

Governor's Awards Script

Environmental Excellence in Pollution Prevention – The first category of awards is Environmental Excellence in Pollution Prevention. Award recipients in this category implemented projects that reduced or eliminated the generation of pollutants and wastes at the source – before it was ever generated. This year we honor three award recipients.

Bourne's Energy - GG

Bourne's Energy is a locally owned company that has delivered heating fuel to residents of Lamoille and Washington Counties for more than 60 years and is located in Morrisville. The family-owned company also provides plumbing and heating services, including solar thermal installations.

Bourne's is one of the first heating fuel dealers in Vermont to develop and implement a sustainable clean energy strategy. Bourne's Energy sells BioHeat to all of its oil heat customers. BioHeat is a blend of oil and biodiesel – the biodiesel is a renewable fuel derived from virgin oil seeds or from reclaimed vegetable oil or animal fat. Numerous studies have concluded that biodiesel produces less atmospheric pollutants and has a lower carbon intensity, which means lower greenhouse gas emissions in combustion.

The company also uses a biodiesel blend in their delivery trucks, pickup trucks and vans used for field service. Two of the delivery trucks have diesel hybrid engines. The trucks use the battery storage portion of the hybrid design to run pumps on the truck when pumping fuel deliveries to customers – thus avoiding engine idling and eliminating ten pounds of carbon dioxide emissions per hour of idling.

Will Peter Bourne, Gail Bourne, and Larry Miller please come forward to accept the award.

Blodgett Oven Company- DKK

Blodgett Oven Company, located in Burlington, was founded in 1848 by Gordon Spring Blodgett, following his creation of an improved commercial wood burning oven for a Vermont tavern owner. Blodgett received the first patent for an improved baking product in 1854. In the 1950s Blodgett introduced its pizza deck ovens. In the 1960s convection-style cooking was introduced and Blodgett developed a line of gas and electric convection ovens.

Over the last few years, Blodgett has qualified seven of its convection ovens in order to meet the new Energy Star efficiency criteria for commercial convection cooking equipment.

In addition, Blodgett Oven Company worked closely with the Energy Star Program in developing the Commercial Convection Oven Criteria, providing oven test data to help Energy Star develop appropriate efficiency levels for the nation.

As an example of quantifying the energy savings that will result from these efforts, Blodgett has placed more than 500 energy efficient convection ovens in KFC franchises. Each franchise is expected to save over \$600/yr in energy costs, and \$3 million nationwide.

Will Justin King please come forward to accept the award.

Hubbardton Forge - GG

Hubbardton Forge, located in Castleton, is a manufacturer of original hand forged lighting and lighting accessories. Originally a two-man operation, Hubbardton Forge has grown to over 200 skilled workers. No stranger to the Governor's Awards, The Forge has demonstrated a commitment to continual improvement in reducing its environmental footprint, and in their words, "As a research and development driven company, both in design and process, we enjoy sharing our discoveries with companies from around the world."

The latest project being recognized, involves the tumbling process for surface preparation of its steel parts. Tumbling is an old process, using a vibratory tub, abrasive media, water and an alkaline cleaner. Tumbling cleans and burnishes metal parts to prepare them for weld assembly.

Eventually the cleaning solution in the tub becomes full of solids, and parts require additional rinsing with water. The waste stream goes to a central collection tub where solids are separated and collected for shipment as a waste, and water is discharged to the sewer.

Researching a better way to conserve resources in the tumbling operation led Hubbardton Forge to centrifuge technology to separate solids and prolong the life of the cleaning solution. Like any type of experimentation, things don't always work the first time, and this situation was no different. Some thought it couldn't be done. Eventually, research led Hubbardton to a high tech centrifuge used in the aerospace industry and after further work and calculation, the equipment was purchased, installed, and fine-tuned.

The annual savings were significant: Over 185,000 gallons of water and 2800 gallons of cleaning solution. Along with the savings in labor, the annual cost savings amount to over \$48,000 per year. The return on investment for this project was under 1 ½ years, making it a win-win for the company and the environment and showing once again that preventing pollution pays.

Will Reed Hampton please come forward to accept the award.

Environmental Excellence in Resource Conservation – The next award category is for Environmental Excellence in Resource Conservation. Award winning projects in this category served either to conserve resources and protect the environment by minimizing resource consumption or by applying the strategies of reuse and recycling.

Diamond Hill Custom Heifers Farms - GG

Terry and Joanne Magnan have been in the custom heifer business for 15 years, having previously operated their own dairy farm. The Diamond Hill Custom Heifers farm in Sheldon raises 2000 dairy calves and heifers for both custom boarding and sale to dairy farmers. The diversified farm also sells potatoes, beef cattle, and compost products. Facing higher energy costs and challenges with manure spreading, in 2004, they teamed up with Brian Jerose of Waste Not Resource Solutions of Enosburg Falls, to design, build, and operate the first commercial-

sized aerobic composting facility that captures and recovers heat from compost piles for farm use. Manure, bedding and other organic wastes are composted in a barn after mixing and loading 200 ton batches on an aerated floor. Excess heat vapor generated in the composting process from the piles is pulled through a negative aeration system into floor ducts containing high efficiency thermal conductor stainless steel heat pipes. The captured heat is used to heat an 800-gallon hot water reservoir which is then used in a radiant floor heat loop in the adjacent calf barn. The captured heat also preheats well water used in preparing calf feed.

