

Emerald Winners Sparkle



SWACO TRUSTEE JACKIE LAMUTH, TRUSTEES CHAIRMAN BRADLEY FRICK, CHAIRMAN'S AWARD WINNER BRAD MALATESTA OF GREEN TECHNOLOGIES, & TRUSTEES VICE CHAIRMAN DAVE BUSH

SWACO Honors Green Leaders

SWACO'S EMERALD AWARDS have once again highlighted the green leaders of Central Ohio. "In these days of can't do it, our Emerald award winners are demonstrating a strong and green can do attitude," says SWACO Executive Director Ron Mills. "The 2009 Emerald winners show us that when we re-think our methods, the benefits are endless. We can be good stewards of the environment and grow our quality of life in Greater Columbus." The awards were presented May 12th before the audience of over 700 at the Aladdin Shrine at Easton in Columbus.

THIS YEAR'S Emerald Awards also launched a new sports partnership for SWACO. In conjunction with FirmGreen, Inc, SWACO is offering recycling at the Memorial Golf Tournament. "The Memorial Tournament is thankful and proud of its newly established relationship with SWACO and Firm Green," said Dan Sullivan, Executive Director of the Memorial Tournament. "Over the past few years we have discussed methods to better manage our waste stream during Tournament week. Although we were making progress we took major steps towards understanding our responsibility and opportunity when we sat down with the representatives at Firm Green and SWACO. The Tournament generates a significant amount of waste – over 100 tons – and with the help of Firm Green, SWACO and Rumpke we are building a better management plan which will assist in ensuring the majority of the waste is recycled or repurposed. We are very pleased that during Tournament week all Memorial patrons can rest assure that the tons of waste generated will be managed responsibly."

SWACO DIRECTOR Mills welcomes The Memorial to the SWACO sports lineup of partners. "Over the years, the Crew, the Blue Jackets and the Clippers have helped SWACO reach their fans with our green message. We know golf fans appreciate the environment around them and we believe joining with FirmGreen and The Memorial is a natural fit to promote recycling."

THE CENTRAL Ohio division of Kroger received a 2009 Emerald for Environmental Leadership. Kroger's six-month organic waste pilot project composted almost 1,000 tons of spoiled or leftover produce, floral, and other organic waste from 24 Central Ohio stores. The move cut by 1/3 the hauling cycle for store compactors. It also saved the company thousands of dollars in landfill tipping fees. While the organic program is new, the company's dedication to the environment is not. In 2008, Central Ohio Kroger stores recycled 1-million pounds of plastic bags and 500,000 pounds of shrink wrap. The division office in Westerville recycled 117,000 pounds of office paper. Kroger plans to expand its recycling and composting efforts to all of its Central Ohio stores. »Emeralds, PG. 2

Green Energy Center Honored



SWACO'S GREEN Energy Center (GEC) has multiple awards. The latest, the "Clean Air Award" from the Mid Ohio Regional Planning Commission.

EARLIER THIS year the GEC received a "Project of the Year" designation from The United States Environmental Protection Agency's Landfill Methane Outreach Program (LMOP). SWACO's Director of Planning and Programs Tim Berlekamp accepted the honor at an LMOP conference in Baltimore. "From the day the Green Energy Center was conceived, we have believed the Center is one of those projects with far-reaching benefits. However to receive this award from the U.S. EPA helps us tell the story to the world."

THE GREEN Energy Center transforms gas from SWACO's Franklin County Landfill into Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) for vehicle fuel as well as energy for a 250 kw micro-turbine which provides electricity for the Grove City, Ohio facility. The Center is a public-private partnership with FirmGreen Inc.

THE PROJECT was one of seven honored by the EPA. "Our award winners demonstrate that through partnerships and innovation we can transform waste into environmental wealth," said Robert J. Meyers, principal deputy assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Air and Radiation. "These projects, and others like them, not only address climate change, but also produce renewable energy and economic benefits for the local community." »GEC Honored PG. 3

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ALSO RECEIVING an Emerald for Environmental leadership, The Columbus Dispatch and the newspaper's Director of Engineering and Maintenance, Kevin George. When it came time to re-roof the Dispatch's Paper Warehouse, George found innovative ways to put 42,000 square feet of old roofing to new use. As a matter of fact, George managed to recycle 96% of the roofing materials. Examples of his diligence range from turning ballast rock into parking lots for Youth Athletic Fields, to making sure that 42,000 square feet of rubber membrane was either made into new roofing, or the soles for new shoes!

