



2013 Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence



Ben & Jerry's (Waterbury) Process Wastewater Reuse System

At Waterbury, Ben & Jerry's installed a two-part water reuse system for wastewater generated from ice cream making operations. Over 850,000 gallons of wastewater per year is reused in cooling towers and as part of the grey water system for flushing toilets.

Energy Co-op of Vermont (Colchester) Co-op Solar

The Co-op Solar project brought six organizations together to make solar hot water system installations simple and more affordable by negotiating discounts, using state and federal tax incentives, and facilitating customer financing. This resulted in 41 residential solar hot water system installations in Chittenden County and has served as a model that other organizations have adopted.

Ethan Allen (Orleans and Beecher Falls) Fossil Fuel Use Reduction and Increased Waste Diversion

One of the first furniture manufacturers in the country to become certified in the furniture industry's environmental management program for sustainability. Ethan Allen has reduced the use of fossil fuels to near zero by using wood byproducts generated at Beecher Falls to fire its boilers at both plants. Solid waste diversion at the plants exceeds 70%.

Green Mountain College (Poultney) Integrated Educational Initiative for Achieving Climate Neutrality

Green Mountain College became only the second college in the nation to achieve a climate neutral campus through a combination of energy efficiency improvements, on-campus heat and power production, and local offsets. The College assures that over two-thirds of the wood chips used in its biomass energy plant are locally and sustainably harvested through a program called the Poultney Woodshed Project.

Honorable Mention

The Putney School (Putney) Putney School Field House

A collaboratively designed (with students and faculty) net-zero LEED Platinum field house that has been recognized as Vermont's Greenest Building by the Vermont Green Building Network. The Field House is an example of sustainability in all aspects - including water and energy conservation, sustainable construction materials, indoor air quality, and stormwater runoff mitigation. This project is serving as a living educational laboratory of net-zero energy building with many visitors annually from academic institutions and professional organizations.

Stowe Mountain Resort (Stowe) Snow Making Efficiency Program

An upgrade to the ski area's snow making delivery system (including snowmaking guns) has resulted in annual savings of 1.9 million kWh of electricity, 122,000 gallons of diesel fuel, 5 million lbs. of carbon emissions, and reduced truck traffic for fuel delivery, all at a savings of \$650,000 per year.

IBM (Burlington) Vermont's Energy Future: An Outreach Effort Celebrating IBM's Centennial

IBM Burlington received a corporate grant to fund community outreach efforts in which IBM could apply their knowledge and skills to promote sustainability efforts. IBM provided support to Vermont Technical College and the Howard Center for energy efficiency projects, and both organizations exceeded goals of 5% energy use reduction. IBM also collaborated with Green Mountain Power and its largest energy customers by sharing IBM's energy data analytics with them to assist in energy efficiency projects.

People's Academy (Morrisville) Stormwater Management

Five People's Academy students designed a stormwater management plan for the school that addressed parking lot and roof runoff. The plan includes a green roof on the gym, curb cuts to disperse stormwater, and a rain garden. The project received first place in the 2012 State Envirothon Competition and was recently awarded \$5000 for engineering design of the project.

Reading Elementary School (Reading) Eco-Goats

A service learning projects in which fifth graders help to design and implement a chemical-free poison ivy eradication project on 1.5 acres of school property by using fenced-in goats who ate the poison ivy and were not adversely affected. The project received School Board and Select Board approval and serves as a model for similar eradication projects.

Fairpoint Communications (South Burlington) Anti-Idling Initiative

A company-wide effort reduced vehicle fleet idling from 92 hours per vehicle to 54 hours per vehicle using in-vehicle GPS technology to measure and monitor progress. This resulted in 30% annual reduction in fleet fuel usage and serves as a model for other fleet operations.

Fibermark (Fibermark) Glazer Oil Replacement Project

Fibermark utilized its Continuous Improvement Project Implementation Process, involving equipment operators, to engineer a new automatic lubrication system for metal bearings on papermaking machinery. The new automatic system replaced a leaky manual process and reduces labor, avoids spills, improves safety, reduces oil usage, and saves money, with a payback of nine months.