At peak, the thermal energy transfer system produces more than 200,000 BTUs per hour. This has saved the farm over 2000- 3000 gallons per year of heating oil, and close to \$10,000 per year. The static windrow composting practices reduce labor, equipment and fuel use by \$19,000 annually. Reduction in ventilation fan use in the calf barn saves over \$2000/year. Composting manure versus land spreading reduces phosphorus discharge to the Missisquoi River watershed.

The project received several grants, including a USDA Natural Resources Conservation Grant, one of 47 grants awarded nationwide that year. The farm has hosted tours to hundreds of visitors and serves as a model for a simple, yet elegant solution to more capital-intensive forms of manure management.

Will Terry Magnan and Brian Jerose please come forward to accept the award.

IBM – Cooling Load Reduction - DKK

IBM's semi-conductor manufacturing processes are very energy intensive operations. As part of its corporate commitment, IBM has set a goal to reduce energy use by 4% each year. Much of the electrical energy used by semi-conductor manufacturing equipment turns into heat. This heat load is rejected into the site's chilled water system, which is circulated throughout the site to collect heat. The water is then cooled by electrically driven chillers connected to cooling towers which use evaporative cooling to reject the heat to the atmosphere.

IBM now takes advantage of Vermont's cold weather by using frigid air to cool the clean rooms. The Free Cooling System creates cooling water by using large heat exchangers instead of two large electric chillers. In the winter, IBM can shut down 2 of 4 large chillers that have 1750 horsepower motors. The savings are substantial:

- 3.4 million KWH in the first 9 months of operation, saving \$280,000
- peak load savings of 2000 KW
- 550 tons of CO2 emissions reduced
- Annual water savings of 1.2 million gallons
- Reduced chemical use to treat water in the system, and
- Prolonged life of the electrically driven chillers

The Free Air Cooling System was funded in part by Green Mountain Power's Energy Efficiency Fund, and assistance was provided by Efficiency Vermont. The Free Cooling System is now being installed in other IBM plants.

Will Michael Pelletier, Edward Tomko, Ricki Calderwood, Jonathan Aldrich, Matthew Champlin, Robert Lamphere Jr., Steve Pitts, Justin Trombley, Steve Cowhig, and Thomas Jagielski please come forward to accept the award.

IBM – Solid Waste and Packaging- GG

IBM Burlington has long had a focus on reducing solid waste generation and optimizing recycling in its manufacturing operations, packaging and shipping, and office-related waste streams. In its Environmental Management System registered under the ISO 14001 standard, solid waste reduction goals are clearly articulated.

Packaging and shipping product around the world is an essential operation at the plant and has been a recent focus area for source reduction, reuse, and recycling. Some of the accomplishments include:

- IBM's wafer finishing team has designed non-palletized wafer shipping methods, reducing the amount of packaging material, saving time, and saving over \$200,000/yr
- Several types of specialized packaging are returned by customers and reused. In one project alone, IBM is saving over \$3 million/yr by return and reuse of containers for shipping wafers

In addition to packaging reduction initiatives, other solid waste initiatives include:

- Selling for reuse, more than 20,000 lbs of resin from deionized water systems
- Sending silicon byproducts to solar cell manufacturing companies for use in solar panel manufacturing – avoiding 40,000 lbs of solid waste and saving \$1.7 million
- A decontamination facility that handles all sorts of wastes and byproducts throughout the plant – to optimize the recyclability of glass, metals, plastics, including food waste for composting

All told, IBM is recycling over 63% of its solid waste. This is an 80% decrease from amounts generated in 1999. IBM's solid waste and packaging reduction initiatives net over \$2 million in revenue and \$3.6 million in cost savings.

Will Tom Calevro, Clark Combs, Tim Neary, Laird McDowell, Candice Callahan, Reg Believeau, Al Morey, Ruma Kohli, Tom Jagielski, and Eric Berliner please come forward to accept the award.

Jessica Frank - DKK

In 2009, Burlington Mayor Bob Kiss enacted an environmentally preferable purchasing policy that was developed by the City's Sustainability Action Team (or Green Team). City purchasers from 23 departments received specialized training on EPP from an outside expert and next considered steps to implement the policy.

Jessica Frank, Executive Secretary, was nominated to lead the new purchasing initiative, even though this was not a part of her job duties. In a matter of a few months, Jessica brought 16 departments on board to collectively purchase environmentally preferable products, such as Forestry Council Certified paper, products with recycled content, and less toxic cleaning agents – while negotiating cost-effective pricing with vendors. The effort not

only saves the City money, but has reduced truck deliveries by 75%. In addition, the City's vendor has reduced packaging and takes back delivery boxes and containers.

Burlington's Green Team has nominated Jessica for this award and the Mayor has applauded Jessica's leadership in quickly bringing Burlington's sustainable purchasing policy to life.

Will Jessica Frank please come forward to accept the award.

Killington Resort - DKK

Killington Resort covers six mountains with 141 trails and 22 lifts, and the world's most extensive snowmaking system. This also makes Killington one of the state's largest users of electricity. Over the past 5 years, Killington has partnered with Efficiency Vermont to implement energy efficiency projects ranging from general purpose lighting to snowmaking equipment. Today we recognize Killington for two of these projects.

The FreeAire Economizer System was developed by Richard Travers of Warren, VT, to use cold outside air to chill walk-in coolers and new high efficiency evaporator fan motors. This elegant but simple system was installed in nine walk in coolers and freezers – using cold outside air to maintain cooler set points when the outside air temperature is low enough so the compressors do not run.

