

2012 PEP Environmental Stewardship Awards

On April 17, 2012, PEP presented the 8th Annual PEP *Environmental Stewardship Awards* to 6 member companies and a Community Partner during its Annual Membership Meeting at 5 Rivers Delta Center.

PEP Member Awards are presented to member companies that have made a significant and positive contribution to the Mobile/Baldwin region's triple bottom line, economically, environmentally and socially.



PEP Community Partner Awards are given to individuals or organizations that dedicate their time and resources to improve the sustainability and resiliency of Coastal Alabama.

2012 PEP Member Award recipients:

Alabama Power, Plant Barry

Carbon Capture and Sequestration (CSS) Project

CCS is a promising technology that will allow utilities to reduce their emissions while continuing to utilize fossil fuels such as coal and natural gas. Alabama Power's Plant Barry has installed and is testing the world's largest CCS system at a coal fired power plant. This facility will capture, purify and compress up to 150,000 tons per year of CO₂ from the Barry flue gas which will be transported to the Citronelle oil field where it will be injected for permanent sequestration. In less than a year, the capture and compression unit at Plant Barry has processed over 43,000 tons.

BASF

Sustainability and Waste Minimization Improvements

In 2011, the BASF McIntosh site focused on increasing its sustainability by minimizing the environmental impact of three major by-product streams: a spent sulfuric acid stream, a waste solvent stream and the biosludge from the waste water treatment plant. Results include: 5,700 tons of spent sulfuric acid will be diverted from an energy intensive regeneration process and instead will replace virgin acid; 1,500 tons of waste solvent will be burned as comparable fuel on site instead of being transported to a hazardous waste incinerator; and production of 2,300 tons of biosludge will be avoided by process optimization. In total, approximately 200 fewer truckloads of waste will leave the BASF McIntosh site each year and 15,000 gallons of diesel will be saved.

Hargrove Engineers + Constructors

Brookley Aeroplex's Occupational Health Center

The Brookley Aeroplex is the transportation and industrial epicenter of the Central Gulf Coast. In 2011, Hargrove Engineers + Constructors completed the design for the MAA's renovation of a run-down Gymnasium to turn it into the Occupational Health Center. To protect against urban blight, the MAA chose to refurbish an existing structure. The renovation included adding a canopy, landscaping and parking lot design, irrigation, electrical upgrades and significant structural modifications. An empty eyesore now provides extremely beneficial services to the health and wellbeing of the Brookley Workforce.

PEP extends special recognition to the Mobile Airport Authority for this project.

SSAB

Waste Minimization and Energy Efficiency Improvements

In 2011, SSAB completed numerous environmental improvement projects focused on waste minimization and energy efficiency. These projects successfully diverted over 1,994 tons of waste from landfill disposal to recyclable streams. In addition, the projects optimized shipments of waste by enhancing the metric of tons per load. This benefit greatly reduces the number of offsite shipments to landfills, thus further reducing costs as well as transportation emissions. The energy efficiency projects successfully reduced annual energy consumption by 862,211 Kwh. This was achieved by retrofitting existing light fixtures with high efficiency units, which in some cases included occupancy sensors and timers to further reduce energy consumption.

Volkert, Inc.

Daphne Utilities Water Reclamation Facility Upgrades

Daphne Utilities plays a key role in maintaining and protecting the environment by collecting and transporting wastewater to the Daphne Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) where it is treated and discharged. Volkert, Inc. teamed with Daphne Utilities to evaluate, design and implement upgrades and modifications to the Daphne WRF. Utilizing cutting-edge technology for process improvements and reduced energy usage, this two-year effort has restored capacity, reduced operating costs, improved efficiencies and decreased noise and odor levels at the Daphne WRF.

PEP extends special recognition to Daphne Utilities for this project.

White-Spunner Construction

The City of Gulf Shores Dry Dock Basin at Saunders Yachtworks

The City of Gulf Shores Dry Dock Basin at Saunders Yachtworks will be the premier Boatyard for the Gulf Coast. Constructed by White-Spunner Construction, the facility, located on a 14 acre track on the Inter-Coastal Waterway, will host repair and refit projects for marine vessels up to 130' in length or 165 tons. One of the primary environmental contributions of the project is the Water Recycling and Effluent System for cleaning the bottom of boats. The new system not only stops pollutants from entering our coastal waters but also aids in recycling the water and decrease water usage. Other contributions to the environment include the restoration of a "Man Made" ditch which had been neglected, causing sediment entry into the coastal waters; the installation of rip rap along the ICW to aid in erosion control; the implementation of an oil and hydraulic recycling station; a metals recycling dumpster; and the construction of enclosed paint building to help trap overspray and sand deposits from entering the environment.

2012 Community Partner Award

Project CATE Foundation

The Project CATE Foundation was selected for the 2012 PEP Community Partner Award in recognition of its 20 plus years of providing award winning environmental conservation education materials to teachers and students throughout the Mobile/Baldwin area free of charge.

Project CATE began in 1990 as a collaborative effort of Neil C. Johnston and Dr. Brenda Lichtfield for the presentation of conservation and environmental information to elementary and middle school age students by interactive electronic media. Conservation Action Through Education (CATE) is a necessary process for the awareness of young students to the natural resources in the community. After ten years of research, CATE's first educational program, an interactive CD-ROM entitled *Ribbit's Big Splash* focusing on water conservation was released in 2000. In 2008, the second CD on wildlife conservation, *Skeeter's Wild Adventures*, proved to be as successful as the first, not only with the teachers, parents and professional conservation groups, but the children themselves.

In addition to the CD-ROMs having been the subject of several teacher training workshops in Mobile and Baldwin Counties, the educational materials are provided free of charge to anyone who requests a copy and have been distributed throughout the local area, as well as nationwide. Hundreds of educators have related tales of the excitement and enthusiasm of the students who come in contact with Ribbit and Skeeter. Many teachers have commented that the programs are helping students learn many of the Course of Study Standards in Science and other subjects. Teachers are incorporating the information into a variety of classroom activities. *Skeeter's Wild Adventures* was just named the "Best Environmental Education Curriculum and Course" by the Environmental Education Association of Alabama, March 2012.

Project CATE is active in other areas as well. Project CATE partnered with Alabama Coastal Foundation to help develop and provide the base curriculum for the conservation scholarship competition, Coastal Kids Quiz, now in its 11th year. The project CATE participates in water festivals throughout the area to help fourth graders learn about water conservation, groundwater, contamination and recycling