2016
WISCONSIN BUSINESS FRIEND
of the ENVIRONMENT
Awards
WMC FOUNDATION
For the 27th year in a row, the WMC Foundation is recognizing nine companies with the Wisconsin Business Friend of the Environment Award. This year’s winners have been chosen for programs that demonstrate an innovative approach to environmental protection, or a level of effort beyond that which is required by regulatory compliance. These success stories reflect the continued commitment of Wisconsin industry to environmental protection.

This year’s award winners represent companies — both large and small — that have made significant improvements in the areas of sustainability, environmental stewardship and environmental innovation. Offering specific examples of successful programs, these nine winners demonstrate that sound environmental practices are good for Wisconsin’s environment and its economy. They serve as important examples for industry.

The 2016 Wisconsin Business Friend of the Environment award winners were selected from 32 nominees by an independent judging panel that included an environmental attorney and representatives from industry, the Department of Natural Resources, and the University of Wisconsin.

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Honoring Leadership in Sustainability, Environmental Stewardship and Environmental Innovation
Felss Rotaform LLC specializes in rotary swaging and axial forming, integrated with secondary operations and robotics, to produce high quality automotive parts. These components are currently shipped within the United States, and to China, Brazil, and Mexico.

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From raw material to core manufacturing processes, Felss Rotaform is an environmental leader and is committed to protecting the environment because of its importance to the company and communities.

Through the implementation of their oil recycling program, Felss Rotaform now uses an in-house recycling system to pump the dirty, used oil to reservoirs where it then goes to filtering, cleaning and reusing. The company was able to reduce their consumption by over 1,700 gallons thanks to this program.

Using a combination of employee education, incentives, and process control, Felss reduced their monthly rag consumption, further proving their commitment to the environment. To reduce water consumption, Felss Rotaform implemented a three-tank water filtration system, reducing their average monthly water consumption by over 350 gallons.

Felss Rotaform has a sound commitment to environmental management processes and through their initiatives, will continue to provide sustainability practices at a high level.

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ABOUT INPRO
Inpro is a mid-sized product manufacturer located in Muskego, Wisconsin. The company is ambitious and a continuous thought leader when it comes to sustainable business integration that revolves around environmental, social and economic responsibility and performance indicators. They demonstrate leadership in sustainable practices, processes and projects that reduce or minimize pollution and contribute positively to people, planet and profit.

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Part of improving the world includes engagement with their employees, neighbors and customers. Inpro has utilized a myriad of ways to give back to their community all while having fun and doing good.

In 2015, Inpro partnered with Godsell Farm Community Supported Agriculture to help families know where their food comes from and help assure farmers make a living as stewards of the land while growing top quality food. In addition to this, they also partnered with Waukesha Highway’s Adopt-a-Highway program.

Inpro invited their key suppliers to participate in a program called the Green Master’s Program (GMP) which is a business recognition program for companies in Wisconsin who are focused on sustainability. They continue to push this in order to provide ripple sustainability not only within Inpro, but throughout the supply chain.

In addition, the company was also welcomed into the Wisconsin DNR Green Tier Program and increased their recycling programs.

As a first in their industry, Inpro produced Environmental Product Declarations and Health Product Declarations to illustrate the environmental and health impacts of their products. They have continued a commitment to this transparency and have now made a six-figure investment in SoFi Sustainable Enterprise software and GaBi Product Sustainability and Environmental Accounting Software.

Inpro continues their dedication in a collaboration to improve their impact on the environment and communities, while remaining profitable into the future. For these successes, they are receiving this Business Friend of the Environment award.

Established
1979
Size
550 employees company-wide
500 Wisconsin employees
Website
www.inprocorp.com
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ABOUT MENARD, INC.
A family-owned company headquartered in Eau Claire, Menard, Inc. has more than 300 home improvement stores located through the Midwest and Plains states. Dedicated to service and quality, Menard, Inc. also provides valuable resources for the entire community.

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Menards has long understood that efficient handling, reuse and recycling of materials not only benefits the community and environment, but reduces costs and increases efficiency. Guided by this philosophy, Menard, Inc. has a long-term record of innovation and being a leader in their commitment to the recycling of all materials. In 2015, Menard, Inc. made a significant investment to improve their ability to recycle wood waste.

Menard, Inc. set key objectives to eliminate wasted energy, increase recycling rates and improve efficiency. With the results from these upgrades, Menard, Inc. has improved their capacity and now recycles wood waste from outside sources such as waste haulers and other manufacturers.