The FreeAire Economizer System has saved approximately 70,000KWH of electricity in a year – enough to power 7 average households for an entire year. Killington's system was featured on the Discovery Channel. They plan to convert additional freezers, and the idea is catching on at other resorts.

A second project – this time taking advantage of excess heat – is a heat exchange system which captures excess heat produced by large snowmaking compressors and then reuse it to heat snowmaking buildings, dry snowmakers uniforms, and heat the water used to wash snow grooming vehicles and shuttle buses. This system has saved the Resort over \$6600 per year and over 1400 gallons of heating oil. The system has a return on investment of 1 ½ years.

Will Tom Horrocks, Alan Patch, and Jim Shands come forward to accept the award.

Mack Molding - GG

Mack Molding of Arlington, Vermont is a leading customs plastics molder, supplying injection-molded parts and sheet metal fabricated parts to original equipment manufacturers, as well as manufacture and assembly of complex products.

Mack Molding has teamed up with Big Belly Solar of Needham, MA to manufacture the Big Belly Solar Compactor, a compacting trash receptacle that is completely solar powered.

Garbage trucks consume over a billion gallons of diesel fuel a year and average less than 3 miles per gallon. Real environmental costs can be gained by municipalities, parks, beaches

and other public places by simply reducing the number of trash hauling trips needed to empty public trash receptacles.

The Big Belly Solar Compactor is the first patented solar trash compactor. The solar photovoltaic panel turns daylight into electricity, which is stored in a battery. As users deposit their trash, it falls into a 32-gallon bin inside the unit. An electric eye beam triggers the motor to compact the trash when it reaches a certain level. When full, an indicator light sends a wireless message to a central computer server, notifying staff that it is time for collection. The benefits over traditional trash collection are:

- The Big Belly holds 5 times the volume of ordinary trash receptacles
- 4 out of 5 trash pickups can be eliminated
- Greenhouse gas emissions are reduced by 80% by reduced fuel usage and
- Labor costs are significantly reduced

As an example, the City of Philadelphia purchased 500 Big Bellies – and estimated a cost savings of \$13 million in 10 years.

The compactors are manufactured by Mack using plastics from recycled car bumpers and powder-coated to avoid VOC emissions from traditional solvent-based paints.

Big Belly compactors are changing the way that municipalities think about waste management – and these units have found their way into cities, national parks, universities, beaches, and other public gathering places around the world, including 25 countries. Big Belly and Mack Molding were featured in a Newsweek article last month on how the focus on business efficiency is creating new business opportunities for smart companies.

Will Jeff Somple, Nikki Meo, and Kevin Dailey please come forward to accept the award.

Milton Town School District - DKK

Milton Town School District consists of a K-6 elementary school (965 students) and a combined middle/high school (850 students). The schools were built in the era of cheap and abundant energy. Lyall Smith is the facilities manager for the district, under whose leadership the schools have become a model for sustainability and innovation.

Some of the initiatives Lyall has implemented include:

- Installation of wood chip heating systems at both schools, while using natural gas during the transitional seasons of the year. Annual CO2 emissions are estimated at 1.6 million pounds per year
- Lighting retrofit projects completed at both schools will reduce CO2 emissions by over 8000 lbs per year and save the school district nearly \$30,000 per year in electricity
- A district-wide food waste composting program saves the school \$7000/year in dumpster fees
- Variable speed drive motors and air quality sensors installed in ventilation systems for large spaces, like gyms – allowing the school to ventilate the space based on real time needs. The savings are estimated to be 30,000 KWH/year and 80,000 lbs of CO2 reduction.

- Vending misers on all vending machines cut electrical usage in half
- Green Seal approved cleaning products are used throughout to ensure that staff and students are not exposed to harsh cleaning products and asthma-inducing chemicals
- A new floor cleaning uses that uses mechanical scrubbing rather than chemical stripping with toxic products to remove old floor finishes.
- Microfiber cloths and mops are used to greatly reduce water, chemical use and labor
- Advanced outdoor lighting, such LED lights with motion sensors, to greatly reduce energy use

Lyall involves students where possible in projects, speaks to classes, gives tours, and shares information with other school facility managers and custodians around the state. We look forward to more innovative and sustainable projects in the future.

Will Lyall Smith please come forward to accept the award.

Neuton Power Equipment - GG

Neuton Power Equipment is an environmental consumer products division of Country Home Products located in Vergennes – with manufacturing in Winooski and warehousing facilities in Essex. The Mow Down Pollution lawn mower exchange program was a collaboration between Neuton, Community Climate Action, Sustainable Resource Energy Group, Central VT Public Service, Green Mountain Power, Burlington Electric Department, area businesses (including City Market, National Life Group, and Otter Creek Brewing) and Solid Waste Districts. The program received a grant from the Agency of Natural Resources and several businesses, and Neuton provided its own product discounts.

Events were organized on four successive Saturdays in April and May, with businesses and solid waste districts hosting. In all, 298 gas mowers were exchanged for Neuton battery powered mowers and an additional 181 mowers were purchased at discount.

EPA estimates that a typical lawn mower used for 25 hours per year will emit 87 pounds of air pollutants and 52 pounds of CO₂. This project prevented over 42,000 pounds of air pollutants and over 25,000 lbs of CO₂ release. This program is an expansion of other lawn mower exchanges in Burlington and Montpelier in previous years and is a proven model of collaboration for environmental benefit.

Will Allison Cranner and Deborah Sacks please come forward to accept the award.

