

2009 Ecological Awards for New Facilities



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NAPA's Ecological Award competition, which started in 1971, recognizes excellence in asphalt facility operations. "NAPA selects the award recipients using rigorous criteria to evaluate the environmental friendliness of their operations," commented Jim Weeks, 2009 chairman of the NAPA Board of Directors. "The judges determined that the winners and finalists operate in an exemplary manner."

WINNER

S. T. WOOTEN CORP.

Facility #14

Fort Myers, Florida



S. T. Wooten Corp. of Fort Myers, Fla., is the winner of the prestigious 2009 Ecological Award for a new asphalt facility. The competition is sponsored by Roads & Bridges Magazine. The company received its award on Wednesday, January 20, 2010, at a special awards breakfast during the Association's 55th Annual Meeting in Maui, Hawaii.

S. T. Wooten won the award for its asphalt plant facility #14, located in south Fort Myers, Fla. It is the company's most recently constructed plant and contains state-of-the-art technology, including an extremely quiet fan system and burner that can operate on clean-burning natural gas as well as diesel fuel and residual fuel oil. The plant's tank farm is entirely contained, with an internal membrane throughout every wall and every internal footing and pad, to capture, clean and dispose of any spilled materials.

"Our company maintains all of its plants to a very high standard and we try and maintain them not to just operate well but to operate clean and to blend into their communities," says John Fischetti, S. T. Wooten's division manager. "We took this plant to a higher level, since this was our first foray into Florida and we wanted to make a good impression on the community and on government agencies. Our goal here is to be a quiet, clean neighbor."

The facility is the first in the area to utilize its own on-site recycled asphalt pavement (RAP) fractionating plant. This system allows for a greater usage of RAP in asphalt mixes.

The entire working and stockpile areas of the plant are paved, making the site virtually dust free. Its storm water drainage system contains and filters all water on the site.

The site serves as the campus for S. T. Wooten's business operations in the area and includes a new laboratory, office, conference center and workshop buildings. The company constructed all of these buildings within LEED certification guidelines, in an "old Florida" architectural style that gives it a park-like feel.

The remaining areas of the property are dedicated to green spaces and include an improved cypress wetland preserve, a gopher tortoise habitat, extensive landscaping and a water-conserving irrigation system.

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FINALIST

LAKESIDE INDUSTRIES INC.

Durgin Road Asphalt Plant
Olympia, Washington



Lakeside Industries Inc. of Lacey, Wash., is a finalist for the prestigious 2009 Ecological Award for a new asphalt facility. Lakeside Industries won the award for its Durgin Road asphalt plant in Olympia, Wash. The company purchased a plant system for this location that takes advantage of the latest technology and makes the best use of natural resources. The plant captures emissions and truck load-out fumes to ensure that the air quality is maintained at its highest possible level.

The facility was originally opposed by neighbors, but the environmentally responsible way in which the plant operates has won many of them over.

"In October 2008 we held an open house so the community, other contractors and local dignitaries could come and tour our new facility," said Dean Smith, division manager for Lakeside Industries' Lacey Division. "One concerned neighbor asked when we were going to start running the plant. He was very surprised when we told him we had been running for 10 months. This was the best compliment we could have received. The perception of our neighbors has been more and more positive as we continue to prove that the environment and the communities we reside in are major priorities."

The employees of Lakeside Industries have supported their communities in multiple ways, from raising money to support the construction of baseball fields to delivering dump-truck loads of donated food to local food banks. When flooding hit the Boistfort Valley and Chehalis River Valley in Washington, employees donated hundreds of hours of service to cleanup operations and raised more than \$20,000 to help support the flood victims. In recent years, at least seven company employees have been recognized by government authorities for their life-saving actions.