McHenry County Schools Environmental Education Program (MCSEEP) began as a recycling education program and has grown into a countywide provider of diverse, comprehensive environmental education. MCSEEP brings its K–12 presentations to 63 county schools, reaching an estimated 40,000 students. Incorporated in each lesson is the importance of sustainability: meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability



of future generations to meet their own needs. The K–8 curriculum gradually builds an educated, caring awareness of the importance and wonder of our Earth. This is accomplished by using a wide variety of entertaining, informative, and interactive educational methods that build on what was taught the previous year while laying the groundwork for the following year. Students graduate with an understanding of environmental issues such as solid waste management, conservation of natural resources, biodiversity, global climate change, and the impact of consumerism. The MCSEEP curriculum meets Illinois state learning standards.

**MRC Polymers, Inc., Chicago**

*Sustainability Award*

MRC Polymers produces reengineered plastic pellets using post-consumer car bumpers gathered from scrap collectors. Recycling bumpers traditionally has been plagued by the inability to remove paint. MRC has developed a washing technology to remove paint and other contaminants. This is accomplished without using any chemicals and emits no toxins. MRC compounds the washed material with a proprietary additive package and produces a product that can be used on air intake panels for vehicles. In molding this material, no tool changes were necessary. In fact, GM did not require additional changes during assembly. The use of this material offers cost saving and provides a green solution to all companies involved.

**Mueller Company, Decatur**

*Sustainability Award*

Mueller Company is the largest full-line supplier of flow control products used in distribution systems for municipal potable water and natural gas. As a result of process changes Mueller has little demand for process heat using a steam boiler during nonheating months. Subsequently, a project was developed to effectively shut down the boiler for the nonheating months. The remaining heat loads are now supplied by different means that improve efficiency, yielding much lower operating costs and decreased waste. In



the domestic hot water supply, a 90 percent efficient direct fire, natural-gas water heater was added. An electric-immersion heater with recirculation pump and controller was installed in close proximity to the agitating parts washer to minimize piping run heat loss. To make the existing waste coolant evaporator more efficient, a natural gas-fired evaporator was purchased. The estimated savings associated with implementing these three projects is over \$70,000 per year.

**Navistar, Inc., Melrose Park**

*Continuous Improvement Award*

Navistar, headquarters for International Truck and Engine Corporation, is a manufacturer and marketer of medium and heavy trucks and mid-range diesel engines. At Navistar's Melrose Park plant, continual improvement is part of the ISO14001 system and the company's commitment to the environment. The Environmental and Energy Organization, a team within Navistar, has developed and implemented strategies for reducing the use of energy and water at the facility. Energy was targeted to conserve natural resources and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In one year, energy use was reduced from 73,154,585 kWh during both production and nonproduction hours to 69,024,673 kWh. This reduction has given Navistar an annualized saving of over \$100,000. Navistar also has reduced water usage. By reviewing current operations and implementing a conservation program, Navistar reduced water consumption by over 37 percent (almost 20 million gallons). These efforts not only saved millions of gallons of water but reduced the cost of water usage and disposal by over \$200,000.

**NOW Foods, Inc., Bloomingdale**

*Continuous Improvement Award*

NOW Foods manufactures a comprehensive line of natural health products, including dietary supplements, sports nutrition, foods, and personal care items. NOW continues to support many social and environmental causes throughout their industry and community. In 2008, NOW completed a 54,000 square foot addition to their



manufacturing facility, ensuring that the entire process was completed in an environmentally responsible manner. One of their most notable accomplishments was the installation of a solar energy system that houses 33 panels and a Web-based result tracker. Additionally, NOW converted all of its petroleum-based plastic shopping bags to 100 percent biodegradable bags made from corn, while phasing out the use of corrugated cardboard shipping boxes. Today, NOW ships all orders in boxes made from 100 percent postconsumer recycled materials. In addition, they recently converted 137 HID 1,000-watt bulbs with energy-efficient T5 lamps.

**Original Smith Printing, Bloomington**

*Sustainability Award*

Original Smith Printing (OSP) provides full-service commercial printing, nationwide. OSP has always been environmentally conscious about recycling its by-products and staying compliant with state regulations. OSP formed a committee of dedicated employees focused on “going green.” The goal was to significantly reduce the current waste stream, allowing OSP to move toward a more lean and clean workflow. As processes were reviewed, extended partnerships were made with recyclers and industry professionals to determine what other by-products of operations could be diverted from the landfills. The “Green Team” also engaged employees, vendors, clients, and the community throughout this process. The process of becoming more environmentally and socially responsible led OSP to successful partnerships within its parent company (Taylor Corporation), their vendors, clients, and the local community. OSP has been successful in achieving the goal of reducing its waste stream and reducing its impact on the environment with the projects that resulted from this process.