Small Dog Electronics - GG

Founded in 1995, Small Dog Electronics of Waitsfield is New England's top Apple Specialist and reseller, and third largest Apple Specialist in the U.S. Small Dog is being recognized for their annual one day electronic waste (or E-waste) collection events that allow Vermonters to responsibly recycle computers, TVs, and other electronic devices. The E-waste event has been part of Small Dog's mission of social and environmental responsibility. Small Dog's goal is to recycle each year more electronics than they sell by weight.

Small Dog is the lead sponsor and coordinator of this yearly event. Other sponsors have included Ben & Jerry's, Sym Quest, and Green Mt Coffee Roasters). This event has helped to provide Vermonters with a low-cost, environmentally responsible outlet for old electronic products, assuring that as much as possible gets recycled, and valuable resources are conserved and reused.

Through events such as these, Small Dog has helped raise awareness of the e-waste issue. Vermont has a new E-waste law that will eventually address a statewide need for convenient, low cost recycling.

Will Hapy Mayer and Katy Wilhite please come forward to accept the award.

Vermont Army National Guard - DKK

The Vermont Army National Guard is comprised of approximately 3000 full and part-time soldiers, civilians, and state employees whose mission is to provide combat ready forces in the time of state emergencies and matters of national security. The Guard manages a significant amount of federal and state property in Vermont – including armories, maintenance shops, a flight facility, 11,000 acre training site and Camp Johnson Training Lands at Camp Johnson in Colchester.

As the lead on environmental quality for the Guard in the state, Camp Johnson sets the standards for the rest of the Guard structure in Vermont. The Guard has implemented several notable environmental programs including:

- Development of an ISO 14001 Environmental Management System to identify, document, and minimize environmental impacts of its operations, and develop tangible targets and objectives to reduce its environmental footprint. Only a small number of facilities in Vermont have achieved ISO 14001 registration.

Some of the specific steps taken to minimize impacts include:

- Partnering with the National Heritage Program and the VT Dept of Fish & Wildlife to implement a plan for restoration and management of pine-oak-heath sandplain habitat and rare species such as the Grasshopper Sparrow found on Camp Johnson lands. The Guard also welcomes college and high school students for ecological studies.
- Implemented a comprehensive energy conservation program, including ground water heat pump systems, a wood chip boiler plant, and energy efficient lighting upgrades
- Implemented a comprehensive recycling program to achieve 50% recycling rates
- Replaced solvent-based paints with water-based points to reduce VOC emissions
- Reduced hazardous waste by 90% since 1993

These and other initiatives have earned Camp Johnson the Dept. of Army Award for Environmental Quality for an Industrial Installation.

Will Mike O'Hara, Rodney Hall, Mike Yound, Kim Wittoff, Suzette Bordeau, Ryan Ochs, Pete Tousley, and Col. Richard Harris please come forward to accept the award.

Vermont Country Store - GG

The Vermont Country Store opened in Weston in 1946 and continues takes pride in being known as "Purveyors of the Practical and Hard to Find." Besides Weston, The Vermont Country Store operates another retail store in Rockingham, an office building in Manchester, a distribution center in North Clarendon, and a restaurant in Weston.

In 2004, the Store initiated an energy and resource conservation strategy, which has since evolved into an integrated effort, involving all employees, to change the culture of the company. Energy conservation has been a cornerstone of the effort.

- Over 2500 incandescent bulbs have been replaced with high efficiency fluorescents
- The Store optimized the efficiency of its ventilation systems and used outside cool air versus mechanically cooled air for electricity savings and improved air quality
- Reduced oil consumption by 40-50% at 3 locations with high efficiency boilers

Over 32 energy reduction projects have been implemented, resulting in an annual savings of 1.2 million KWH, which translates into an annual savings of \$139,000.

Vermont Country Store recycling programs have brought the recycling rate up to 40% of the solid waste stream. Environmentally preferable cleaning supplies are now used wherever possible. Steps have been taken to purchase more environmentally sustainable shipping bags and boxes.

Vermont Country Store hosted an energy fair for employees and the local community and purchased and distributed 1200 CFLs.

Conservation of water, fuel, electricity, and waste reduction are expected to save the company over \$330,000 in the coming year. And many new initiatives are in the offing.

Will Jeffrey Hunt please come forward to accept the award.

Environmental Excellence in Earth Stewardship and Resource Protection - The next award category is for Environmental Excellence in Earth Stewardship and Resource Protection. Award winning projects in this category have provided ecosystem protection through measurable and direct benefits to air, soil or water resources.

Fletcher Allen Health Care - GG

Fletcher Allen Health Care in Burlington and its 30 patient care sites and 100 outreach clinics strive to be a national model for the delivery of high quality academic health care for a rural region. Fletcher Allen's multi-faceted environmental stewardship program is a part of this model.

Fletcher Allen's stewardship program has achieved the following:

- Increased recycling rates from 22-32% and instituted recycling in patient rooms and operating rooms for the first time
- Initiated a program to recycle plastic surgical instruments
- Increased food waste composting from 274 tons to 300 tons
- Introduced a program for responsible disposal of drug and pharmaceutical wastes
- Signed on to the Healthy Food in Health Care Pledge (the 2nd in the country to do so) – to purchase food that is produced in systems that eliminate use of pesticides, hormones, and antibiotic and employ sustainable agricultural practices. The Pledge is intended to improve the health of patients, communities, and the environment.
- The opening of the Harvest Café showcases the principles of the pledge as it strives to be the most sustainable health care food service in the country
- Reduced the number of toxic cleaning chemicals from 11 down to 1
- Introduced micro fiber cleaning instead of using cotton products. Not only are microfiber products more effective in cleaning, but they reduce water usage and save \$15,000/ year in chemical use
- Implemented a comprehensive energy conservation initiative, including lighting, insulation, and ventilation systems – resulting in 3 million KWH/year savings. This is a 7.5% reduction in energy, leading to an annual savings of \$250,000
- Fletcher Allen has aggressively eliminated the use of mercury in medical devices and lab equipment and chemicals and received the Making Medicine Mercury Free Award.
- A Sustainability Council and Green Team lead the efforts, along with an indoor air quality committee
- Fletcher Allen has received national recognition by being awarded the Environmental Leadership Circle Award from Practice Green Health – one of only 27 hospitals in Canada and the U.S.

