THE ASSOCIATE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON, DC 20240

OCT 5 2007

Memorandum

To: Assistant Secretaries
Heads of Bureaus and Offices

From: James E. Cason
Associate Deputy Secretary James E. Cason

Subject: Recipients of the 2007 Department of the Interior's Environmental Achievement Awards

I am pleased to announce the recipients of the 2007 Department of the Interior Environmental Achievement Awards.

These Awards recognize departmental employees and partners who have attained exceptional achievements under the Executive Order 13423, *Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management,* and contaminated land cleanups. The Award categories are: waste/pollution prevention and recycling, green purchasing, environmental management systems, sustainable design/green buildings, alternative fuel and fuel conservation in transportation, and environmental stewardship. A panel of judges from the Department's Bureaus and offices selected the Award recipients. The panel was chaired by the Director of the Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance.

The 2007 Interior Environmental Achievement Award recipients are:

TEAMS

First Mesa Elementary School Project Team—Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Certified Indian School, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Polacca, Arizona

Whitman Mission National Historic Site Environmental Management System Team—Sustainable Leaders in Renewable Energy Use, Energy and Water Conservation, Green Purchasing, Pollution/Waste Prevention and Recycling, Alternative Fuel and Fuel Conservation in Transportation, and Environmental Management Systems, National Park Service, Walla Walla, Washington

Alaska Peninsula/Becharof National Wildlife Refuge Green Team—Recycling & Waste/Pollution Prevention, U.S. Fish Wildlife Service, King Salmon, Alaska

Excell Helium Plant Remediation and Regulatory Closure Team, Bureau of Land Management, Amarillo, Texas

Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry Visitor Center Sustainable Renovation Design Team, Bureau of Land Management, Price, Utah

Hardware Acquisition Team—Green Electronics Purchasing, the Department's Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Geological Survey, Minerals Management Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Reclamation, Washington, D.C.

The Clean Marina Program—A National Park Service and D.C. Government Partnership, National Park Service, National Capital Region

PARTNERS

Xanterra Parks & Resorts—Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Silver for Annie Creek Restaurant and Gift Shop in Crater Lake National Park, Waste Management at Petrified Forest National Monument, and Green Purchasing at Grand Canyon National Park, National Park Service, multiple locations

Please share recipients' achievements throughout your organizations. Sharing this information will help build a network of professionals who can work together and emulate recipients' accomplishments at departmental sites and facilities nationwide.

For more information, visit the Greening Interior Web site at <www.doi.gov/greening>, or contact Ms. Catherine Cesnik, Environmental Awards Coordinator at 202-208-7877 or <Catherine_Cesnik@ios.doi.gov>.

Please join me in recognizing these outstanding recipients. Please look for the invitations to the Interior Environmental Achievement Award Presentation Ceremony in November 2007 (date to be announced.)

Attachment

cc: Deputy Secretary
Chief of Staff

Recipients
2007 Department of the Interior Environmental Achievement Awards
More information available at <www.doi.gov/greening/awards>

TEAMS

First Mesa Elementary School Project Team—Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Certified Indian School, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Polacca, Arizona

First Mesa Elementary School serves approximately 400 elementary students in Polacca, Arizona. As the first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certified school in Arizona, and the second for the Department, the school facility responds to a variety of environmental issues that are important in this remote and arid region. Careful collaboration between client, architect, and contractor resulted in a facility that met and exceeded the client's needs and which achieved Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification. The colors and materials selected for the exterior of the building were chosen to complement the surrounding natural environment and reflect traditional Hopi culture. The school boasts many environmentally preferable features. No potable water is used for irrigation. Fixtures, including sinks, urinals and toilets, achieve more than 30 percent savings in water usage. All mechanical and electrical systems were commissioned to maximize performance. Despite the remoteness of the site, the school has initiated an aggressive recycling program. The school facility includes classrooms, media center/library, a 600 seat gymnasium, administrative area, cafeteria and food service facilities, an art/music classroom, play fields, playgrounds. A weather station and educational displays throughout the building make the building a learning experience in itself.

