



Environmental Awards



Earl Ray Tomblin,
Governor

Randy C. Huffman,
DEP Cabinet Secretary



west virginia department of environmental protection

CONGRATULATIONS

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection's Environmental Awards recognize the accomplishments of state industries, municipalities, educators and community leaders who strive to protect the environment, work to be good corporate neighbors, and educate the state's citizens.

The DEP's mission is to promote a healthy environment. These awards are being presented to those who share our mission and practice environmental stewardship.

Eligibility for the industrial awards includes exemplary environmental performance in the last two calendar years, a history that shows no outstanding violations and a record of compliance with regulatory authorities. Facilities were nominated by the environmental inspectors who work to ensure their compliance with the law and by other DEP personnel who work with volunteer efforts.

VOLUNTARY PROGRAM

FMC Corp., City of Nitro – Nitro Sanitation Landfill

Nitro, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Patty Hickman, David Hight

The City of Nitro operated a municipal landfill in a residential area along the Kanawha River from 1965 until it was closed in 1971. FMC's Phosphorus Division disposed of waste at the landfill under a permit issued by the state. Due to inadequate soil cover, odor problems and exposed wastes resulted in the former landfill property becoming an ongoing problem to the community. The property sat vacant for years while the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency conducted various investigations and waste removal actions.

In 2001, FMC and the City of Nitro agreed to enter the site into the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection's Voluntary Cleanup Program as co-applicants. FMC excavated waste materials from residential backyards adjacent to the landfill, and restored the yards to their original condition. An engineered cap was designed and installed over the former landfill property. The City of Nitro provided local services such as traffic control and security during the remediation project.

Once the cleanup of the property was complete in 2010, the state Division of Natural Resources designed and began construction on a recreational boat launching ramp on top of the engineered cap. It was completed in 2011. The boat launching ramp has provided needed recreational access to the Kanawha River, as well as increased traffic that has benefitted local businesses. It also provides an additional margin of safety for the engineered cap. This project is an example of private industry, local government, regulatory agencies, and the community working together as partners to solve an environmental problem, and return unutilized property to a beneficial use.

CLEAN ENERGY

Marshall County Schools – Hilltop Elementary

Wheeling, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Gene Coccari

Students at Hilltop Elementary School in Marshall County learn, play and spend much of their day inside a facility that the U. S. Green Building Council considers the “greenest” school in West Virginia. Hilltop is the first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design-certified school in West Virginia. The Marshall County School Board chose to seek LEED certification after the school had been designed and awarded to a general contractor. Because the architect already incorporates LEED strategies in his design work, few changes had to be made.

Hilltop Elementary is a rural school, housing 410 students from pre-kindergarten through fifth grade. The school achieved LEED certification by incorporating a variety of sustainable design strategies for energy efficiency, lighting, water use and material use. By using less energy and water, LEED-certified buildings save money, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to a healthier environment for students, teachers and the community.

MUNICIPAL STORMWATER

City of Morgantown – Morgantown Utility Board

Morgantown, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Bill Timmermeyer

The Morgantown Utility Board’s stormwater program does more than address infrastructure problems. It works to increase water quality through active community outreach and education. From funding pet waste disposal stations along the Rail-Trail, to visiting elementary schools, the MUB strives to increase local stormwater awareness. MUB representatives teach children the importance of water, their most valuable natural resource. To encourage environmentally friendly habits at an early age, the MUB provides age-appropriate educational materials, teaching each child that his or her actions have a lasting effect on the community’s water quality. Girl Scout troops volunteer to mark storm drains while others, such as a middle school science class, learn where their water comes from and what they can do to protect it.

In the past year, the MUB reached over 2,000 children and their parents through community activities and educational outreach. The MUB also is the major contributor to the Monongalia County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day. The MUB recognizes and satisfies the need to provide an environmentally friendly means of hazardous household waste disposal. Also in 2011, the MUB worked to further improve the city’s Stormwater Ordinance. This proactive step will better manage preventable stormwater problems and improve enforcement of stormwater requirements. The MUB’s award-winning stormwater leadership provides a lasting positive effect on the Morgantown community.