Will Louis Dinneen, Whitney Taylor, Crystal Vestrand, Rachel Raynes, Diane Inre, Dawn LeBaron, John Berino, Dari Holcomb, Peter Irving, Richard Jarmure, and Penny Thompson please come forward to accept the award.

Franklin Watershed Committee - DKK

The Franklin Watershed Committee (originally the Lake Carmi Watershed Committee) was formed in 1994 to address concerns over water quality conditions in Lake Carmi. FWC has a board with equitable representation from the agricultural community, lakeshore residents, other residential, and municipal interests. Over the years, there have been many efforts to protect stream banks, conduct stream assessments, conduct water quality testing, promote septic tank management, and to develop nutrient management plans for farms.

FWC currently has a multi-year EPA grant to address all phosphorus source loadings to the lake. There is an EPA-approved plan for phosphorus reduction and the action steps in that plan are serve as a guide for the Committee's activities. Some of the recent accomplishments include:

- A comprehensive septic outreach program including an informational forum, informational flyer on septic tank maintenance, and septic pump-out rebate program
- A shoreline erosion survey, distribution of shoreline management information to landowners, development of erosion abatement plans, and cost-share agreements with landowners to fix problems

- A shoreline erosion workshop was held and VYCC worked on several shoreline erosion projects along roads, stream banks, and lake shoreline
- Over 1500 feet of eroding stream bank were stabilized to reduce sediment and phosphorus loading to the lake
- 11 acres of stream bank on a farm were protected by fencing to keep cattle out of the stream while providing an alternative water source at no cost to the farmer
- Funding to 6 farmers to plant cover crops and minimize erosion during the winter season

Franklin Watershed Committee serves as a model of community involvement, education and action to protect water quality.

Will Jim Cameron, Peter Benevento, Sue Clark, and Heidi Britch-Valenta come forward to accept the award.

Northwest Regional Planning Commission - GG

In 2003, the Northwest Regional Planning Commission in St. Albans developed a watershed plan for Stevens and Rugg Brooks, with a series of action steps to improve water quality in these impaired streams leading to St. Albans Bay, a bay with its own water quality problems. NRPC received an EPA grant and implemented a multi-faceted three-year grant to implement the watershed plan – with a focus on storm water management.

Among the projects with measurable environmental benefits to reduce storm water flow into these impaired streams were:

- Installation of more than a dozen rain gardens throughout the City of St. Albans, which allow storm water to infiltrate rather than drain into streams
- Construction of a porous concrete sidewalk - 8000 square feet - to replace an impermeable asphalt sidewalk
- Installation of an 860-gallon cistern at the St. Albans City Garage to capture rainwater then used to wash city vehicles
- Distribution of 60 rain barrels to homes and businesses in the watershed
- Development of a storm water treatment pond at the St. Albans Town Industrial Park to handle 14 acres of impervious cover

Will Tim Smith and Connie Burns please come forward to accept the award.

As part of its grant NRPC, in an innovative approach, decided to hire a consultant to act as “Project Developer” for urban storm water runoff, stream restoration and sediment control. The Project Developer reviewed existing data, identified potential projects, established contact with landowners, and worked with a committee to screen and prioritize projects. A Project Development Report resulted with the identification of 17 storm water management projects and 10 stream corridor projects.

The grant project culminated in a publication inserted into the St. Albans Messenger (5700 circulation), highlighting the many completed projects and discussing the water quality issues

facing St. Albans Bay. It also described steps that individuals, businesses and municipalities can take to improve local water quality.

Northwest Regional Planning Commission has set an example for long term planning and project implementation in watershed management.

Winooski Headwaters Community Project - DKK

The Winooski Headwaters Community Project is a relatively new watershed protection effort focusing on the Upper Winooski River in the towns of Cabot, Marshfield, and Plainfield. The headwaters region of any river system are particularly sensitive and important to the health of the entire river system.

The Winooski Headwaters Community Project grew out of an advisory group convened by the Cabot Creamery in the wake of the 2005 ammonia spill in Cabot. Community leaders, primarily through the Conservation Commissions in the three towns set direction and established priorities for enhancing the ecological integrity and diversity of the Winooski Headwaters. The Friends of the Winooski and the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District provided facilitation, coordination, and technical expertise.

Cabot Creamery has provided base funding since 2006 and Cabot employees often volunteer for projects. Other partners include Green Mountain Power, Trout Unlimited, Cabot and Twinfield Schools, local businesses, and state and federal agencies. In the few short years, the following has been accomplished:

- Stream geomorphic assessments and river corridor plans have been completed for all the Winooski mainstem
- According to these plans, the absence of riparian vegetation and eroding streambanks is a major source of degradation, including sediment and phosphorus transport downstream
- Riparian buffers have been restored along 4 miles of streambank. Schools, community members, and businesses have participated in planting projects
- The first rain garden was installed in Plainfield Village for stormwater management and serves as a demonstration site. Others are planned in the coming year.
- One of the restored properties is protected by a corridor conservation easement – the second such easement in the state
- The Project has initiated a water quality monitoring program to obtain baseline water quality data
- A Landowner Stewardship Guide has been developed, describing financial, technical, and educational resources available to landowners to improve land management practices.

