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2019 Gold awards

To win a Gold award, businesses must comply with all applicable air quality regulations for at least three years and employ additional clean air practices in at least two of these categories: energy efficiency; emissions reductions; air pollution prevention practices related to their specific business sector; and transportation, such as reducing commute trips, having no-idling policies and switching to cleaner vehicle fleets. This year's awards are based on 2018 emissions.

Business name

Location

County

Bellingham Cleaning Center

Bellingham

Whatcom

Clean air action highlights:

Energy efficiency – Replaced 2 commercial hot water heaters with 2 on-demand heaters to conserve gas and power. Replaced air compressor, saving power. Replaced return tank for boiler, saving water and power.

Emissions reductions – Wet cleaning more garments to reduce solvent purchase.

Concrete Nor'West-Belleville Pit

Burlington

Skagit

Clean air action highlights:

Energy efficiency – Removed fossil fuel processing equipment and replaced with all electric so they are now physically mining raw material with an electric system versus a fossil fuel system.

Emissions reductions – Mining and processing with electricity greatly lowered greenhouse gas emissions.

Transportation – Replacing older heavy equipment with new machines reduces emissions. Instituted a no-idle policy.

Concrete Nor'West-Island County Ready Mix

Oak Harbor

Island

Clean air action highlights:

Energy efficiency – Sprayed a thick insulating layer of material over 5,000-gallon hot water system holding tank, reducing fuel demand by 25-40%. Hot water is used in all concrete from October through March.

Emissions reductions – Lowering fuel demand also greatly lowered the hot water system's emissions.

Transportation – Ongoing fleet modernization program is replacing older trucks with new trucks with clean idling engines. Instituted a no-idle policy for all trucks and heavy equipment.

Costco Gasoline

Bellingham

Whatcom

Clean air action highlights:

Energy efficiency – Under canopy lighting is comprised of LED fixtures. All facility lighting is equipped with automatic timers to reduce lighting, within safe levels, outside of operating hours.

Emissions reductions – Costco’s Kirkland Signature brand of gasoline contains deposit control fuel additives and meets the Top Tier performance standards with five times the EPA-required amount of additives in its fuel.

Sector specific – The site is equipped with an Arid Permeator vapor recovery system, which reduces gasoline emissions from storage tanks by 95%. On-site attendants perform daily, monthly and annual site and equipment inspections.

Costco Gasoline

Burlington

Skagit

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Sector specific – All gasoline-dispensing nozzles are equipped with the Husky V34 Onboard Refueling Vapor Recovery (ORVR) compatible nozzle, reducing the emissions of gasoline fumes during fueling of vehicles with and without ORVR. On-site attendants perform daily, monthly and annual site and equipment inspections.

Golden Nut Company

Blaine

Whatcom

Clean air action highlights:

Energy efficiency – Replaced all light fixtures in the facility with LED fixtures.

Emissions reductions – Made substantial repairs and upgrades to the emissions cleaner.

Granite Construction Co.-Singer Asphalt Plant

Everson

Whatcom

Clean air action highlights:

Energy efficiency – Annual burner tune on the aggregate drying drum, improved drum flighting to gain drum-drying efficiency. Annual bag house Visilite inspection and replacement of aramid fiber bags.

Transportation – Granite has a 5-minute maximum idle policy that reduces diesel fuel consumption. Purchased new Komatsu Loader capable of making one pass to fill each box of truck and trailer, which minimizes trips to the stockpile to achieve maximum payload. It is also more fuel efficient than its predecessor.

Granite Construction Co.-Singer Pit Crusher

Everson

Whatcom

Clean air action highlights:

Energy efficiency – Crusher operates on line power.

Transportation – Purchased new Komatsu Loader capable of making one pass to fill each box of truck and trailer, which minimizes trips to the stockpile to achieve maximum payload. It is also more fuel efficient than its predecessor.

Granite Precasting & Concrete

Bellingham

Whatcom

Clean air action highlights:

Energy efficiency – Replaced all lights in office spaces with motion sensor activation and high-efficiency LED bulbs. Changing out all overhead exterior lights with LED as they fail. Replaced all warehouse heaters with new recirculating high-efficiency natural gas inferred heaters to heat warehouse.

Sector specific – In the last three years installed a new broiler to heat the batch plant water during the winter months that utilizes less energy than the previous model it replaced. Switched from propane to natural gas and from a more residential like model to a commercial model that runs intermittently

instead of the entire time we are open and in operation. The previous model burned propane 10-12 hours a day and this commercial unit burns 10-20 minutes an hour depending on use.

Transportation – Instituted a strict no-idle policy for all manufacturing equipment, outside delivery and long-haul trucking partners that carry Granite’s goods throughout the state.

Hexcel

Burlington

Skagit

Clean air action highlights:

Energy efficiency – Over the last three years, 2 buildings were converted from fluorescent lights to LED lighting. This change has cut power use for lighting in half. Upgraded/replaced HVAC furnace/AC unit for controlled room 1 to improve energy efficiency. Conducting combustion efficiency testing on all natural gas equipment. This project should reduce natural gas consumption by a substantial amount.

Emissions reductions – Removed the resin infusion process from the Burlington plant. Also reduced emissions because oven cycles for the process were removed.

Sector specific – Added a few more dust collectors within the plant to reduce dust exposures within and outside of the plant.

IKO Pacific Inc.

Sumas

Whatcom

Clean air action highlights:

Energy efficiency – Replaced shingle line preheater natural gas burner with a more efficient burner.

Emissions reductions – Upgraded enclosures and added new enclosures around dust and fume-generating sections of operations to collect more dust and improve air quality. Also added more hoods/ducting for same purpose.