A THIRD Emerald for leadership was presented to Green Columbus for the group's efforts in organizing the 2008 Columbus Earth Days festivities.

SWACO'S BOARD of Trustees announced the institution of a new Emerald's category for the 2009 awards. "The Chairman's Award" was presented to Green Solutions Technologies. Trustees Chairman Bradley Frick presented the award to company founder Brad Malatesta. "Brad is a green pioneer who is cleaning up our environment and bringing new jobs to Central Ohio through his ground breaking technology." Malatesta was instrumental in helping bring federal stimulus money for a potential on site water treatment plant at SWACO's Franklin County landfill. He is also helping to install a first-of-a-kind treatment facility at Port Columbus that will recycle the de-icing fluid used on airplanes.

THIS TRUSTEES Award at The Emeralds was given to Heartland Petroleum of Columbus. The company has constructed a used oil refinery on East Fifth Avenue that processes 20-million gallons of used motor oil annually. Heartland says every gallon of recycled oil saves 67 gallons in new crude oil production.

LIMITED BRANDS received the Emerald for Partnership. While the company has an impressive recycle/reuse rate of 84%, it received its second Emerald award for the partnership it formed with local non-profits, employees, and vendors. That effort diverted 10-million pounds of store fixtures, merchandise, packaging, and marketing products from the landfill.

BETTY'S FAMILY of Restaurants is the 2009 recipient of The Emerald for Innovation. Among the green initiatives instituted by Betty's is a program that recycles 20,000 glass bottles a year from the chain of three restaurants.

RANDY MALLOY, general manager of radio station CD 101, and his station, are the Emerald award winners in Litter Clean-up. The duo is famous for the station's "Green Team" and "Eco 411." In 2008, the station, under Malloy's leadership, dedicated \$200,000 of "in-kind" advertising to the cause.

IN THE Emerald category of Environmental Education, Roger Beck of Worthington Kilbourne High School was honored. Beck's 2008 class constructed a LEED Platinum certified home in Columbus. The project provided students hands on experience in green building.

THE EMERALD winners in the Entrepreneurship category were long time Central Ohio health food store, "The Raisin Rack" and Dublin eco-lifestyle merchants "Generation Green". "Generation" owners Steve and Heather Johnson promise environmentally friendly products and a commitment to business practices based on strict, environmentally responsible standards.

THE PRESENTING Sponsor for The 2009 Central Ohio Emeralds is FirmGreen Inc. Additional support is provided by Ohio Mulch, Coca Cola Enterprises, Kurtz Brothers, Rumpke, G&J Pepsi-Cola Bottling, Turner Construction, American Electric Power (AEP), Battelle, Green Solutions Technologies, Coca Cola North America, and Civil & Environmental Consultants Inc. Media sponsors are WWCD-FM and Columbus Business First.

THE SPEAKER for the 2009 Emeralds was Robert Rayborn, of Turner Construction. The LEED Accredited Professional is currently the Project Director for Turner's role at the new Orlando Events Center, a \$380 million, 875,000 square foot, 20,000 seat events center for the Orlando Magic NBA franchise. His previous projects included oversight of Huntington Park, the new home of the Columbus Clippers.



Green Up Your Business

SWACO introduces new program to track your carbon footprint.

YOU CAN find out just how green your businesses, government, school district, or non-profit is for free! SWACO is introducing E-TRAC. The user friendly online program collects, organizes, analyzes, and reports information about your environmental accomplishments. That information can also be helpful in controlling costs. As you track your information from month-to-month or year-to-year, the historical and seasonal data helps you make better business decisions about future contracts. Another benefit of E-TRAC allows participants will to chart how well they are doing when it comes to reducing global warming (based on U.S. EPA models).

"OVER THE years," notes SWACO's Bonni Trice, "we have encouraged businesses and organizations to tell their green story to the public. We know those stories speak positive volumes to people and are a good marketing tool. We encourage businesses, governments, schools, and non-profits to get on board. It is an easy process that can return many benefits."

NO GROUP can see another's information and each account is password protected. Once a username and password are established, the survey and historical data can be revisited at any time. Costs and activities can be monitored on a monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual basis.

