



North Carolina Department of Administration

Michael F. Easley, Governor
Britt Cobb, Secretary

Larry E. Shirley, Director
State Energy Office

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Contact: Sunny Nelson
Phone: 919-733-1922

ENERGY LEADERS HONORED BY STATE

Awards presented at fourth annual N.C. Sustainable Energy Conference

RALEIGH – North Carolina energy and environmental professionals and others who have championed energy sustainability efforts were recognized March 8 at the fourth annual N.C. Sustainable Energy Conference. More than 650 representatives from state agencies, universities, business and industry, schools and nonprofits attended the conference, coordinated by the State Energy Office in the N.C. Department of Administration.

Larry Shirley, director of the State Energy Office, presented the awards.

Sustainable Energy Champion

Dr. Herbert Eckerlin has educated thousands of students on best practices in industrial energy management as a professor in the Department of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering at N.C. State University. He was instrumental in the founding of the N.C. Solar Center, one of the nation's leading research and policy centers on energy efficiency, renewable energy and alternative fuels. He also helped found the N.C. Solar House, a demonstration facility that shows how readily available solar and energy-efficient technologies can be incorporated into typical housing design.

Alternative Fuels Leadership Awards

Blue Ridge Biofuels of Asheville is western North Carolina's first refiner of B100, a fuel source made of 100 percent biodiesel. They provide both educational workshops and consultations on biodiesel production for citizens interested in using or creating their own biofuel.

Foothills Bio-Energies of Lenoir is retrofitting an out-of-service chemical plant to produce biodiesel for the foothills of North Carolina. The refinery will support the local economy by using feedstocks from Caldwell County and the surrounding region, as well as keep fuel costs lower by providing the finished biodiesel to these same counties.

Piedmont Biofuels of Pittsboro is a biofuels cooperative with more than 400 members. The company produces, uses and encourages the use of clean, renewable domestic fuel. Its Moncure site produces nearly one million gallons of biodiesel each year. Education efforts include public plant tours as well as state and national consultation, workshops and seminars.

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Mailing Address:
1340 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1340

Telephone (919) 733-2230
Fax (919) 733-2953
www.energync.net

Location:
1830A Tillery Place
Raleigh, North Carolina 27604

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Smoky Mountain Biofuels of Dillsboro uses captured methane gas from a former landfill in Jackson County to power their facility and productions. The biodiesel created by Smoky Mountain Biofuels is created from waste grease collected free of charge from area restaurants, reducing the environmental impact that grease dumped into drains can cause.

Economic Development Leadership Award

The **Jackson County Green Energy Park** of Dillsboro resides on the former Jackson County landfill and uses captured methane gas to power the park's facilities. The captured methane also powers the businesses that reside on park property, including blacksmithing studios and greenhouses. The park and businesses are helping contribute to increased eco- and heritage-crafts tourism in the area, in addition to offsetting more than 550 tons of carbon dioxide that would have been released into the atmosphere by burning fossil fuels.

Energy Efficiency Leadership Award

Southern Energy Management of Raleigh, one of the state's largest companies to designate homes as ENERGY STAR®-rated homes, saw its business increase from 52 home designations in 2004 to more than a thousand in 2006. The company services more than 90 builders in central North Carolina, including large national developers such as Newland Communities, with a staff of less than two dozen people.

Environmental Stewardship Awards

Giles Blunden of Blunden Studios in Carrboro has designed solar homes in Orange and Durham counties for more than 35 years. He was one of the first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)-certified architects in the state and is considered a pioneer in co-housing, a design strategy that incorporates environmentally-friendly housing into communities that share common green space and support services for community members. Blunden designed both Arcadia and Pacifica, two model co-housing communities in Carrboro that are comprised of more than 75 passive solar homes.

T.S. Designs of Burlington creates locally produced, safe-dye T-shirts made from organically grown cotton. The company applies sustainability initiatives to each aspect of its business, from water-based printing techniques to energy conservation methods that have reduced company lighting costs by 25 percent. In addition, T.S. Designs hosts on site the Triangle Electric Vehicle Association, an organic gardening co-operative and a biofuels club that has recently spun-off as its own co-operative, Burlington Biofuels.

Renewable Energy Leadership Award

Ivan Urlaub is the executive and policy director of the N.C. Sustainable Energy Association, an organization dedicated to advocacy for renewable energy development in North Carolina. Urlaub advises many state and local elected officials on the potential for energy efficiency and renewable energy in North Carolina. He serves on a variety of panels and committees dedicated to sustainable energy, including the N.C. Legislative Commission on Global Climate Change.

Sustainable Energy Outreach Leadership Award

Ned Ryan Doyle created and administers the Southern Energy and Environment Expo, one of the region's largest events dedicated to alternative fuels, energy efficiency and renewable energy. Since its creation in 2000, the annual event has reached more than 30,000 participants through workshops, demonstrations, exhibits and presentations on sustainable energy issues, contributing to a more informed and proactive citizenry for the state.

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