

2009 Greener North Dakota Award

The Greener North Dakota Award acknowledges businesses, organizations, communities and/or individuals who create positive environmental efforts through solid waste management or recycling, renewable energy or pollution reduction to benefit North Dakota's landfills, waterways and airways. These businesses, communities, organizations and/or individuals are recognized for making an impact on North Dakota's environmental waste reduction goal of 40 percent. They may also be recognized for using recyclables products in manufacturing end use.

If you are a North Dakota resident and you wish to recognize those in your community, local government, businesses, non-profit groups or individuals that play a vital part in improving North Dakota's environment, you can obtain a nomination form on our Web site.

This year's Greener North Dakota award winner has been recycling for a number of years, and in August of 2008, a Trane system was installed. This allows the systems in the building to be brought on-line slowly which saves thousands of dollars each year in energy costs and also reduces the amount of carbon dioxide produced. They have also replaced many of their light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs or with lower wattage bulbs if possible. Also, all of the computers are programmed to go into a power save mode after a few minutes of non-use.

They recycle as many items as possible such as cardboard, plastic hangers, plastic film, plastic bags, paper and ink cartridges. An electronic recycling program was also introduced and fluorescent bulbs, ballasts, rechargeable batteries, computers and other electronic devices are recycled instead of being landfilled. The company uses plastic pallets that are made from recycled content which can be reused multiple times and much of the inventory is shipped in reusable shipping containers.

This winner demonstrates how an enthusiastic individual leading the effort, hard working and dedicated staff, and supportive management can play an integral role in the proper management of solid waste in North Dakota. By including all their staff in their efforts, this business incorporated recycling into their everyday operations to include reusing shipping containers and pallets, electronics recycling, office paper recycling, and cardboard recycling. This business continually strives to recycle, prevent pollution, manage their waste and include their employees in the vision, thereby providing a strong commitment to their environment.

By their commitment to prioritizing waste reduction, pollution prevention and employee education, the advantages reach beyond their walls to demonstrate how each person and each business or agency can make a difference. Please help me congratulate this year's Greener North Dakota winner, Bismarck's JCPenney store.