



## N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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Contact: Chris Frazier  
Phone: (919) 715-6515

### **SMITHFIELD PACKING-WILSON RECOGNIZED AS ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARD**

**RALEIGH** – The N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources today recognized the Smithfield Packing - Wilson facility as a 2007 Environmental Steward. The award recognizes the facility's superior environmental performance, commitment to continued reduction of its environmental impact and demonstrated commitment to go beyond compliance.

The state's Environmental Stewardship Initiative, designed to promote and encourage superior environmental performance by North Carolina's regulated community, began in 2002. An "Environmental Steward" is an organization that has demonstrated environmental leadership through its commitment to exemplary environmental performance beyond what is required by regulation. As an Environmental Steward, the organization commits to reporting annually on its environmental performance.

"Smithfield Packing – Wilson applied to the ESI program in 2004 as a Partner and has risen to the highest level of the program demonstrating its level of commitment to continuous and sustained environmental improvement," said DENR Secretary William G. Ross Jr.

A 12-member advisory workgroup appointed by Ross provides directs the program and recommended that Smithfield Packing- Wilson facility be selected as an Environmental Steward. Advisory workgroup membership includes people from industries, industrial trade groups, government, environmental and non-governmental organizations, small businesses and a university. Workgroup members are listed later in this release.

Reasons cited by the advisory workgroup in its selection of Smithfield Packing-Wilson include:

- Integration of environmental management into core business operations through multiple processes for internal communication of environmental issues, and driving environmental awareness through efficiency improvement and awards programs;
- Involvement in local environmental events and service on local environmental associations;
- Manufacturing processes and new technology that significantly minimize energy, water use and waste generation;
- Its practice of operating well below permitted limits and implementing management techniques beyond those required by regulation; and
- Sustainable development to embrace harmony between the environment, the economy and the community.

"It's an honor to be recognized as an outstanding steward of the environment by the State of North Carolina. I'm extremely proud of our employees for making a commitment to protect the environment through recycling programs and other efforts that have helped us significantly reduce landfill waste and greenhouse gas emissions," said Phil Price, plant manager of Smithfield's Wilson Division. "We look forward to working in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources as Smithfield continues searching for new ways to protect the environment for future generations."

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Office of Public Affairs  
Director Phone: (919) 715-4112  
1601 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1601

Diana Kees, Communications  
FAX (919) 715-5181  
[diana.kees@ncmail.net](mailto:diana.kees@ncmail.net)

The ESI program has two additional levels of participation and recognition: Environmental Partner and Rising Environmental Steward. The Environmental Partner level is designed for adoption by a broad range of organizations interested in beginning the process of developing a systematic approach to improving their environmental performance. Partners must demonstrate a commitment to maintain compliance, commit to establishing an environmental management system and set environmental performance goals. The Environmental Rising Steward level is recommended to organizations that have a mature EMS in place and have set site-specific measurable environmental performance goals.

For more detailed information or to apply for the program, please visit the Environmental Stewardship Initiative's Web site at <http://www.p2pays.org/esi>, or contact Julie Woosley with the N.C. Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance at (919) 715-6509 or [Julie.Woosley@ncmail.net](mailto:Julie.Woosley@ncmail.net).

### 2007 Advisory Workgroup Members

Jennifer Adams	Corning Inc.
Katy Ansardi	Sustainable North Carolina
Kristin Beck	Progress Energy
Jack Blackmer	Novozymes North America Inc.
Bob Bruck	N.C. State University
John Burke	ASMO North Carolina
Jimmy Carter	DENR
Eric Henry	TS Designs
Preston Howard Jr.	MCIC
Matt Jordan	City of Gastonia
Danny Miller	Fleet Readiness Center
Todd Miller	North Carolina Coastal Federation

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