MUNICIPAL LANDFILL

Waste Management – LCS Services

Hedgesville, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Sarah Woody

Over the last several years, LCS has not received a notice of violation from state regulators and has complied with all environmental regulations. Site Manager Jim Perry works diligently with the WVDEP and corrects any issues brought to his attention during inspections in a very timely manner. The site also has an Environmental Protection Manager who provides guidance and training on any environmental issues. LCS has an Environmental Compliance Awareness Program (ECAP) that consists of monthly training and quizzes for all employees. ECAP is used to teach and remind employees what to do and how to handle any environmental issues at the landfill. The landfill uses a tire wash and purchased a street sweeper to keep the mud and debris from leaving the site on inclement weather days.

The site collects litter on a daily basis and utilizes a 16-foot litter fence to keep wind-blown trash from exiting the area. LCS has an active landfill gas extraction system to control odors at the landfill and plans to install six more gas wells at the landfill this year. LCS also has its own wastewater treatment facility to pre-treat leachate prior to discharging to the Berkeley County PSD.

LCS also works with several municipalities throughout the county on annual spring and fall cleanups and also donates to several of the local school districts for both academics and extracurricular activities.

INDUSTRY GREATER THAN 100 EMPLOYEES

Saint-Gobain Ceramic Materials – Corhart Refractories

Buckhannon, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Rebecca Johnson

Saint-Gobain Ceramic Materials, dba Corhart Refractories, is a world leader in the manufacture of premium grade refractories for the glass industry, as well as the textile and LCD markets. In an effort to reduce its environmental impact, the facility looked for ways to reduce the consumption and discharge of water and the disposal of waste. Through a number of initiatives, the facility reduced its water consumption and disposal by over 70 million gallons per year. These initiatives included cleaning and recirculating treated contact water, attending to non-contact water, and installing thermal proportioning valves. Two compressors were converted from one pass through water cooling to a closed loop system and one compressor was exchanged for an air-cooled unit that will eliminate the use of water completely.

In addition, Corhart has reduced its disposal of solid waste based on sales tons by more than 50 percent in the last two years. This was accomplished through vigorous recycling efforts to both internal and external recyclers. Corhart is ISO 14001 certified and has an active “Green Team” comprised of employees throughout the facility whose goals are to reduce their environmental impact and promote awareness throughout the facility.

INDUSTRY GREATER THAN 100 EMPLOYEES

Goodrich Corp. – SIS-West Virginia

Union, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Susan Kershner

In order to protect and be a good steward of the environment, the Goodrich Corporation sets internal goals and objectives that are in many cases more stringent than regulatory requirements. One example at the Union facility is in control of stormwater runoff. The Union facility is located in an area of karst terrain and to minimize the impact to ground water Goodrich invested in the construction of two rain gardens to collect and filter all stormwater from its parking areas. The project was completed in July 2011.

Goodrich and its employees are committed to providing a safe and healthy working environment that not only protects the employees and surrounding community, but also the environment. Goodrich is working to reduce the intake and discharge of water for industrial cooling. An autoclave system was recently installed that uses closed loop cooling rather than intake and discharge non-contact cooling water. Plans are in place to migrate to such closed loop systems in the future.

In areas of air quality, Goodrich invested in a low NOx boiler in 2007 even though air quality regulations did not require this for the size and location. Energy reduction programs are in place to reduce energy usage through lighting changes and variable speed drives on pumps, HVAC units and air compressors. Reductions in generation of hazardous wastes have recently been completed.

INDUSTRY LESS THAN 100 EMPLOYEES

Goodwill Industries – Goodwill of KYOWVA

Huntington, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Tomi Bergstrom

Goodwill Industries of KYOWVA has maintained its condition of no exposure at its facility and complied with all required regulations of its permit. Goodwill demonstrates professionalism with spill prevention and cleanup, good housekeeping, and material handling and management.

Goodwill collects recyclable materials, including paper, cardboard, newsprint, computers, monitors, printers, and accessories. All items are stored and sorted in the warehouse of the facility. All the bailing equipment is located inside the warehouse of the facility. Bailed paper is stored inside until it is loaded into a truck at the dock. Electronics are recycled through Dell Reconnect. A collection bin is placed outside of the facility to contain dropped-off items that accumulate over the weekend or evenings. This bin is emptied the morning of each workday. Equipment and warehouse cleaning occurs on a daily basis also. A weekly inspection/cleanout is performed on stormwater drains. A monthly inspection/cleanout is performed on roof drains.

