



N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Release: Immediate
Date: March 11, 2009

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ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVE MEMBERS TO MEET IN RTP

RALEIGH – The N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources will recognize the newest members of its Environmental Stewardship Initiative during a meeting tomorrow on the main campus of National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences in Research Triangle Park.

ESI member facilities from across the state will gather at NIEHS on March 12 to discuss resources for calculating and reporting greenhouse gases and implementing projects that could potentially mitigate these emissions, such as energy efficiency, fuel use and carbon mitigation. They'll also hear a presentation from Corning Cable Systems' Hickory Cable Facility, the state's ninth facility to achieve Environmental Steward, the highest level of ESI. Environmental Stewards are recognized for their superior environmental performance, commitment to continued reduction of environmental impact and demonstrated commitment to exceed compliance.

The ESI program currently has 118 member sites located in 49 counties across the state, representing a broad array of industry sectors including: pharmaceutical; manufacturers; agribusiness; local, state and federal government agencies; schools and universities. The program consists of three levels: Partners, Rising Stewards and Stewards, the highest level of achievement. This year, the program has grown to nine Stewards, 16 Rising Stewards, and 93 Partner sites.

"Members of the Environmental Stewardship Initiative prove that success in commerce and stewardship of the environment can work hand-in-hand," said Gary Hunt, director of the N.C. Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance. "Partners and Rising Stewards commit to work every day to balance business concerns and stewardship in a way that the nine ESI Stewards have proven is attainable."

DENR Chief Deputy Secretary Manly Wilder tomorrow will recognize the following new members for their commitment to environmental improvement. This year's five Environmental Partners – Candle Corp. of America; Cape Fear Public Utility Authority; General Dynamics AIS; Haldex Hydraulics Corporation; and Wyeth – will be acknowledged for their commitment to compliance, environmental performance goals and development of an environmental management system. At the Rising Environmental Steward level, Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations and EMC² – Apex will be recognized for their commitment to go beyond compliance, set measureable environmental performance goals and continuous improvement. They join 14 other facilities statewide that have been recognized at this level.

ESI members make a formal public commitment to environmental reductions when they join the program. From 2004-2007, members of this DENR-sponsored initiative saved more than one billion gallons of water; 198,000,000 million BTUs of energy; 192 million gallons of wastewater; 348,000 tons of landfill waste; 980 tons of air emissions; and 549 tons of hazardous waste. Total financial savings at the facilities based on environmental reductions were more than \$26 million dollars.

For more detailed information or to see a complete list of members and a map of facility sites, please visit the Environmental Stewardship Initiative Web site at <http://www.p2pays.org/esi>. You may also contact Julie Woosley at (919) 715-6509 or julie.woosley@ncmail.net; or Lisa Shanklin at (919) 715-6527 or lisa.shanklin@ncmail.net.

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