The Winooski Headwaters Community Project is a unique collaborative whose strength lies in the diversity of its partners unity of its mission.

Will Ann Smith, Karina Dailey, Alan Clark, Alan Banbury, Amy Levine and Charlie Wanzer(?) please come forward to accept the award.

Environmental Excellence in Land Use Planning - The next award category is for Environmental Excellence in Land Use Planning. Award winning projects in this category preserve or conserve land to create ecological and environmental benefits or that advance smart growth principles.

Town of Williston - DKK

The Town of Williston grew from a town of just under 1500 people in 1960 to over 8000 in just 25 years. Williston transformed from a farming community to the state's largest retail center – hosting more than 10,000 jobs in retail, professional, and business services.

Regardless of one's opinion about the development that has taken place, what has been built is largely the product of land use regulation policies established decades ago.

Williston now has one of the most sophisticated smart growth planning programs of any town in Vermont. In 2007, Williston was the first town to receive growth center designation. Williston's growth center encompasses 775 acres – with the town's Comprehensive Plan calling for 2/3 of the town's future growth to occur here .

75% of the town's land area is targeted to remain rural through an Open Space Plan and implemented through purchase and acquisition of development rights and land set-aside when rural land is developed.

Williston's Unified Development ByLaw has discarded commonly used zoning standards like side and rear yard setbacks and minimum lot size – that yield negligible environmental and community benefits – and replaced these with a performance zoning system that instead controls the pattern of development by desired outcomes rather than dimensional requirements.

Requirements for stormwater treatment, erosion control, and wetland protection are integrated into one section of the comprehensive plan, Watershed Health, providing clearer standards and better coordination between requirements, providing greater predictability for applicants.

Williston is improving public transportation and pedestrian access with more than 22 miles of paths, sidewalks, and trails.

Williston's Unified Development Plan serves as a model for medium or large towns seeking to replace outdated zoning and subdivision regulations to further local and statewide smart growth goals.

Will Kevin Belliveau please come forward to accept the award.

Vermont Coverts - GG

Vermont Coverts Woodland for Wildlife had its origin 25 years ago as the Coverts Project, a UVM Extension program. With 46 million acres of forests in VT, 80 % of which are in private ownership, the program sought to educate forest owners about managing their forest lands for wildlife – in addition to other uses. This was accomplished through training “Cooperators” to serve as local opinion leaders in their communities on all forest-related subjects.

In 1996 VT Coverts became incorporated as a non-profit organization, with a modest budget and a mission that includes a focus on helping landowners plan for woodlands in their estates. Forest lands owned by families that do not have long term generational plans are often sold to the highest bidder, or divided or converted to non-forest uses. Without adequate planning, larger forest parcels are in jeopardy of becoming smaller, fragmented, with loss of habitat value. VT Coverts does not lobby or publish position statements on forest policy issues. Aside from 3-day initiation workshops offered twice a year (to groups of 20-30), all of the organization's education efforts are initiated, developed and delivered by trained Cooperators in their communities.

VT Coverts has trained over 450 Cooperators. Since 2003, Cooperators have offered more than 30 workshops, reaching out to nearly 400 forest owners. Similar programs have been adopted in at least 14 states. Today Vermont Coverts is one of the most highly regarded conservation organizations in the state. We congratulate VT Coverts on its upcoming 25th anniversary of educating forest owners on management for wildlife.

Will John McNerney, Lisa Sausville, and Tom McEvoy please come forward to accept the award.

Environmental Justice and Sustainability – The next award category is for Environmental Excellence in Environmental Justice and Sustainability. Award winning projects in this category promote greater environmental and economic justice or a sustainable future.

[Green Mountain Coffee Roasters - DKK](#)

Working to protect the environment is one of Green Mountain Coffee Roasters' core company values. We recognize them today for several initiatives that promote a sustainable future.

In 2009, Green Mountain's Brewing a Better World Program implemented a \$1 million Changing Climate Change Grant Program to fund four projects over the next 5 years – in each of the following four categories: Threats to coffee growing communities; transportation related emissions; building political will, and empowering individual action. A Request for Proposals was widely cast and four projects have been awarded funding for five years, \$40,000 per year. The program is designed to allow organizations the time to develop and implement long-term rather than quick-fix programs.

The funded projects include:

Threats to coffee growing communities – The International Center for Tropical Agriculture and Catholic Relief Services will use the grant to map forecasts of the impacts of climate change in coffee-growing communities and help small coffee farmers identify, evaluate, and implement adaptation strategies.

Transportation-related emissions – New England Transportation Institute, in partnership with the University of Vermont Transportation Research Center, will conduct in-depth analysis of

transportation patterns in the rural Northeast to help inform policy makers on likely adoption and ultimate effect of different transportation strategies on GHG levels

Building Political Will – Ceres will mobilize its business and investor partners to make the economic case for bold U.S. climate and energy legislation, taking their message to legislators and the media.

Empowering Individual Action – the National Parks Conservation Association will encourage and empower national park visitors to “Do Your Part” to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Green Mountain Coffee Roasters is also being recognized for its commitment to renewable energy and greenhouse gas emissions reduction.