OUTSTANDING LITTER CONTROL OFFICER

Donna Seiler – Berkeley County

Martinsburg, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Michael Kanehl

Donna Seiler assumed the role of Litter Control Officer in February 2010 in one of the fastest growing counties in West Virginia. From the outset, she realized this was more than a one-person job and has reached out and developed working relationships with the sheriff's department, the state Division of Highways and the state Departments of Environmental Protection and Health and Human Resources. She developed response teams utilizing West Virginia works programs and community service personnel to assist in picking up litter in Berkeley County. She assisted in creating the Safe and Clean Agency within the county to fight litter, along with unsafe, hazardous, and dilapidated structures.

Ms. Seiler is always looking for ways to spread her message of "Restoring Pride" in the community. She recently initiated a monthly radio talk show with host Hans Fogle on WEPM 1340 AM called "Talking Trash" where they educate the public on the dangers of litter and its pollution hazards and respond to questions called in by its listeners.

While Ms. Seiler understands the importance of education and public relations, she remains focused on her primary goal of making Berkeley County a better place to live and visit.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Bonnie Durig – Hillbillies 4-H Club

New Martinsville, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Brad Blaine

Bonnie Durig has been leader of the Hillbillies 4-H Club of Wetzel County for 13 years. However, she has been a 4-H'er nearly all her life. She would say that the credit for this award should go to her fellow leaders and 4-H members. But it has been during her tenure as the leader of the Hillbillies 4-H Club that it has accomplished so much for West Virginia's environment. These accomplishments are numerous and diverse.

Waste management and recycling are a big focus of the Hillbillies 4-H Club. Its members participate in both the Make It Shine and the Adopt-A-Highway programs to remove unsightly and environmentally impactful litter left by those less mindful of the environment. They also have creative ways of recycling material and removing it from the waste stream in ways that benefit not only the environment, but their local community as well. These include collecting recyclables and distributing the proceeds to the Ronald McDonald House, as well as re-using soda bottles for flower containers and distributing them to the elderly.

Ms. Durig encourages innovation and creativity with her 4-H members and involvement in the community. Local citizens have benefitted from these outreach efforts. From the fair-grounds to the local fire department, Wetzel County citizens have learned about hunter safety, the health of our oceans and even about efforts to give less fortunate kids toys for Christmas. Ms. Durig leads all these efforts through a "get out there and do it" approach with the Hillbillies 4-H Club. Her efforts reflect well upon herself, her 4-H'ers and her community.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Alderson Green Team

Alderson, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Jennifer Garlesky

The Alderson Green Team was formed as a result of a Community Energy Planning grant provided to the Town of Alderson by the Appalachian Regional Commission. In partnership with Downstream Strategies, the Green Team initiated a stakeholder outreach process that brought community members together to begin discussing a vision for greening Alderson through energy and environmental initiatives. Since early 2011, the Green Team has been successful in: developing the first-ever Alderson recycling program; helping numerous local businesses and non-profit organizations receive energy assessments from West Virginia University; developing tools and resources used in outreach and educational efforts, including a "Solar for your home" web tool; starting the "Go Green Machine" green team at Alderson Elementary to explore themes of sustainability; and, organizing education and outreach activities, including a Green Team "float" and recycling program for Alderson's July 4th celebration and the first-ever Alderson Family Energy Fair.

The fair featured 26 companies, agencies and non-profit organizations focusing on various aspects of sustainability. It attracted more than 200 community members from Alderson and beyond, many of whom received home sustainability kits donated by West Virginia Sustainable Communities. On May 10, 2012, the Town Council adopted the Community Energy Plan.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Don Lane – Ducks Unlimited

Belle, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Kim Maxwell, Rose Long

Don Lane promotes wetland education locally and statewide as a personal commitment and through his work with Ducks Unlimited. As the education coordinator for Ducks Unlimited, Mr. Lane has assisted the West Virginia Project WET Program by guiding field trips, presenting activities at several Project WET Workshops, and developing partnerships with the West Virginia State University Extension Service and the U.S. Forest Service, Monongahela National Forest.