Whitman Mission National Historic Site Environmental Management Systems Teams—Sustainable Leaders in Renewable Energy Use, Energy and Water Conservation, Green Purchasing, Pollution/Waste Prevention and Recycling, Alternative Fuel and Fuel Conservation in Transportation, and Environmental Management Systems, National Park Service, Walla Walla, Washington

Whitman Mission National Historic Site has embraced the concepts of Environmental Management Systems to holistically manage and operate the site with reduced impacts on the environment. EMS helped the park go beyond regulatory compliance to include sustainable practices in day-to-day practices. Whitman Mission National Historic Site practices *continuous improvement*, identifying and prioritizing activities and impacts, and developing actions to implement goals and targets. Reviewing their EMS program, with support from their Superintendent, keeps the program aligned with their Commitment Statement. In particular, Whitman Mission National Historic Site's achievements reduce their carbon footprint, and set an example in combating global climate change. Thinking globally and acting locally is demonstrated by the actions and projects completed in 2006. Whitman Mission National Historic Site's achievements (too many to list here) include the following.

- a grid-tied photovoltaic power plant on the park maintenance building, reducing park energy consumption by 30 percent
- diverting approximately 90.5 percent of total solid waste from disposal to landfills, including composting organic materials

- minimizing water use in the park; for example, replacement of an old heating and cooling system saved or 25 percent of the park's total use
- pilot testing and ultimately using B20 in all diesel-powered equipment, reducing their annual fuel costs by 10 percent and making B20 biodiesel a cost-effective alternative fuel choice parkwide

Alaska Peninsula/Becharof National Wildlife Refuge Green Team—Recycling & Waste/Pollution Prevention, Fish and Wildlife Service, King Salmon, Alaska

Alaska Peninsula/Becharof National Wildlife Refuge is 300 miles southwest of Anchorage and is accessible only by sea (5 months per year) or by air. Most demolition materials are not recycled in Alaska because there is no local market. Hazardous materials are barged or shipped out of King Salmon on cargo planes. These cost challenges result in expensive recycling activities and are only practical with communitywide participation and reduced prices to transport recycled material. Despite these challenges, Refuge management and staff have made it a priority to *be green*. They researched and purchased solar panels to power generators for radio communication systems, lights, computers, and other electronic equipment. The solar panes are so efficient, dependable, and effective that Refuge staff replaced all propane lights and gas lanterns with them. Refuge staff obtains green products like energy-efficient light bulbs, nontoxic cleaning solvents, retread tires, biodegradable plastic trash bags. and recycled paper products. They supply green products to their janitorial service to clean the office. For example, they no longer uses icemelt-type products on walkways; they now use an environmental friendly liquid spray. Buying green products is challenging, since General Service Administration does not offer all of their products in big enough quantities to make shipping to Alaska practical. It's also challenging to find local recycling opportunities, but they have succeeded there as well. For example, money from the sale of recycled aluminum cans is used to purchase playground equipment for the King Salmon elementary school, and batteries are recycled at a local store.

Exell Helium Plant Remediation and Regulatory Closure Team—Bureau of Land Management, Amarillo, Texas

During World War II, the Department constructed the Exell Helium Plant to supply helium for military operations. Ready for closure in 2006, the BLM team prepared the site for transfer to the GSA for disposal. The team applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to participate in the agency's Voluntary Cleanup Program. The National Science and Technology Center provided contracting support and technical oversight. Other key partners included the U.S. Geological Survey, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Red J Environmental Corporation, Bureau of Land Management, and Ecology and Environment, Inc. This site presented an excellent location and ideal circumstances to use geophysical techniques to identify and verify anomalies. Cleanup crews used Global Positioning System coordinates to direct soil borings and confirm interpretations of data. As an example, a soil boring confirmed an area adjacent to the former closed drain seal pond as contaminated with residual organic contamination. In addition, geophysical analysis was used to investigate and clear large areas on the southern portion of the property, which would have been prohibitively expensive and time-

consuming to sample with traditional methods. The project saved over $1.8 million by reusing materials in the construction of a road and other projects at another BLM site in Texas.

Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry Visitor Center Sustainable Renovation Design Team—Bureau of Land Management, Price, Utah

The Dinosaur Quarry Visitor Center Team is recognized for demonstrated leadership, skill, and ingenuity for the sustainable design features used in the renovation of the Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry Visitor Center in 2005–2006. The original 950-square foot building was increased by 1,500 square feet. Additional exhibit space, a small office, and mechanical room were added to the original building. Off the grid, the center requires electricity 24 hours a day to power the building's systems. They were able to meet the full energy need for the building by installing a photovoltaic system. In fuel cost for a generator alone, the photovoltaic system has a full payback period of 2¼ years. Energy efficient features ensure the photovoltaic system can create enough power for the building. The annual emission savings are estimated at 6,265 pounds of carbon dioxide per year. Signage describes the principles of solar energy and the unique components of the photovoltaic system to site visitors. BLM site interpretation staff show interested visitors how the equipment generates and uses solar energy. The design team worked closely with each other, various stakeholders, and the construction contractor to ensure that the building was constructed using a holistic, sustainable approach, including the features listed below.

- Many of the original building structural elements were reused, including exposed tongue and groove ceiling decking, roof joists, exterior walls, and stone wainscot
- Low volatile organic compound (low-VOC) materials were used for interior paints and finishes
- Wall and roof insulation levels are 15 percent above code requirements
- Windows have high performance spectrally selective (low-E) coatings to block infrared and ultraviolet rays that contribute to heat gain
- Site disturbance was kept to a minimum to protect and preserve exterior plants, rocks, and paleontological resources
- Exterior benches and seat walls are composed of natural materials

The Department's Hardware Acquisition Team—Green Electronics Purchasing, the Department's Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Geological Survey, Minerals Management Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Washington, D.C.

In November 2004, in response to growing concerns that electronic equipment contain hazardous waste and should be managed properly, the Department joined 11 other Federal agencies to pledge their support for the Federal Electronics Challenge. The Federal Electronics Challenge helps agencies purchase environmentally responsibly equipment, maintain equipment for longevity and energy efficiency, and dispose equipment responsibly. The Hardware Acquisition Team quickly saw the opportunity to pursue all three objectives by pilot testing the Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool criteria on the Departmentwide mandatory use

information technology (IT) hardware contract recompetition. The contract supplies desktops, laptops, and monitors for over 70,000 Department employees, and is worth approximately $200 million over 5 years. Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool criteria address: Reduction of Use of Hazardous Substances, Materials Selection (Renewable/Biobased Materials and Recycled Content), Design for End of Product Life, Product Longevity, Energy Conservation (Energy Star), End of Life Management (Product take-back and proper disposal), Corporate Performance (Corporate Environmental Policies and manufacturer Environmental Management System), and Packaging (reduced Toxics in Packaging and Recyclable packaging materials). Using the Federal Electronics Challenge Environmental Benefits Calculator, the contract has yielded the following environmental benefits.

	Savings	**Equivalent to:**
Energy	1,602 MWh	Electricity to power 142 households/yr
GHG Emissions	126 MTCE	Removing 100 passenger cars from road/yr
Primary Materials	2,868 metric tons	Weight of 22,219 refrigerators
Toxic Materials	710 kg	Weight of 355 bricks
Hazardous Waste	26.3 kg	Weight of 13,130 bricks
Air Emissions	6,624 metric tons	
Water Emissions	13.9 metric tons	

Since greening the contract was so successful, and the consolidated contract cost avoids over $7 million per year, the Chief Technology Officer Council officially chartered the Hardware Acquisition Team in spring 2007. The Hardware Acquisition Team continues to ensure that the Department's hardware contract meets and exceeds the Department's Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool purchasing requirements under Executive Order 13423 and the Office of Management and Budget Environmental Stewardship Scorecard. The Hardware Acquisition Team works diligently to include Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool the Department's IT purchasing policies. For example, Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool is a mandatory requirement in the Department IT hardware purchasing Standard Operating Procedures. Knowing the significance of this procurement, the Department shared its experiences with other Federal entities, including procurement officials from the Environmental Protection Agency, the Veterans Administration, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Social Security Administration. The Department representatives continue to participate in conferences and workshops around the country to promote the use of Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool in IT hardware contracts and share lessons learned. Through these efforts, the Department has paved the way for the Federal Government to use of Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool to prevent millions of pounds of hazardous materials from entering the waste stream in subsequent Federal IT hardware contracts, as well as by other institutions.