While the primary focus of attention in 2015 was placed upon upgrade wood recycling, Menard, Inc. has a long-standing commitment to the recycling of all materials. The organization cultivated a culture of reusing and recycling all types of materials such as cardboard, plastic, metals and paper.

In addition to recycling efforts, Menard, Inc. continually evaluates and supports the utilization of alternative energy sources to reduce reliance on fossil fuels. Investments in a compressed natural gas fueling station and seasonal heat technology resulted in a reduction of 983,000 gallons of diesel fuel in 2015.

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ABOUT PRECISION MACHINE, INC.

Precision Machine Inc. is a value added service provider to many diverse and complex industries including Aerospace and Heavy Industrial. Precision Machine Inc. provides dedicated floor space, machinery and resources that are designed to specifically handle the challenges of today’s manufacturer’s. They value their customers as partners in their business. Their shop within a shop gives their customers true manufacturing flexibility to meet their demands.

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Precision Machine Inc.’s sustainability goal is to not only provide products that are environmentally sound throughout their lifecycles, but also continually strive to become a better steward in protecting the environment while conserving energy and natural resources, and reducing their carbon footprint.

In 2015, Precision Machine, Inc. had a “landfill avoidance percentage” of 94.33%, a goal that was set forth through their strategic sustainability plan. They also reduced the amount of bubble wrap used by 55% by investing in a corrugated shredder.

An energy conservation program included facility improvements such as motion sensors for lighting, facility electrical upgrades, investing in efficient equipment, building and equipment improvements, annual Air Leak Detection Studies and preventative maintenance on CNC machines. The purchase of two Brother High Speed Machining Centers reduced the footprint of their machines by 40% and reduced energy consumption by 80%.

Precision Machine’s Environmental Committee has attempted to reduce their environmental impact by pursuing ideas to reduce energy consumption and obtaining additional recycling avenues for landfill avoidance. Nearly 50% of the company’s employees committed to participating in planting 2,100 seedling trees to offset the carbon created to make the office paper. The efforts of this program will allow Precision Machine to offset their carbon footprint by 3 times! For these successes, Precision Machine is receiving this award.

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ABOUT EDEN STONE COMPANY, INC.

Eden Stone owns and operates a facility that has been an operational limestone quarry since the late 1800’s and currently consists of three primary operations encompassing approximately 340 acres. The company also oversees office, saw plant and fabrication operations as well as a storage yard containing finished and unfinished stone product.

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In preparing their Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan as part of their state storm water permit, Eden Stone realized a need to prevent heavy rainfalls from reaching processes that have potential to contribute to pollution in their surrounding community.

From this concern about water quality in their community, Eden Stone partnered with the Village of Valders to create a sustainable solution. A hydrologic Engineering Center River Analysis System was conducted and found the project would involve: realigning a tributary to the Manitowoc River, creation of a storm water detention wetland, stream bank grading and culvert installation.

Eden Stone completed the project in 2015 by planting 11,470 emergent and semi-emergent aquatic plants along the stream banks, and planted 30 trees and 50 bushes in wet or mesic prairie grass. This project now prevents flooding both in the facility and also in the surrounding area. It acts as a sink for pollutants, preventing them from reaching the Manitowoc River and provides an aesthetically pleasing sight for the village.

Eden Stone’s past and future projects will allow the surrounding communities to benefit from cleaner water and an environmentally sound community. For the successes of this project, Eden Stone is receiving this award.

Established
1950

Size
167 employees company-wide
165 Wisconsin employees

Website
www.edenstone.net

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ABOUT UW HEALTH
UW Health is the integrated health system of the University of Wisconsin–Madison and consists of 6 hospitals and 80 outpatient sites. Together with the UW School of Medicine and Public Health, UW Health fulfills their shared patient care, research, education and community service missions to serve the needs of Wisconsin and beyond.

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Environmental sustainability is part of UW Health’s mission for social responsibility. It’s also a mechanism for transforming culture and achieving organizational success to benefit everyone. Immense progress has been made due primarily to the employees’ desire to create a healthier and more environmentally sound UW Health community.

Using Earth Day as their platform, UW Health created an initiative in 2009 to promote sustainable practices, building on that program in 2011 and encouraging all departments to have a Green Team in 2014. UW Health now has 30 of these teams, with a goal of having at least one at every UW Health location.