Island County Solid Waste Department

Coupeville

Island

Clean air action highlights:

Energy efficiency – Installed 3 heat pumps in separate buildings.

Emissions reductions – New equipment is set to idle no more than 5 minutes before shutting down.

Transportation – Purchased 2 new pieces of equipment with emissions-reducing engines.

LKQ Corp.

Bellingham

Whatcom

Clean air action highlights:

Energy efficiency – Partnered with Puget Sound Energy and Cascade Energy to achieve energy savings of 248,179 kWh/year. The reduction comes from implementing a program to identify and repair compressed air leaks on a semiannual schedule, reducing the compressed air set points, fine tuning hot water heaters and timers, and other adjustments to electricity consuming equipment.

Emissions reductions – Transitioning from spray paint canisters, which are primarily propellants containing VOCs, to water-based paints applied through the use of HVLP paint guns to reduce total VOCs emitted.

Maple Leaf Auto Body

Lynden

Whatcom

Clean air action highlights:

Energy efficiency – Added vacuum sanding system to keep dust down for employees and environment. Sheet rocked and insulated ceiling. Greatly reducing natural gas usage.

Emissions reductions – Use a UV (ultraviolet) light primer) that can dry without adding a catalyst to it, which reduces VOC emissions. Waterborne primer also used. Cut urethane primer use to nearly zero. If it is used, it is applied in the spray booth.

Nature’s Path Foods

Blaine

Whatcom

Clean air action highlights:

Energy efficiency – Used IT equipment is donated to local schools or other charities and some components are recycled to keep them out of the landfill. Reduced the number of physical servers and equipment and virtualized the servers as much as possible. This reduced the footprint of the servers themselves and required less cooling and maintenance.

Emissions reductions – Nature's Path has collaborated with Climate Smart for Business to track and develop strategies reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In 2017, reduced emissions by 356 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent from its 2014 baseline, equal to over 40,000 gallons of gasoline consumed. Also, from 2013 to 2018, Nature's Path Blaine purchased 49,000 renewable energy credits that support green energy projects in the United States. Those renewable energy credits offset 100% of the emissions coming from the electricity consumption at Nature's Path Blaine.

Sector specific – In 2018, Nature's Path Blaine diverted 92% of its waste from landfills and incineration. That would have amounted to a total of 848 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions if it went to a landfill facility. In 2018, Nature's Path Blaine, used certified organic and non-GMO project verified ingredients, supporting over 123,000 acres of organic farmland and its farmers, and preventing 24,400 tons of synthetic fertilizer from being used and 370 tons of toxic pesticides not sprayed.

Transportation – As an incentive to promote sustainability and reduce carbon emissions, Nature's Path has developed the Fuel Efficiency Program. All team members are eligible for a reimbursement of up to \$1,000 toward the purchase of a fuel-efficient vehicle. And Nature's Path developed the "Green My Ride" program so employees earn points equaling cash for each trip they take in an environmentally efficient manner (e.g., walking, biking, carpooling, transit).

Northstar Woodworks

Ferndale

Whatcom

Clean air action highlights:

Energy efficiency – Updated lighting, including adding some LED lighting.

Emissions reductions – Reducing VOC emissions by using lower-VOC finishing products.

Radiant Heart After-Care for Pets

Bellingham

Whatcom

Clean air action highlights:

Energy efficiency – Reduced the use of natural-gas-fueled combustion for pet cremation by 52% by adding eco-friendly water cremation as an option.

Emissions reductions – In December 2018, installed and began offering eco-friendly pet water cremation. Equipment was designed and built by Bio-Response Solutions in a solar-powered factory in Indiana. From Jan 1- Jan 29, 2019, 52% of all cremations were eco-friendly water cremations. Even as the company grows (experienced 21% growth in 2018), Radiant Heart anticipates that the percentage of flame-based cremations, natural gas use, and carbon dioxide emissions will continue to decrease.

Skagit Ready Mix

Mount Vernon

Skagit

Clean air action highlights:

Emissions reductions – 4 aging mixer trucks were replaced with brand-new, cleaner-burning models. The new trucks are equipped with selective catalytic reduction systems to reduce NOx emissions.

Sector specific – In 2018 paving was added in high-traffic areas, including the entrance and exit to the facility to reduce both track-out and fugitive dust from equipment.

Stan's Auto Body

Bellingham

Whatcom

Clean air action highlights:

Sector specific – Shop recently switched from Axalta solvent-based paint to Glasurit waterborne paint to reduce the amount of chemicals used while still providing quality to customers. Stan's uses vacuum

sanders in the back shop and are going to be switching the front shop to vacuum sanders as well. Seattle-based Emerald Services hauls away and recycles the shop's solvent waste. Eco-friendly soap is used to wash cars. Switched to more energy-efficient bulbs in the paint booth.

Whatcom Transportation Authority

Bellingham

Whatcom

Clean air action highlights:

Energy efficiency – Installed LED shop and exterior lighting in 2015, saving approximately 12,000 kW/month. Installed 24 solar panels and a battery backup power system at the WTA Bellingham Station in 2017. Installed various LED lighting at the WTA Bellingham Station and Lynden Station.

Emissions reductions – Converted 13 buses to propane fuel from gasoline in 2018. Installed a propane fueling station in 2018.

Sector specific – WTA received a grant in 2018 to buy 2 all-electric buses and install charging equipment to be completed by 2020.

Transportation – Leased an all-electric bus for 3 months in 2018. Converted 13 Paratransit buses to propane fuel from gasoline in 2018. Supplied 4.8 million rides to the community, helping to reduce vehicle trips.