In 2010, Mr. Lane, representing Ducks Unlimited, joined forces with the Monongahela National Forest and the state Department of Environmental Protection to organize a workshop that provided training and resources to 25 educators, including teachers and natural resources agency staff. The training took place at the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge and focused on wetlands education and conservation.

In addition, Mr. Lane coordinated closely with Monongahela National Forest and the WVDEP to provide funding, equipment, and supplies for a wetlands education trunk that the Forest Service loans to teachers in Nicholas, Pocahontas, and Randolph counties.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

New River Clean Water Alliance

Oak Hill, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Jennifer Garlesky

The New River Clean Water Alliance formed in 2009 when a group of local and national non-profit groups, a business association, and government agencies came together concerned about the health of the New River. In July 2011, the Alliance published a report, the “Lower New River State of the Watershed” that highlights some of the threats to the lower New River and outlines recommendations to improve water quality and support community efforts. The NRCWA is building support for priority infrastructure projects including eliminating leaky sewer pipes, as well as support for alternative green infrastructure solutions. In the last year, the NRCWA has also started a volunteer monitoring program on Arbuckle Creek, a priority tributary of the New River. A group of 15 concerned residents have gone through training and started monitoring seven sites on Arbuckle Creek for indicators of stream health, including fecal pollution.

In collaboration with Concord University, students and volunteers were able to get an initial stream rating and additional information on macro-invertebrates and other biological indicators. This data will be useful advocating for the other clean water priorities for the New River – investments in stormwater and wastewater infrastructure – as well as in educating the public about the challenges faced by all the creeks in the watershed.

VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

Tygart Valley Youth Group

Elkins, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Callie Cronin Sams

Since 2005, the Tygart Valley Youth Group Recycling Program members have been hard at work increasing the rate of recycling in Elkins and Randolph County. The group has been particularly successful in recycling glass, yard waste, and electronics. The youth group has partnered with many businesses and organizations throughout the county to make the program a success by scheduling pick-ups at various locations, which makes recycling more convenient for businesses and residents. According to the group’s leader, Steve Kerns, 600 tons of recyclable materials were kept out of the landfill by the efforts of the Tygart Valley Youth Group Recycling Program in 2011. The glass recycling program ranks second in West Virginia, while the electronics and yard waste programs have been ranked first in the state. The youth group has benefited by helping its community and the environment. The program is going strong and hopes to continue to increase the amount it recycles every year.

CABINET SECRETARY AWARD

North Bend State Park

Cairo, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Diana Haid

Every year in May, the Department of Environmental Protection conducts Youth Environmental Day. The day is devoted to honoring youth groups from throughout West Virginia for their environmental stewardship. It's the DEP's way of recognizing 4-H clubs, scout troops and school groups for all of the good things they do during the year to protect the environment, such as recycling projects, litter cleanups and tree plantings.

Organizing Youth Environmental Day takes a major effort from the DEP's Youth Environmental Program. More important, it requires a venue that is willing to open its doors to close to 1,000 kids. Last year, North Bend State Park in Ritchie County did just that for an amazing 30th consecutive year. Every year, since 1982, North Bend has gladly hosted Youth Environmental Day. Park officials and staff annually roll out the red carpet for West Virginia's young people and work extra hours to make sure Youth Environmental Day is safe and successful. How do they accommodate close to 1,000 kids? It's custom for North Bend to allow Youth Environmental Day participants to camp for free on the park's camp grounds.

North Bend also provides complimentary rooms for Emergency Medical Technicians, who are on site for the safety of park visitors; blocks off lodge rooms for Youth Day organizers and exhibitors; provides meeting rooms for free; assists in all the setup and take down of tents, tables and chairs; allows the DEP to bring in its own caterer for lunch; and offers a breakfast buffet in the lodge for two mornings, a feature that's normally not offered.

"There have been six or seven different park superintendents since we've been going to North Bend and every one of them has been good to work with," said Youth Environmental Program Director Diana Haid. "The North Bend staff is on top of things. They've done this for so many years that, if I miss something, they know to bring it up. And for as many people we have each year, we've had very few incidents."



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