- Green Mountain has made significant carbon offset purchases to help build an important new renewable energy project that otherwise would not have been built – known as the Greensburg Wind Farm. In May 2007, a tornado leveled the town of Greensburg, Kansas, destroying 95% of the homes. In the aftermath, the residents committed to rebuilding as the “greenest town in America” and since, the community has received national attention and support in the effort to demonstrate how clean energy can power a community.
- Green Mountain has installed a 100 KW photovoltaic array on the roof of its Waterbury distribution center which went on line in September 2009. This installation moved Coffee Roasters 25% closer to its goal to help Vermonters install 10,000 panels in 1000 days. To further this, Coffee Roasters encourages employees to go solar by offering group discounts on solar power systems.
- Working with NativeEnergy, the company has offset its carbon emissions since 2003. According to the company, “Responsible carbon offsetting is the only legitimate way to reduce one’s carbon footprint to zero without ceasing operations.”

We applaud Green Mountain Coffee Roasters commitment to corporate responsibility in helping to build a sustainable future.

Will Paul Comey please come forward to accept the award.

NeighborWorks of Western Vermont – GG

NeighborWorks of Western Vermont, located in West Rutland, in a non-profit housing organization, serving Rutland, Addison, and Bennington Counties with housing related services. They offer rehab loans; project management services to address home health, safety, and structural issues; conduct homebuyer education workshops; provide foreclosure intervention; and find creative financing for buyers. The most recent program addition is the Energy Saver Program.

The Energy Saver Program was designed to make it possible for low and moderate income Vermont homeowners to make energy saving retrofits and incorporate renewable energy as well. The program offers technical expertise, construction management and low and zero interest financing for households earning up to 80% of the Area Mean Income. The homeowner can

borrow up to \$20,000 for the project and defer payments based on income and credit history. Typical projects include replacing inefficient heating systems, air sealing foundations, insulating attic spaces, and installing solar hot water and photovoltaic systems.

The primary innovative feature of the Energy Saver Program is the financing. The Energy Saver Loan is able to improve lives with no out of pocket expense to homeowners. NeighborWorks loans money out of a revolving loan fund established by a Vermont Community Development energy enhancement grant. NeighborWorks has partnered with Efficiency Vermont to maximize Efficiency VT's incentives for energy efficiency improvements. The incentives cover a broad range of home efficiency measures. The incentives are then used to pay down the principal of the loan – which is how NeighborWorks is able to offer deferred payments and still maintain a sustainable loan fund.

The Energy Saver Program can serve as a model for helping low and moderate income Vermont homeowners to make energy saving retrofits to their homes.

Will Del Pliner, Ken Welch, and Ludy Biddle please come forward to accept the award.

Wheels for Warmth – DKK

Senator Phil Scott created Wheels for Warmth in 2005 to raise funds to help Vermonters in need and prevent unwanted tires from ending up on rivers and roadsides. The program is a multi-faceted tire donation initiative, the proceeds of which benefit families in need of heating assistance. Staffed by volunteers, Wheels for Warmth takes place annually over three days each October. Community members bring unwanted tires to designated drop off sites. Volunteers unload tires and the VT Dept of Motor Vehicles inspects the tires to determine road worthiness. Donated tires that pass inspection are inventoried and sold for a fraction of their worth, enabling community members to purchase safe winter tires affordably. Tires that are no longer usable are shipped for recycling and there is a \$4 charge for these tires. All proceeds go towards the heating assistance programs at Central VT Community Action Council. To date, Wheels for Warmth has generated nearly \$100,000 for heating fuel assistance. In the five years of the program, some 5,800 tires have been sold and about 9,400 recycled. In the past few years, Casella has recycled the tires at no charge to the program, to further increase the proceeds for fuel assistance.

Wheels for Warmth is a unique program that combines community building, assistance to low income Vermonters, and environmental protection.

Will Senator Phil Scott and Hal Cohen please come forward to accept the award.

Environmental Excellence in Education and Outreach - The next award category is for Environmental Excellence in Education and Outreach. Award winning projects in this category informed and educated others about environmentally responsible practices or empowered citizens to enhance the quality of the environment for local, regional, or global communities.

Central VT Community Action – Button Up Vermont - DKK

In the fall of 2008, Central Vermont Community Action Council, in partnership with the Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network and Efficiency Vermont, implemented an innovative public education program on home energy savings called “Button Up Vermont.” In a workshop format, residents learn the fundamentals of how homes lose energy, simple do-it-yourself measures to save energy, energy savings associated with extensive energy retrofits, and available technical and financial resources. Button Up developed a training program and trained over 30 workshop presenters, conducted seven regional informational sessions for local community partners, prepared guidance documents for presenters and local organizers, and sponsored a media and publicity campaign to publicize the program. Button Up was funded in 2008 by the Vermont Office of Economic Opportunity and in 2009 by the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

100 workshops were conducted with over 2700 participants in the first year of the program, and a similar number of workshops were conducted in 2009. The workshops were very well received by participants - and surveys and 67% of participants surveyed planned to have a comprehensive energy efficiency project that included air sealing and insulation. A follow up survey of workshop participants conducted the following year indicated that over 90% would recommend the workshop to their neighbors and over 90% had taken steps in their homes to improve energy efficiency. 17% had energy audits performed and 22% had made major efficiency improvements to their homes.

In 2009, Button Up supplemented its program materials with a 30 minute DVD with a step-by-step presentation on how to undertake a range of do-it-yourself weatherization projects.

