

Loretta Spencer
Mayor



“The Space to be
in the 21st Century”

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City honors six entities with Air Pollution Control Achievement Awards

Huntsville, AL --- Mayor Loretta Spencer and the City of Huntsville’s Air Pollution Control Board presented awards to six local entities in recognition of their efforts to reduce air pollutant emissions and/or their outstanding efforts in environmental education. The Boeing Company, National Copper & Smelting Company, Sanmina-SCI Corporation, Toyota Motor Manufacturing of Alabama, U.S. Army Garrison-Redstone and Vulcan Materials Company were honored in today’s awards ceremony.

In thanking the award recipients for their efforts, Mayor Spencer stated, “Huntsville’s reputation as one of the nation’s greenest cities is very important. The programs that you put in place to make your operations have the least impact on the environment are a vital part of the recognition and serves as an example to the community.”

EMISSION REDUCTION

Each company recognized initiated a voluntary program to reduce emissions beyond regulatory requirements.

The Boeing Company – The Boeing facility located in the Jetplex Industrial Park in Huntsville provides design engineering, integration and testing services for missile defense systems and space exploration hardware. In 2007, Boeing replaced 215 400-watt metal halide light fixtures in the high bay at the Jetplex facility with high efficiency 192-watt fixtures, reducing power requirements for lighting by roughly 45 kW. The reduced waste heat from the fixtures lowers cooling requirements for the high bay area as well. In addition, Boeing installed programmable controls, motion sensors and timers across the Jetplex facility to further reduce energy consumption. Conservation of electricity benefits air quality by lowering regional emissions from coal-fired power plants.

National Copper & Smelting Company – National Copper manufactures copper tubing at their plant in the Chase Industrial Park in Huntsville. Production of small bore tubing involves a series of drawing operations in which larger bore tubing is drawn through a die. To prevent the metal from becoming too brittle from extensive cold working, annealing is done in a furnace. In 2007, National Copper replaced the burners and fire tubes in the annealing furnace with high efficiency burners equipped with recuperators to reduce the natural gas consumption in the annealing furnace. Additional waste heat from combustion in the annealing furnace is used in a waste heat recovery boiler, also installed in 2007. Natural gas savings are roughly 6 million standard cubic feet per year as a result of these projects.

Sanmina- SCI Corporation – Sanmina- SCI manufactures electronic products at Plants 437 and 438, co-located at their facility on South Memorial Parkway in Huntsville. Electronic assembly at the facility includes soldering and conformal coating operations. In 2007, Sanmina-SCI installed three (3) select solder machines and one select conformal coating machine. Select solder machines reduce emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) by applying flux only to the areas of a printed circuit board that require soldering. Emissions from these machines are roughly 50 % of the emissions from the foam flux and spray flux application wave solder machines they replaced. Similarly, significant emission reductions result from select conformal coating application relative to conventional spray application.

Toyota Motor Manufacturing Alabama – Toyota manufactures V-6 and V-8 engines at their plant on Cottonvalley Drive in the North Huntsville Industrial Park. At the end of 2006, Toyota installed a machining coolant recovery system that greatly extended the useful life of the cutting fluids used in their machining operations. The cutting fluid contains a variety of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) with different volatilities, so extending coolant life serves to reduce overall VOC emissions in addition to significantly reducing their wastewater discharge. This is the fourth Air Pollution Control Achievement Award for the Toyota plant in Huntsville since they commenced manufacturing operations in 2003, a testament to their commitment to continual improvement with regard to environmental performance.

U. S. Army Garrison - Redstone – The U.S. Army Garrison - Redstone is responsible for facilities and services support for the Redstone Arsenal 38,000 acre military installation that adjoins Huntsville. In 2007, a new facility for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms was constructed on the base. Rather than disposing of the 1,328 tons of vegetative debris that resulted from clearing the land for this facility by open burning, the Redstone Garrison chipped the material and sold it for use as fuel in a wood waste boiler at a Smurfit-Stone mill in Stevenson, Alabama. Emissions from the wood waste boiler, which is subject to air pollution control permitting and emission control requirements, are far less than the combustion emissions resulting from open burning of land clearing vegetative debris.

Vulcan Materials Company – Vulcan Materials operates a limestone quarry and associated stone crushing and sizing process equipment at its Huntsville Quarry on Stringfield Road in north Huntsville. The rock processing equipment generates dust emissions, which are controlled primarily through use of wet suppression. In 2007, Vulcan replaced a horizontal impact crusher with a cone crusher, the operation of which is inherently less dusty. In addition, they purchased a new diesel-fueled loader which meets Tier 3 emission standards for non-road diesel engines. The new loader replaced three old, much smaller loaders and its operation results in a significant reduction in diesel exhaust emissions from loading operations.

AIR QUALITY EDUCATION

The Boeing Company – In support of Boeing's corporate goal to reduce energy consumption by 25 % by 2012, Boeing's "Green Team" in Huntsville sponsored a promotional event for employees in 2007. Among the environmental education activities included in the event were distribution of materials providing recycling and energy conservation tips and distribution of Compact Fluorescent Bulbs to promote energy conservation at home. "Environmental Actions and Commitments" posters outlining corporate goals for recycling, waste minimization and energy conservation have been posted throughout the facility to increase employee environmental awareness as well.

In 1997 the Air Pollution Control Board of the City of Huntsville established the Air Pollution Control Achievement Awards Program to recognize voluntary efforts to reduce air pollutant emissions by industrial, institutional and commercial facilities within the city. Only those projects which go beyond regulatory requirements for controlling emissions are eligible for recognition. In addition to highlighting the achievements of the award recipients, the program is intended to promote implementation of pollution prevention projects by other facilities in the area, and increase public awareness of air pollution control measures.

Annual Awards are presented each year in late summer or early fall. Past award winners are: A. C. Inc., ADTRAN, Inc., APAC –Southeast, Inc., BASF Catalysts, LLC, CAER of Metro Huntsville, Classic Cleaners, DaimlerChrysler Huntsville Electronics, Engelhard Catalyst Technology Group, General Shale Products, Goodyear Dunlop Tires, Hanson Pipe & Precast, Huntsville Education Association, Huntsville Hospital, International Diesel Of Alabama, LLC, ISP Chemicals, Inc., Lockheed-Martin Space Systems, Northrop-Grumman –Land Combat Systems, Mesker Door, Parker-Hannifin Corporation, PEI Electronics, Raytheon, Siemens VDO Automotive Electronics Corp., Summa Technology, Inc., the Solid Waste Disposal Authority, Taylor-Wharton (Coyne), and Toyota Motor Manufacturing Alabama.

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