



EcoStar pollution prevention award winners recognized by Governor Schweitzer at the Bozeman Public Library

BOZEMAN— On September 20th Governor Schweitzer recognized the 2007 EcoStar pollution prevention award winners at the Bozeman Public Library. The event was held in conjunction with National Pollution Prevention Week.

In addition to the Governor, 30 businesses and organizations from a dozen communities statewide were honored for their leadership efforts in pollution prevention. The event was held at the Bozeman Public Library, one of the 2007 EcoStars. The library is the first public building in the state to achieve LEED certification (*Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design*).

The EcoStar program, now in its eighth year, is run by Montana State University Extension and funded in part by the EPA. The program recognizes Montana businesses, organizations and individuals that are moving towards sustainability by conserving valuable resources such as water, energy and clean air; serving as role models for the state with their pollution prevention efforts; and surpassing state and federal requirements to reduce solid and hazardous waste generation.

The Governor thanked the EcoStar recipients for their dedication to pollution prevention and challenged them to help make energy conservation “cool” thereby helping to wean the nation off foreign oil while combating global warming. *“Many people say they want to fight global warming, but it’s really smaller, everyday actions that will make a difference.”* he said. *“Collectively, if each and every one of us pulls the rope just a little bit, then it starts to move. Are you ready to pull the rope a little bit more? That’s going to change the world”*.

EcoStar designations are awarded based on the applicant's commitment to waste reduction, environmental benefits they have achieved, amount of waste they have prevented and the innovation shown in their waste-reduction activities.

“The EcoStar award is an incentive, in that this recognition can help attract new customers or members, enhance customer loyalty, boost employee morale and even gain a competitive advantage, all while reducing costs,” said Mike Vogel, Director of the Montana Pollution Prevention Program at MSU. *“This is an opportunity for us to provide well-deserved recognition to Montanans who are working to preserve and protect our environmental resources,”* he said.

MSU Extension also announced this year's recipients of the Environmental Award for Outstanding Achievement in Pollution Prevention co-sponsored by the U.S. Small Business Administration. The co-winners are Eco-Terric and Ideal Bite, both located in Bozeman. Additional information can be found at www.eco-terric.com and www.idealbite.com.

For additional information and 2008 application/nomination forms, contact Jenny Grossenbacher at 406-994-4292 or e-mail jenniferg@montana.edu. Information is also available online at: <http://www.mtp2.org>.

2007 EcoStar Recipients:

Blanchford Landscape Contractors, Inc. - Bozeman
Boulder Hot Springs Inn, Spa & Retreat Center - Boulder
Bozeman Public Library - Bozeman
Cafe Regis - Red Lodge
Community Food Co-Op - Bozeman
Delaware North Companies Parks & Resorts at Yellowstone - Bozeman
Douglas D. Moeller, MT D.O.T. - Missoula
Eco-terric - Bozeman
Governor Brian Schweitzer - Helena
Ideal Bite, Inc. - Bozeman
Jeff Junkert Construction, Inc. - Billings
Kenyon Noble Lumber Company - Belgrade
Lindquist Craftsmanship, LLC - Bozeman
M & M Iron Recycling, LLC - Cut Bank
Mackenzie River Pizza Company - Bozeman
MBAC - Montana Business Assistance Connection - Helena
Montana Outdoor Science School - Bozeman
Montana Sustainable Grower's Union - Missoula
Moss Mountain Inn - Columbia Falls
Mountain Home - Montana Vacation Rentals - Bozeman
MusEco Media and Education Project - Billings
NCAT's Grow Montana Food Corp - Missoula
OASIS Environmental, Inc. - Livingston
Patrick Crowley, MT D.E.Q (retired). - Helena
Progaia Eco Paint & Finish - Missoula
Pure & Simple, Inc. - Belgrade
Sage Mountain Center - Whitehall
Silver Gate Cabins, General Store & Wilderness Camp - Silver Gate
Streamline Transit Systems - Bozeman
Treecycle - Huson
V2 Design, PLLC - Bozeman