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## **Governor's Awards Honor Excellence in Recycling**

Nineteen Hoosier organizations and individuals received awards today for their exceptional efforts in making Indiana a cleaner, healthier place to live and work.

Lori F. Kaplan, commissioner of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management presented the Governor's Awards for Excellence in Recycling during the 12th-Annual Indiana Recycling Coalition, Inc. conference. "I am pleased to honor the extraordinary efforts of these recipients to reduce, reuse and recycle," Kaplan said. "Each one of these projects is an excellent example of how individuals, businesses and local governments can work together to provide Hoosiers with a cleaner place to live."

A review committee representing industry, government and environmental groups selected the winners in five categories: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Projects; Education Projects; Non-traditional Waste Project; Greening the Government; and 50 percent Achievement Award.

### **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Projects**

- *Criterion Catalysts and Technologies L.P.* – Michigan City, LaPorte County – This northwest Indiana company installed a new system to accurately grind and blend minute particles of waste into the catalyst production. The economic benefit in 2000 was \$82 thousand from recycling 155 thousand pounds of the waste.
- *DaimlerChrysler Corporation, Kokomo Transmission Plant* – Kokomo, Howard County – Chrysler was able to divert 25 percent of the total amount of their solid waste from the landfill. For the past seven years, a recycling team formed between the Product Quality Improvement Partnership of UAW Locals 685 & 1302 and the Transmission Plant has reduced landfill usage, reused previously disposed materials, controlled hazardous wastes and recycled a wide array of items.
- *Dana Corp. Perfect Circle Division* – Richmond, Wayne County – This east central manufacturer searched for a potential recycling use application for its quenched cupola slag material. The waste is now being used by a large cement producer as a substitute for raw material in the manufacturing of Portland cement.
- *Fairmont Homes, Inc. and Gulf Stream Coach* – Nappanee, Elkhart County – This northeastern manufacturer purchased a vinyl grinder, lacquer thinner reclaiming, Clean Burn waste oil burner and three balers to maximize their recycling efforts. In 2000, Fairmont Homes recycled over 8,000 tons of materials.

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- *G-P Gypsum Corporation* – Wheatfield, Jasper County – This northwestern Indiana facility recycled over 400,000 tons of synthetic gypsum, waste wallboard and clean construction debris in 2000.
- *Plainfield Correctional Facility* – Plainfield, Hendricks County – This central Indiana facility has reduced their landfill costs since 1997 from \$18,200 to \$6,700 per year through an extensive recycling and composting operation.

### **Education Projects**

- *Greene County Solid Waste Management District* – Switz City, Greene County – Volunteers and residents of Greene County cleaned up more than 550 bags of litter and dozens of large items, filling two 30 cubic yard roll-off containers with their “Litter Lottery” program.
- *Nashville Elementary School* – Nashville, Brown County – This school implemented Project SWEEP (Students With Effective Environmental Plan) six years ago when students were concerned about the amount of trash on the playground. The program, which includes a school-wide recycling program, continues to be successful through total school participation.
- *Princeton Community Middle School* – Princeton, Gibson County – This southwestern middle school developed Kids for Saving the Earth, a recycling group started in 1992. Their recycling efforts have increased from 2,000 pounds the first year to over 13,000 pounds last school year.
- *Paul Schellenberger* – Paul began his vermiculture project, also known as earthworm recycling, as a home project nine years ago. Each year his “wormery” produces 70 five-gallon containers of wormcastings that are used for organic farming and landscaping.
- *Wabash County Solid Waste Management District* – Wabash, Wabash County – The Wabash County Solid Waste Management District entered into a public-private education partnership that increased the percentage of Wabash County elementary school students receiving the district message from 36 percent to 83 percent.

### **Non-traditional Waste Project**

- *Allen County Solid Waste Management District* – The Allen County Solid Waste Management District formed a unique partnership with their local Sears Roebuck Company store to offer a residential drop-off program for fluorescent light bulbs. Allen County is the leader in Indiana in the amount of bulbs collected and recycled through a residential collection program, collecting over 15,000 bulbs last year.

### **Greening the Government**

- *Pokagon State Park* – Angola, Steuben County – Pokagon staff have implemented the most comprehensive recycling collection program in the Indiana state park system. Through the combined efforts of all of the employees the State Park recycled over 20,000 pounds of materials in 2000.
- *Max A. Todd* – Indianapolis, Marion County – Mr. Todd has gone to great lengths to establish an effective recycling program throughout the Indiana Army National Guard. His complete understanding of the effects of a coordinated recycling program and how it affects our environment inspired him to implement Greening the Government in the state military.

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## **50 Percent Achievement Award**

- *Elkhart County Solid Waste Management District* – This solid waste district implemented a quarterly recycling form in 1993 in an effort to track the amount of recycling being done pursuant to the state solid waste diversion goals. The district reached the 50 percent diversion rate in the last quarter of 1999 and continued throughout 2000 for a 51 percent recycling rate.
- *Fujitsu Ten Corp. of America* – Rushville, Rush County – In a company-wide effort to reduce landfill waste Fujitsu reduced landfill tonnage from 28 tons per month in 1998 to 12.36 tons per month in 2000. Fujitsu also conducted extensive employee training to support the source reduction and recycling efforts.
- *Kimball Electronics, Inc.* – Jasper, Dubois County – This southwest Indiana company produces high quality electronic assemblies and an enormous amount of specialized packaging is required for the delicate and sometimes minute parts. Through aggressive reuse and recycling initiatives, Kimball reduced the amount of waste going to the landfill by 81 percent in 2000.
- *Nishikawa Standard Company* – Fort Wayne, Allen County – This northeast Indiana Company extrudes and finishes rubber profile used in the automotive sealing systems industry. Nishikawa recycles or reuses cardboard, light bulbs, degreasing solvent, office paper, aluminum cans, scrap metal, wood pallets and much more! The facility recycled over 497 tons of material of their waste in 2000.
- *Reilly Industries, Inc.* – Indianapolis, Marion County – A manufacturer of chemicals, the facility began a comprehensive recycling program in 1994 and has achieved a 50 percent-plus recycling rate since inception. In 2000, Reilly added concrete recycling, boosting their recycling rate to 70 percent.

Governor's Awards are competitive and recognize exemplary programs. For additional information on the award recipients or on the program please contact Courtney Sanderson at (317) 232-8596.