The Clean Marina Program—A National Park Service and District of Columbia Government Partnership, National Park Service, National Capital Region

The voluntary Clean Marina Program, established in 2002, is a partnership between the NPS; the NPS National Capital Region, which manages many shorelines in the area; and the D.C. Government's Department of Environmental Health, which manages water quality. The Program promotes environmental stewardship, waste minimization, and pollution prevention at marinas and boatyards on the Anacostia and Potomac rivers. The Program educates marina operators about the benefits of voluntary compliance rather than creating more regulations. The Clean Marina Guidebook (essentially a premade Environmental Management System) is a methodical instructional guide. It identifies practices that are required by regulation as well as Best Management Practices, which take a marina beyond compliance. The checksheet is used to measure success. The Clean Marina Program is a great success. When the Program was initiated, it was not uncommon for marinas to have as many as four to eight violations per year. Today there are zero violations. Currently the Program includes 13 marinas, 10 of which are certified.

PARTNERS

Xanterra Parks & Resorts—Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Silver for Annie Creek Restaurant and Gift Shop in Crater Lake National Park, Waste Management at Petrified Forest National Monument, and Green Purchasing at Grand Canyon National Park, NPS, multiple locations. Xanterra is recognized for excellent work at three NPS sites.

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Silver for Annie Creek Restaurant and Gift Shop in Crater Lake National Park, Oregon

In late 2004, Xanterra took responsibility for sustainable design of the Annie Creek Restaurant and Gift Shop in Crater Lake National Park. The new restaurant is designed, planned, and constructed according to the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system. After extensive planning by Xanterra and close coordination with Crater Lake National Park Service staff, construction began during the fall of 2004. The building was awarded 34 LEED credits, which makes it as an LEED Silver building. It is the only LEED Silver building in the National Park system. The building stands as an example of exceptional standards for energy efficiency, water conservation, and air quality. Besides minimizing impacts to the surrounding environment, the new building provides a healthy atmosphere for Xanterra employees, as well as the thousands of National Park visitors that come to Crater Lake every year.

Waste Management at the Petrified Forest National Monument, Arizona

Xanterra's smallest concession operation, Painted Desert Oasis, in Petrified Forest National Park, is in a remote stretch of desert and staffed mostly by Native Americans. Their operation takes recycling and waste management to a high standard for any National Park. Xanterra achieves a 66 percent solid waste diversion rate by recycling 17 different waste streams—in addition to tracking 9 other resource streams, including all fossil fuels and water. At this small operation, every staff member is an integral part of the environmental program. Each team sets their specific recycling goals for the year. These goals are tied directly to each team member's performance reviews. Failure as a team to meet the goals results in an impact on raises and bonuses for the next year. This approach results in decreased energy usage, water usage, and greenhouse gas emissions. Employees go so far as literally counting newspapers, weighing cans of recyclables, and recording every toner cartridge or piece of electronic equipment that is sent off for recycling. The General Manager completed a waste audit in early 2006. As part of the audit, he literally climbed into a dumpster, removed the bags, weighed and counted each one and then returned them to the dumpster to get an exact calculation of the actual weight and volume of trash. Xanterra *closes the loop* by purchasing recycled content products and supports local artisans through a sustainable agriculture program. This includes locally grown Navajo tea, Blue Bird flour, Prickly Pear Barbeque sauce, salsa, hot sauce, Fry Bread mix, and Hominy. All goals and accomplishments are tracked through an intranet-based environmental management system certified to the International Standards Organization 14001 standard.

Green Purchasing at Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona

The success of Xanterra's Grand Canyon program is the result of an innovative process to develop specific product/service goals, establishing baseline data on the environmental attributes of products, and continuous tracking of progress towards annual green purchasing goals. The green procurement program grew to at least 100 green items in 2006, ranging from compact fluorescent light bulbs and sustainably produced wines to recycled Post-it notes. These products not only reduce the environmental footprint of the Xanterra and Grand Canyon National Park operations, but they also exceed the overall intent of the NPS concessionaire contract requirements. Some attributes of the program are listed below.

- Targets tracked and documented
- Specific product/service goals may include:
  - Minimizing packaging associated with all supplies and merchandise
  - Maximizing recycled content of all applicable purchases
  - Maximizing recyclability of all materials, packaging, and products procured
  - Maximizing biodegradability of all nonrecyclable materials and products procured
  - Minimizing the energy consumption of procured items
  - Minimizing toxicity of procured products
- Product specific environmental attributes baseline data is collected and tracked for all purchases