## **PortionPac Chemical Corporation, Chicago**

### *Continuous Improvement Award*

PortionPac manufactures sustainable janitorial cleaning detergents. The company's premeasured concentrated liquid products simplify cleaning while reducing the resources used throughout the lifecycle of production, storage, distribution, and disposal. PortionPac is utilized by schools, hospitals, industrial firms, and commercial cleaners. Some of the developments this year include expanding its Shared Savings program to over 9,000 schools, redesigning service programs to further reduce its carbon footprint, purchasing renewable energy credits to offset the factory's electric and gas usage, and converting its fleet to lower emission technologies. Three new projects include a program to involve all employees in sustainability efforts, relamping the factory to achieve greater efficiency with reduced environmental impact, and a communications systems project that utilizes modern communications systems to cut the company's carbon footprint.

## **Rhodia, Inc., Blue Island**

### *Sustainability Award*

Rhodia has approximately 45 employees at its Blue Island plant and manufactures a variety of surfactant ingredients for the personal care, home care, industrial and institutional cleaning, agricultural, and oilfield markets. The Blue Island plant was challenged to improve energy efficiency. Historically, the highest-cost utility at the site was natural gas. Natural gas is primarily used to generate steam in three boilers. Steam is used for process heating, line and equipment temperature maintenance, and building heating requirements. The plant has dramatically decreased natural gas usage by challenging processing, operating, and building heating assumptions, optimizing boiler operation, and consolidating the steam distribution system. The effort resulted in a reduction of natural gas use of over 30 percent on a per-pound-produced basis. This is equivalent to a variable cost savings of almost \$180,000. Additionally, the 2008 reduction in gas consumption reduced carbon dioxide emissions by 1,016 tons on an equivalent per-pound usage basis.



**Vaughan and Bushnell Manufacturing Company, Bushnell  
*Sustainability Award***

Vaughan and Bushnell Manufacturing Company is a leading manufacturer of striking tools. The facility has an average annual employment of 200 employees. Projects initiated to make the facility more efficient and environmentally friendly include fluorescent lamp replacement, delamping of vending machines, a carbon recycling program, removal of a solid waste incinerator, powder coating of products, molding on PVC grips, and the addition of robotics. These projects have meant an annual savings of over \$800,000. With these changes, Vaughan has also been able to reduce or eliminate employee and environmental exposures, reduce waste, and improve safety and product quality, while improving efficiency and profitability.

**Village of Orland Park, Orland Park  
*Sustainability Award***

Orland Park has sponsored a number of programs encouraging residents and businesses to join its “Green Revolution,” with everyone doing their part to help conserve energy. The village integrates public wildland protection and private land stewardship in a lived-in landscape where 60,000 people make their home and millions from around the region travel and visit each year. The village has received multiple awards recognizing their environmentally friendly practices such as a LEED Gold Certification for its new police station, the Clean Air Counts Silver Award, the Home Depot Award for Excellence, a Tree City USA status for the last 21 years, and an Honorable Mention through the United States Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Award for environmentally sustainable practices. Beginning in 2009, the village will be implementing its smart energy initiative that will assist in the transformation of the way Orland Park residents, businesses, and visitors acquire, use, and think about energy. For the first year of the initiative, the goal is to reduce the energy footprint of the village by 0.5 percent to 1.5 percent or begin the downward trend in energy consumption and establish a benchmark for future reductions.



## **WCIA-Channel 3 News, Champaign**

### *Sustainability Award*

WCIA-Channel 3 is a CBS-affiliated television station. WCIA-Channel 3 News has conducted an ongoing franchise of weekly news stories titled “Go Green.” The focus is to highlight the ways people are working toward a better environment by reducing consumption, recycling, and using technological innovations for a positive impact. The franchise has also incorporated special events. The station conducted a computer/electronics drive and received two semi-truck loads of computer equipment to recycle. WCIA also conducted a “Re-Use a Shoe” campaign with Nike to collect old shoes and grind them into athletic surfaces for impoverished communities. WCIA collected about 20,000 shoes. In addition, the station conducted a phone book recycling program, collecting two dumpsters of old phone books for recycling. The station’s efforts to inform the community and improve the environment have received superb feedback.

## NOTES

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