

# 2014 Governor's Awards Recipients

The Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence is an annual program to recognize Indiana's leaders who have identified and implemented innovative environmental practices into their programs and facilities. The winners of the 2014 Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence actualized exemplary environmental projects with significant measurable results.

## *Energy and Renewal Resources:*

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### *Subaru Of Indiana Automotive, Inc.*



In 2013, Subaru of Indiana Automotive Paint Shop sought an energy savings project from the agitators on paint totes. Subaru's autobody paint arrives in 150-400 gallon totes that must be agitated to maintain quality. Traditionally, these agitators ran 24 hours per day, seven days per week, using more compressed air than any other system in the Paint Shop. The Paint Shop Team analyzed the system and invented a new agitator locking collar and re-routed the air supply lines that allowed the agitators to be automatically switched off during non-production times while still maintaining quality. As a result of this innovative project, the Paint Shop reduced its annual energy consumption by 2.4 percent, resulting in an annual reduction of 4,637,175 kilowatt hours, and decreased maintenance costs by \$15,244 per year.

## *Greening the Government:*

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### *Merrillville Stormwater Utility*



Merrillville Stormwater Utility constructed a rain garden that served as a bioremediation area for roadway runoff. This innovative project consisted of several native plant species and soil amendments which provided flood control and supplemental storage for the area. The project also required design and roadway construction modifications to properly grade stormwater towards the rain garden. Concrete was used for sustainability purposes and to reduce thermal pollution. The garden is 8,739 square feet, is home to over 2,000 plants, and allows 30 percent more water to soak into the ground. The garden is estimated to treat 215,713 gallons annually. This project was partially funded by Indiana Department of Natural Resources through the Lake Michigan Coastal Programs/U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

## *Land Use:*

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### *City Of Indianapolis*



The City of Indianapolis redeveloped 2.86 acres of a brownfield site to build residences for veterans. Lincoln Apartments is a 76 unit apartment complex that provides permanent, supportive housing for homeless and disabled veterans. The site had previously been used as an iron works foundry from 1875 until 1962, at which time the buildings were demolished and the site was left in a contaminated state. The city successfully applied for and implemented a \$200,000 Environmental Cleanup Grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency for remediation work. Once remediation work was completed, construction began on the approximately \$11.4 million veterans apartment complex. This project that provides affordable housing for disabled veterans has redeveloped a large brownfield site and created temporary and long-term employment.

## *Clay Township Regional Waste District*



Clay Township Regional Waste District (CTRWD) partnered with the Indiana Wildlife Federation to plant 17 acres of native Indiana prairie grass, flowers, trees, and plants. CTRWD provided the four basic needs for a healthy ecosystem: cover, food, water, and areas for reproduction. Additionally, to limit its use of natural resources, CTRWD created an e-bill option for its customers and created a system to take advantage of the non-potable water from cleaning tanks and watering trees at the treatment facility. The innovative program resulted in reduced mowing, saving nearly \$300 a week, and construction of bird and bat boxes to give native birds and bats cover and shelter.

## *Outreach/Education:*

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### *Wabash River Enhancement Corporation And Purdue Water Community*



The Wabash River Enhancement Corporation (WREC) staff, the Purdue Water Community, and volunteers dedicated thousands of hours toward connecting residents to the Wabash River. These efforts are part of an inventive campaign to engage citizens by encouraging them to reduce their environmental impact on the Wabash River. WREC in partnership with Purdue University and the Greater Lafayette Chamber reached out to college students, high school students, and landowners through a variety of outreach programs to encourage green practices that will reduce the environmental impact on the Wabash River.

## *Pollution Prevention:*

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### *General Motors Fort Wayne Assembly, LLC*



General Motors Fort Wayne Assembly successfully implemented an innovative “Block Painting” solution to reduce purge thinner used in the vehicle painting process. Traditionally, whenever a color change was needed, purge thinner was used to clean the line of paint to allow a clean environment for the new color. With 14 standard colors and 40 special colors in 7 production booths, minimizing the number of color changes was challenging. To improve the process, General Motors Fort Wayne Assembly scheduled colors based on five color families and introduced artificial intelligence into the program, which allows them to paint 9 vehicles of the same color. As a result of this innovative project, they were able to reduce hazardous waste and purge thinner usage by 30 percent and volatile organic compound emissions by 7 percent.

## *Recycling/Reuse:*

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### *City Of Carmel*



City of Carmel Utilities contracted residential trash and recycling services for all homes and townhomes in order to provide curbside recycling at an affordable price to Carmel residents. Previously, residents contracted individually for these services. As a result of this program, the curbside recycling participation rate increased from 30 percent to over 80 percent. This increase equates to 11,817 tons of material diverted from landfills since program inception and the prevention of over 31,521 metric tons of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and other greenhouse gases being released into the atmosphere.

## *Electronic Recyclers International (ERI)*



Electronic Recyclers International (ERI's) electronic waste shredding technology is one of the largest, most efficient, and highest capacity shredders in North America. It is designed to break electronics down to the commodity level to be sent straight-to-smelter, reducing ERI's downstream liability, and ensuring all commodities generated from the shredding process enter the manufacturing process to be made into new products. Two new state-of-the art shredder components are capable of handling more than 30,000 pounds of electronic waste per hour. After installation, monthly throughput increased from 4.86 million pounds to over 12.6 million pounds and personnel increased from 20 to 150 employees. The end result is plastics and metals that are ready to be sent straight to a recycler. This ensures that electronics are 100 percent recycled at ERI's Indiana facility.

## *Eli Lilly And Company*



On January 2, 2013, Eli Lilly and Company removed more than 10,000 trash cans and recycling bins from Indianapolis offices, cubicles, and workstations. The purpose of the new program is to reduce their environmental impact by significantly increasing their recycling rate, saving the company money by decreasing the number of visits made by custodial services, and ingraining the practices of waste reduction and recycling into the corporate culture. As a result, this project has increased recycling rates at Lilly's Indianapolis sites by over 30 percent, decreased trash by more than 10 percent, saved the company hundreds of thousands of dollars, and significantly changed employees' perception of office waste.