WHEN AN organization enters information into the E-TRAC system, it is gathered by SWACO collectively. Those totals help SWACO report aggregate recycling and waste amounts for the Solid Waste District to the Ohio EPA. All Solid Waste Districts are required to submit a 15 year plan to the state. The plans must be updated every five years. Plans contain measurements of progress toward waste reduction and recycling goals as well as the costs of carrying out the programs and projects need to reach those goals.

TO TAKE advantage of SWACO's E-TRAC system, log on to www.swaco.org and visit the "Resources" column.

Local office group begins recycling.

BUILDING OWNERS and Managers of Columbus (BOMA) are banding together with SWACO to promote recycling. The local association of BOMA represents approximately 85-million square feet of office space. Members of BOMA are affiliated with 70% of the downtown buildings and 60% across the Greater Columbus area.

"WE LOOK forward to working with BOMA Columbus," says SWACO Larry Spencer. "With their representation locally, we believe this can be an important opportunity in the management of the Franklin County waste stream."

THE EXECUTIVE Director of BOMA in Columbus, Cindy Smith, is excited about the SWACO partnership. "Some of our members have begun recycling programs on their own. However we believe a concerted effort with the backing of the experts at SWACO will have a greater impact. We understand that a lot of the trash that comes from our buildings consists of prime recyclables such as paper and cardboard. This partnership will help us identify what we can recycle and put us on that road."

SPENCER NOTES that over 40% (or about 375,000 tons) of what goes to SWACO's Franklin County Landfill annually is paper, cardboard or other fiber. "That is the equivalent of a pile of paper one and a half football fields in diameter (150-yards) and over 950 feet high. To put it in perspective, the home of BOMA is on the 13th floor of the LeVeque Tower in Downtown Columbus. The LeVeque Tower is 555 feet tall.

SWACO STANDS ready to help all businesses with advice on how to get a hold on their waste system. By logging on to www.swaco.org and clicking on the business section, web surfers can download a "do-it-yourself" waste audit.

SWACO ALSO offers businesses assistance on contracts. By consumer shopping for services, managers can often unbundle trash and recycling services and save money.



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Senator Visits

Senator Brown uses G-E-C as backdrop for proposal.

IMPORTANT FEDERAL legislation that backs the landfill methane to natural gas idea used by SWACO Green Energy center has been introduced in Congress. U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown of Ohio used the Center as a backdrop to unveil his proposal.

"ONE MAN'S trash can be another man's source of clean energy," Brown said. "SWACO is leading our nation by converting landfill waste into a productive use. My bill would allow municipal waste systems across the country to follow SWACO's lead. With the right investments, we can develop new clean energy sources, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and create new jobs and economic activity."

THE RUBBISH to renewables act of 2009, which Brown announced would create jobs and increase demand for clean energy technology. It would create a \$250 million competitive grant program at the department of energy to support and expand the use of municipal solid waste as a clean energy source. Brown's bill would provide grants of up to \$5 million that would fund projects such as the one at swaco. Grants would be awarded on their ability to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create new jobs and economic activity.

Finance Check

Ohio Audit says SWACO adds up.

ONCE AGAIN, the Auditor of State of Ohio has found SWACO's financial department in the top five per cent of accountability. Auditor Mary Taylor has awarded SWACO the "Making Your Tax Dollars Count" designation. The designation has become an almost regular occurrence for SWACO's Finance Department.

TAYLOR SAYS, "I am pleased to recognize the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio for properly accounting for the tax dollars they spend. The community should be proud of their commitment to making sure that each tax dollar is spent appropriately."

SWACO EXECUTIVE Director Ron Mills applauds Chief Financial Officer Paul Kohler and his department. "Paul's many years of experience and leadership continue to do us proud. At SWACO, we are all about bringing the best ideas to the table to ensure the most for taxpayers' dollars. As stewards of tax dollars and the environment, we believe SWACO delivers the best of both worlds to Central Ohio consumers and communities."

TO RECEIVE the award, the Auditor office requires that there be no findings or issues present in the audit report as well as no other financial concerns involving the entity.

Green Stimulus Grants

TWO RESIDENTIAL yard waste composting programs top the grants list from SWACO. Nearly \$30,000 in grant money has been approved by the SWACO Board of Trustees. The seven grants are designed to promote waste reduction, recycled content product awareness, and recycling in the SWACO district.

THE CITY of Whitehall is the recipient of SWACO grants for two projects. The first is a "buy recycled" grant for \$3,491.00 to help purchase picnic tables (made of recycled plastic) for John Bishop Park. Another grant to Whitehall of \$1,490 will go toward a public awareness campaign to promote residential recycling.

