



Focus on **Governor's Award**

from Ecology's Hazardous Waste & Toxics Reduction Program

2003 Governor's Award for Pollution Prevention & Sustainable Practices

Innovators win awards

Governor Gary Locke honored five Washington facilities Oct. 9 with the 2003 Governor's Award for Pollution Prevention and Sustainable Practices. The winners – two businesses, a school district, a military base and a local government – found 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 panel of judges selected the winners. The panel comprised past winners, pollution-prevention experts, representatives from businesses, labor and environmental groups, and academia.

2003 Governor's Award recipients

Aaron's Bicycle Repair

Aaron's Bicycle Repair in West Seattle sells and repairs bicycles. The company shows what a business can do when the owners and employees are fully committed to the principles of sustainable practices over short-term profits.

Aaron's Bicycle Repair leads in its field in its use of non-toxic cleaners and lubricants and in conserving natural resources whenever possible. Employees encourage customers to repair bicycles and parts instead of automatically buying new ones. From re-using bicycle parts to composting food waste, the company recycles everything it can and has achieved an 80 percent recycling rate. All the employees commute by bike.

The company's owner developed a Web site encouraging bicycling (www.rideyourbike.com) and started a related business, Bikestation, where commuters can park their bikes. He also helped found Bike Works, a group that helps children get bicycles through an Earn-a-Bike program.

Clark County

Clark County's commitment to sustainability shows in its efforts to educate new generations to be aware of their effect on the environment. Last year, the county reached 11,000 students with its environmental-education programs.

The county piloted a program to collect hazardous waste door-to-door from elderly and disabled residents. It began a permanent program for re-using and recycling old computers and electronic goods, diverting 3,200 pounds of computer equipment in the first year. Clark County has reduced air emissions by switching its fleet to bio-diesel (petroleum blended with fats and vegetable oils) and by investing in electric/gasoline hybrid cars.

The new Clark County Public Service Center models what can be done in designing a building to conserve resources – using sustainably harvested wood and recycled building materials, operating with renewable power and furnished with recycled fabric. It will be the first public building in the area to be certified by the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED™) rating system, which assesses the environmental sustainability of building design.

Mount Baker School District

The 300 employees and 2,400 students in the Mount Baker School District in Deming, Wash., learn and uphold the principles of sustainability and pollution prevention every day. Whenever possible, the maintenance department re-uses parts, groundskeepers hand-weed and mulch to avoid using pesticides, custodians use environmentally-safe cleaners, employees use electronic forms, and classrooms use overhead projectors and whiteboards avoid using paper. Chemistry labs use “micro-scale” chemistry, using minimal amounts of chemicals while still demonstrating the desired result.

The district's reuse program collects items and instructional materials for redistribution to other educators. The joint junior-senior high school has cut cafeteria waste in half through food-waste composting. The horticultural program and biology classes then “close the loop” by using the compost. The “new” composting unit is an old cement truck converted into a giant tumbler by the clever use of available materials and donated labor.

During the last school year, the district's recycle program collected and sold 91,321 pounds of material, making \$3,078 in revenue and reducing garbage fees by \$5,479, for a total saved/earned of \$8,557.

Naval Submarine Base – Bangor, Continuing Excellence Award

Naval Submarine Base – Bangor on the Kitsap Peninsula houses and maintains eight Trident submarines. Marine maintenance can be heavily polluting, but the Base's commitment to pollution prevention has now earned it **four** Governor's Awards!

The base invested in equipment for four of its shops that will prevent an estimated 44,000 pounds of waste, reduce supplies needed by nearly 55,000 pounds and save more than \$470,000 per year. Several paints containing heavy metals have been eliminated from use so the blast-grit waste produced when cleaning and preparing surfaces for painting is no longer hazardous. One paint shop switched to a longer lasting coating for ballast tanks, which means less frequent grit-blasting and repainting.

The base has reduced its hazardous waste by about 26 percent each year since 1988. These efforts saved more than \$157,000 in hazardous disposal costs last year. Its Re-Utilization Store re-issued or recycled more than 32 tons of excess hazardous materials, generating about \$162,000 in revenue and avoiding another \$137,000 in disposal costs.

The base is retrofitting and upgrading its lighting, heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems, which should save nearly 7 million kilowatts of electricity and more than 26,000 MBTU of natural gas each year. It also uses horse logging to reduce damage to trees and soil on its 5,200 acres of coniferous forest.

2020 ENGINEERING, Inc.

2020 ENGINEERING, Inc. of Bellingham excels in innovation, seeking out new solutions in low-impact development, sustainable stormwater management, water conservation and “green” building.

The company designed a greenhouse-based system to treat and re-use wastewater for the IslandWood outdoor learning center on Bainbridge Island. This was the first such small, on-site system in the state. It required extra time and effort working with the state Health and Ecology departments to get the experimental system permitted and evaluated.

The company researches and develops “low-impact” development techniques to reduce the pollution from urban stormwater run-off. They have designed permeable driving and parking areas, including a “first in Washington” porous-concrete driving surface in a public right-of-way. They design stormwater systems that avoid the hard, erosive run-off from impervious materials, such as cement sidewalks, curbs and gutters, by using a softer approach of sheet flow and pervious pavements, rainwater catchments and swales. The environment benefits from less stormwater run-off and their clients benefit from reduced water and sewer utility fees.

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_awards.htm

If you have special accommodation needs or require this information in an alternative format, please contact Ecology’s Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program at (360) 407-6700 (voice), dial 711, or call (800) 833-6388 (TTY).