



North Carolina Department of Administration

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“ENERGY CHAMPIONS” HONORED BY STATE

RALEIGH – Energy and environmental professionals and others who have championed energy conservation and sustainability efforts today were recognized at the inaugural North Carolina Energy Conference. Seven awards were presented during the daylong conference at McKimmon Center.

“Energy efficiency and sustaining our environment are important goals for the public and private sector,” Administration Secretary Gwynn Swinson said. “The energy and sustainability champions we honor today are in the vanguard of these efforts.”

Swinson joined Larry Shirley, director of the State Energy Office, in presenting the awards.

Carlton Myrick, deputy secretary for government operations in the N.C. Department of Administration, was named **Sustainable Energy Champion**. A career state employee, he is known as the department’s sustainability leader. He has encouraged agencies responsible for the state’s motor fleet, state government construction and others to initiate environmentally friendly projects.

The **State Government Sustainability Award** was presented to the **N.C. Zoological Park** for its environmental stewardship. Under the leadership of Dr. David M. Jones, director, the zoological park is among the first U.S. zoos to achieve certification from the International Standards Organization, identifying it as meeting specific voluntary standards in addressing environmental issues. It is also the first zoo to implement an environmental management system.

Energy and Sustainability Leadership Awards were presented in five categories.

Community Service

Waste Reduction Partners (WRP), a technical consulting group of the Land-of-Sky Regional Council based in Asheville, provides waste reduction and energy efficiency assistance to businesses in western North Carolina with a volunteer staff of retired engineers. Terry Albrecht, a professional engineer, is WRP program director.

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Administration Building

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Volunteer Service

Richard Harkrader of Durham is vice chair of the N.C. Energy Policy Council. He is a retired architect, contractor, solar installer and real estate developer and is chief technical officer with Carolina Green Energy. An advocate of alternative fuel vehicles, he has been policy chairman of the N.C. Sustainable Energy Association.

Legislation

N.C. Rep. Joe P. Tolson of Pinetops sponsored successful legislation to include nonprofit organizations and local governments in the Energy Improvement Loan Program and to develop high-performance building guidelines that increase the life cycle of state buildings.

Utility Savings Initiative

Rod Rabold and the N.C. Department of Correction (DOC) have saved thousands of tax dollars on utility bills through the Utility Savings Initiative (USI). The department is working toward statewide adoption of sustainable energy management practices. Rabold, a DOC facility electrical engineer, is a member of the USI steering committee.

Education

Dr. Herbert Eckerlin of North Carolina State University was recognized for advancing innovation and energy efficiency to students within the university community and to professionals nationwide. He is a professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering.

More than 400 representatives from state agencies, universities, business and industry, schools and nonprofits attended the conference, coordinated by the State Energy Office and sponsored by the N.C. Department of Administration and the U.S. Department of Energy. The conference provided an opportunity for state agencies to share best practices and to learn about new cost savings initiatives in the areas of energy efficiency, energy management and overall environmental sustainable practices.