BOTH THE Franklin Park Conservatory and the Friends of Alum Creek & Tributaries have received funding to promote composting. The grant money will go toward equipment purchases as well as instructional materials designed to educate members of the public about the benefits of composting. SWACO Trustees Chairman Bradley Frick sees the grants as a great opportunity to inspire and educate. "Our goal in awarding these grants is to provide a green stimulus for local communities and non-profits. The two composting programs are especially timely with the concern over yard waste locally. I hope residents will take advantage of these programs and see how easy it is to turn waste into a beneficial product." The Conservatory will receive \$6,448.11 and The Friends of Alum Creek will receive \$4,000 in grant monies. Grant recipients are required to provide a 25% cash or in-kind match.



G-E-C Honored

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"FIRMGREEN IS much honored to have been selected as EPA's Project of the Year," stated Steve Wilburn, founder and CEO of FirmGreen, Inc. The program is really one of the true success stories within our federal government. "By utilizing waste gases generated from SWACO's landfill, we produce domestic, renewable transportation fuels, improve the environment and generate economic growth. We are proud of our ongoing partnership with SWACO as we work to clean our air, reduce our dependence on foreign oil, provide clean and affordable vehicle fuels, and spur job creation."

"FORWARD THINKING and dedication are key ingredients to successful alternative energy projects like the Green Energy Center," adds Rachel Goldstein, EPA LMOP Program Manager. "It is a win for the environment and the local community."

THE MID Ohio Regional Planning Commission has also honored the Center with a Clean Air Award.



Green Czar

New face in the office of Environmental Steward



SWACO AND The City of Columbus are welcoming a new liaison who will work between the two governments on all things green.

ERIN MILLER is the new Environmental Steward. No stranger to SWACO, Miller comes to the new job after five years at the Mid Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC). Most recently she was the Director of MORPC's Center for Energy and Environment. Miller has also served with the Friends of The Lower Olentangy Watershed and The Ohio Environmental Council.

MILLER TELLS us she is looking forward to her new position "I am very excited to serve as the Environmental Steward for the City of Columbus and SWACO. I share Mayor Coleman's vision to make Columbus the greenest city in the Midwest and I look forward to working collaboratively to make that vision a reality."

Filling Up

SWACO'S FLEET of vehicles that can now gas up at our Green Energy Center has grown to six. The SWACO Board of Trustees has authorized the purchase of a 2009 Honda Civic GX. It will join four Chevy 3/4 ton pick-ups and the original 2006 Honda Civic GX.

ONE OF the SWACO CNG vehicles was on display at the Columbus International Auto Show (March 19-22) at the Columbus Convention Center. Another one of the vehicles will be seen as part of an environmental exhibit at COSI the weekend of April 17-19th. That event is in conjunction with long time SWACO broadcast partner WSNY-FM (Sunny 95).



WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP will also receive a "Buy Recycled" grant of \$5,000 toward the purchase of recycled content picnic tables. The City of Hilliard will receive \$4,752.00 toward recycling containers and public awareness of recycling in the community. The Southwest Soccer Association plans to use a SWACO grant of \$4,607.92 to begin a recycling program at Bolton Field Park.

SWACO GRANTS are designed to educate the public on the benefits of buying recycled content products and other green alternatives available in Central Ohio. Additional information on the grants program is available at "www.swaco.org" or by contacting SWACO Grants Administrator Bonni Trice at "bonni.trice@swaco.org" or by calling 614-871-5100.

• (Left) State Representative Nancy Garland joins SWACO's Executive Director Ron Mills, and Whitehall Mayor John Wolfe to cut the ribbon on the Lamby Lane Park. The park was re-designed "green" with the help of SWACO grants.

Time to Clean Out the Basement AND the Garage

Dropoff your HHW items at the:
SWACO Household Hazardous Waste Drive



Franklin County residents can bring:

- Old Paint
- Paint Thinners
- Lawn Chemicals
- Old Gasoline
- and more...

Visit the permanent
HHW location

1249 Essex Ave
(corner of E. 8th & Essex Ave)

Summer Hours:

Wednesdays 2-7pm & Thursdays 9am-5pm

For a complete schedule of HHW dropoff dates
and a complete list of accepted materials visit:

www.swaco.org

DRY IT UP!

Did you know that
Latex paint can be
dried up and thrown
in the trash?



SWACO

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