

Congratulations 2012 Environmental Excellence Award recipients

by Kevin Short

The IAPD Environmental Committee is pleased to announce the 2012 Environmental Excellence Award recipients:

- Best New Program — Boltaron
- Most Improved Program — Curbell Plastics, Inc.
- Most Innovative Program — Cope Plastics, Inc.
- Best Overall Program — Laird Plastics

The recipients were honored at the opening general session at the 56th Annual IAPD Convention in Rosemont, IL, USA by IAPD Convention Chair Jane Saale and IAPD 2011-2012 President Bob Bacon.

Best New Program — Boltaron

Boltaron was selected for a comprehensive green lighting initiative that has reduced the company's energy consumption by more than 175,000 kilowatt hours and carbon emissions by more than 150 tons annually. The company has replaced metal halide units with "T8" fluorescent fixtures, which are 50 percent more energy efficient. These fixtures dim lamps selectively when and where full illumination isn't necessary, cutting usage by an additional two-thirds.

Most Improved Program — Curbell Plastics, Inc.

Curbell Plastics was honored for numerous milestone achievements. The company has attained zero landfill status at its two largest facilities in Orchard Park, NY, USA, and its environmental best practices are being emulated by other companies. In addition, Curbell has been nominated to represent businesses and to assist Governor Cuomo's "Cleaner Greener New York" campaign. Curbell began formally tracking data using the EPA's WasteWise website in 2008. That year, total tonnage recycled was 212.59. In 2011, total tonnage recycled increased to 391.3 tons. This includes recycled office equipment, metals, ink/toners, plastics, mixed paper, wood, electronics and more. The company also started purchasing environmentally friendly janitorial supplies with post-consumer waste content and restricts orders to once a month, to save fuel and reduce the carbon footprint. Office furniture is refurbished when possible and donated to Habitat for Humanity if it is no longer usable.

Most Innovative Program — Cope Plastics, Inc.

Cope Plastics, Inc. has increased the total pounds of plastic recycled from 1.1 million pounds to 1.5 million pounds, representing an increase of more than 36 percent. In addition, the company expanded its recycling program to include 31 different grades of plastic, which make up nearly 90 percent of the material distributed through the company. The expansion of the program was possible because of a new facility three miles from the campus of the corporate headquarters in Alton, IL, USA. This facility runs on solar power and is dedicated to recycling all scrap plastic from the machining processes. The solar modules are expected to generate more than 22,000 kilowatt hours annually and prevent more than 21 and a half tons of CO₂ emissions annually. Electricity generated will be consumed by the processing facility and if more energy is produced than consumed, the electricity surplus will be back-fed into the local electric grid. This year Cope's recycling program expanded to include foam PVC, HIPS, NYL GS and shrink wrap. These new

products have accounted for nearly 34,000 pounds of recycled material and prevented the use of more than 40 cubic yards of landfill space. Cope Plastics, Inc. also recycles metals, cardboard, electronics and paper.

Best Overall Program — Laird Plastics

Laird Plastics is being honored for environmentally friendly practices on numerous fronts. The company launched its first "green product" in 2011, distributing more than 400,000 linear feet of 100 percent recyclable packaging corner guards to replace the currently used cardboard option. Total pounds recycled increased from 3.2 million in 2009 to 8.7 in 2011. Laird is decreasing its use of natural resources, with a reduction in electrical consumption of 5.1 percent and natural gas usage by 5.9 percent. The company's recycling business unit increased the number of customers participating in its recycling program by more than 30 percent. A 300 HP grinder is located at the Laird facility in Georgia, USA. With this machine, the company can supply clean, compliant, post-industrial content to several domestic manufacturers and end-users. Finally, more than 25 Laird Plastics' locations and customers are currently equipped with baling and compacting equipment in order to maximize logistical efficiencies and reduce dumpster usage, therefore reducing Laird's footprint on the environment.

"IAPD is proud to honor the accomplishments of these four companies with the Environmental Excellence Award. Life cycle analyses show that engineering plastics are often the most environmentally friendly material to use for applications and as shown in the examples from these four companies, the manufacturing of those plastics can also be done in an environmentally responsible manner," said Susan Avery, CAE, IAPD Executive Director.

Any IAPD member company is eligible to apply for the IAPD Annual Environmental Excellence Awards. Applications are collected online and the IAPD Environmental Committee determines the recipients via secret ballot.

IAPD GreenScene

In addition to the awards program, the IAPD Environmental Committee has launched the IAPD GreenScene program to honor all member companies that are engaging in environmentally friendly practices. Charter members of the IAPD GreenScene

have been determined based on their award application and their participation in the committee's biannual environmental survey. If your company has not yet submitted your survey results, there's still time to do so. Just go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2012IAPDEnvironmentalSurvey> and complete the short survey.



Kevin Short of Laird Plastics is chair of the IAPD Environmental Committee and also serves as vice president of the IAPD Executive Committee.