This innovative grass roots effort has been highly effective, shown by surveys and the resulting change in behavior by workshop participants. Central Vt Community Action Council should be commended for its long term low-income weatherization program, now, nearly 40 years old, and finding innovative ways to reach even more Vermonters.

Will Hal Cohen, Paul Zabriske, and Carol O’Neill please come forward to accept the award.

Friends of Northern Lake Champlain - GG

The Friends of Northern Lake Champlain, previously known as Friends of Missisquoi Bay, is a 600-member organization working to improve water quality. The Friends work to disseminate information to members and the public, seek out grants for water quality improvement projects, and provide assistance to other non-profit organizations working on lake improvements.

Through President, Paul Madden, the Friends have been able to reduce tension among stakeholders and find the common ground to motivate parties to work together on non-point source pollution problems of the lake. The Friends believes that collaboration with all organizations, as well as public engagement is a key to progress.

The Friends have received a grant to provide financial and technical assistance for cover cropping practices at farms in the Rock River and St. Albans Bay watersheds. They work one-on-one with farmers to ensure that the practice is utilized most effectively – which means

assuring that planting occurs right after corn harvest, to have enough growth to adequately capture sediments and nutrients. The Friends assisted another watershed group in seeking funding and administering cover cropping in their area when that group lacked the capacity to do so on their own. Over 1000 acres of cover crop were planted in the fall of 2009.

The Friends, through Paul Madden, is working closely with the Agency of Agriculture to promote livestock exclusion from streams by developing a new program approach that works for all farms and all livestock. According to the Agency of Agriculture, the Friends have been invaluable in providing input from the public and informing the public and Legislature on the progress being made on the issue.

On the educational front, Businesses for a Clean Lake is a program where the Friends are working with local businesses to reduce their impact on the Lake. The Champlain Wave web site is a collaborative effort, along with other organizations, to bring public attention to the Lake and serve as a catalyst for citizen action.

The Friends of Northern Lake Champlain serve as a model for their collaborative efforts to improve water quality.

Will Paul Madden, Pitley Tyler Hill, Ted Kissane, and Johanne Hamilton please come forward to accept the award.

[Green Living Journal- DKK](#)

The Green Living Journal is a free publication that has been spreading the message of renewable energy, green building, local agriculture and sustainability since 1990 – before these topics were in the public mainstream. Green Living Journal was first centered in Brattleboro, but in 2004, expanded its successful business model to new markets – with stand-alone editions in the Upper Valley and Champlain Valley. At the same time the company broadened its product offering to include a statewide environmental business directory and web-based products.

Green Living Journal comes out four times a year, with a total circulation of 64,000 copies, and a separate business directory once a year. Every issue has articles on renewable energy, green building, education and careers, food and gardening, health, money, and books and resources. The web site, GreenLivingJournal.com, has 20,000 unique visitors annually.

Green Living Journal strives to be an environmentally responsible business organization through its physical materials (recycled newsprint), distribution methods (volunteers), and their operations as a virtual organization without a physical building location. In an industry known for waste and inefficiency of its circulation, Green Living's circulation sells out with each issue; almost all copies are fully circulated within a few weeks of publication.

For many years, Green Living Journal was a lone voice. Today, almost every newspaper in the state has a green column or green supplement. While circulation of daily newspapers has declined, Green Living Journal's has quadrupled since 2004. Green Living Journal has certainly been a force to educate Vermonters on living sustainably for the future.

Will Stephen Morris please come forward to accept the award.

Heather Darby - GG

Dr. Heather Darby is an Agronomic Specialist with UVM Extension. She works collaboratively with the farming community to mitigate non-point source pollution from farms. She conducts a variety of research projects to promote practices that improve crop production, while protecting profits and the environment. Heather's program works to develop and implement applied research and educational programs for farmers in the target areas of nutrient management, soil health, cover cropping, conservation tillage, and sustainable cropping systems. Her educational techniques are diverse and include on-farm field days, workshops, conferences, courses, news media, web resources, and written materials.

Heather has promoted the idea that water quality in the Lake Champlain Basin can be improved through a non-regulatory approach that promotes farmer-to-farmer networking, farm environmental assessments, nutrient management education, nutrient management plan development, and implementation. Nutrient management practices have been identified as the single most effective measure for controlling phosphorus losses.

Dr. Heather Darby's Farmer Driven Water Quality Initiative includes the following:

- The "On Farmer's Ground" project works with farm families to help create a voluntary Water Quality Protection Plan – once risks are identified, farmers receive planning, design, and assistance in seeking out funding sources to correct problems. A Farmer Nutrient Management Training Course is a 5-week course offered each winter for dairy farmers. Farmers learn how to develop a nutrient management plan and write their own plan. During the growing season, one or more on-farm visits will be made to assist the farmer with implementation.
- Thirdly, farmers from the nutrient management training program are encouraged to develop on-farm demonstrations to promote farmer-to-farmer exchange of ideas and learning.

Aside from reducing sedimentation and erosion, many farmers who have developed plans save money in fertilizer costs.

45 farms in northern Lake Champlain have developed an action plan for non-point source pollution that they feel comfortable implementing. 90% of these have implemented at least one practice to reduce pollution. Since 2006, 84 farms have learned how to develop their own nutrient management plan. Of the 84, 82 have developed plans that meet federal and state standards.

Heather's nutrient management training course has gained recognition by state and federal agencies as well as local farmers and watershed organizations as an exceptional program. And there is no doubt that Heather Darby's unique program approach has made a difference.

Will Heather Darby please come forward to accept the award.