To ensure the program’s success, Green Teams rely on management support and encourage communication with all employees. One team has implemented an incentive program to reward employees who are “caught in the sustainable act” where they are then entered to win prizes. It is important to clearly define roles based on how employees want to contribute and what skillsets they possess to ensure sustainable practices are in place. Green Teams meet regularly, pilot alternative methods and materials, measure the impact of their efforts, and encourage others to get on board with green practices.

UW Health has made sustainability important and fun. Sustainability has not only created opportunities for efficiency, but also for engagement and creativity. The Green Team program is the key ingredient to UW Health’s sustainability success, and they have made great progress by focusing on building a sustainable culture. For this success they are receiving this 2016 Business Friend of the Environment Award.
ABOUT FOX RIVER FIBER
Fox River Fiber is a leading manufacturer of premium de-inked recycled pulp using post-consumer wastepaper. The company operates out of a highly automated, state-of-the-art facility in De Pere where its high quality pulp is used in the production of printing and writing papers, tissue paper and FDA-compliant paper products and packaging.

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Fox River Fiber strives to be a leader in pursuing environmentally sustainable practices and is constantly looking for ways to lessen its impact on the surrounding community and the environment.

Their focus on energy use reduction is evident in their conversion of all pumping applications that used control valves to variable speed drives which significantly reduced electrical use. The company captures waste heat to provide heating to warehouses and loading docks and are converting to LED fixtures to further reduce energy use.

Fox River Fiber’s ongoing sustainability initiatives include reductions in the amount of byproduct generations and are reusing the byproducts where possible. Sixty-percent of their short fiber sludge is being used as an animal bedding product and also used as a lawn patch product.

A $7 million state of the art wastewater treatment plant was constructed to treat 1.2 million gallons of water a day. The next phases of the project could include installing equipment to significantly reduce suspended solids, utilize biogas generated by anaerobic treatment, and reuse as much water as possible.

Fox River Fiber takes pride in optimizing their systems, reducing waste and leading the way in innovation. Their multiple opportunities to further reduce the impact of their business on the environment and expanding current projects will allow them to continue being a leader in sustainable practices. For these efforts they are receiving this 2016 Business Friend of the Environment award.
ABOUT EMPIRE SCREEN PRINTING, INC.
Currently located on 170 acres in Onalaska, Empire Screen Printing, Inc. has expanded to over 150,000 square feet of manufacturing space where they are an industry leader in screen printing, flexography, digital printing and doming.

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Empire Screen Printing, Inc. provides their customers with products and services that produce sustainable results and business practices, and empower their employees to continually make improvements to the process, their work environment and themselves.

With the creation of a Green Committee, Empire earned their Wisconsin Green Tier 1 Certification and created a functional Environmental Management System where objectives include the implementation of a recycling program, sustainable printing methods, equipment monitoring, EMS training and a centralized location for all environmental documentation.

Empire was recognized by Specialty Graphic Imaging Association for its efforts in creating and adopting sustainable best practices which has allowed them to set an example for other companies to follow. They continue to develop and refine their EMS program so that current and future generations of employees have a great place to work and live.

In addition to earning Green Tier and receiving SGIA and Business Friend of the Environment awards, Empire Screen Printing continues to look for ways to remain accountable to sustaining the environment, and becoming one of the first MPower champions outside of Madison’s Sustain Dane program.

Through the Seven Rivers Region MPower program, Empire will join other businesses whose focus is to reduce their environmental impact, reduce cost and create a healthier, more engaging workplace and community. For these efforts, Empire Screen Printing is receiving this award.

Established
1960

Size
286 employees company-wide
275 Wisconsin employees

Website
www.empirescreen.com

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ABOUT HARLEY-DAVIDSON MOTOR COMPANY

Harley-Davidson Motor Company produces custom, cruiser and touring motorcycles and offers a complete line of Harley-Davidson® motorcycle parts, accessories, riding gear and apparel, and general merchandise.

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One of the most iconic brands in the world, Harley-Davidson is an international leader in innovation and corporate sustainability. Through continuous improvement and cutting edge product design, Harley-Davidson has maintained its status as an industry leader for generations.

Recently, a cross-functional team led by Harley-Davidson Powertrain Operations — Pilgrim Road identified an opportunity to decrease the amount of material on Big Twin gears through a “near-net” forging process. This process uses less material but is closer in dimensional sizes to the final product. The end result means less machining, and less material wasted.

Using this new process has led to significant material cost savings, less steel waste overall, anticipated cost savings in tool life and ultimately less energy usage overall.

Harley-Davidson is receiving this award for cutting edge innovation in sustainability that continues to lead the industry.
Judges

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