

# AIR CURRENTS

Wisconsin Partners for Clean Air Newsletter

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## WPCA Message from the Chair

For starters, you may have noticed the new name of this newsletter. Congratulations goes to Karen Schmiechen from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's Rideshare Program for submitting the winning newsletter naming entry.

Additional congratulations go to the Clean Air Recognition Award & Commuter Champ winners presented at the Clean Air Extravaganza. Be sure to see the Partner Success Spotlight in this issue recognizing the winners and their activities.

Be well— *Erin Lee*, WPCA Chair

## Clean Air Extravaganza Recap

Three Wisconsin businesses were honored during the Clean Air Extravaganza at the new UWM Joseph J. Zilber School of Public Health on Thursday, May 23rd. Given the event theme of *Renewed & Refreshed*, the Zilber School was a fitting place for the event since it received LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold Certification from the U.S. Green Building Council, which certifies environmentally sound buildings.

The annual event is typically held in May in honor of Clean Air Month. The Extravaganza celebrates the accomplishments of Wisconsin businesses and organizations that are improving air quality by reducing emissions from their facilities and fleets, improving energy efficiency, providing employee commuter options, and developing ways to educate the public about air quality issues.

In addition to award recognition, attendees were exposed to three engaging presentations on air quality, redevelopment, and energy efficiency. Presenters included Dr. Amy Kalkbrenner, UW-Milwaukee Assistant Professor of Epidemiology; Dennis Stapleton, Senior Architect Zilber Ltd; and Erick Shambarger, Deputy Director, City of Milwaukee Office of Sustainability.

The following awards were presented to:

- ◆ **S.C. Johnson & Son (Racine)**
- ◆ **Union Cab (Madison)**
- ◆ **Rockwell Automation (Milwaukee)**

*See back page for listing of activities and consider nominating your organization next year.*

*Thank you to the following sponsors of the...*

### Clean Air Extravaganza

**Kohl's**

**Milwaukee County Transit System**

**UW-Milwaukee Zilber School of Public Health**

### Did You Know?

Midway through the calendar year and there have been **zero** Air Quality Advisories issued in Wisconsin compared to **13** midway through 2012.



*From left to right:*

Erin Lee, Fight Asthma Milwaukee Allies (WPCA chair); Katie Wassil, S.C. Johnson & Son; Kate Schachter, Union Cab; Suzanne Bangert, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; and Mary Joann Thurman, Rockwell Automation



## Wisconsin Partners for Clean Air

### Success Spotlight:

#### Clean Air Recognition Award Winners & Commuter Champ

##### Clean Air Recognition Award

###### S.C. Johnson & Son, Inc.- Racine

- ◆ Set goal for 44% of global facility electricity used to come from renewable sources by 2016 in an effort to reduce greenhouse gases.
- ◆ Installed two 415 foot wind turbines at the Waxdale manufacturing facility in Mount Pleasant that supply 15% of facility's electricity. This coupled with two previously installed co-generation units using local landfill gas allows the facility to run completely off of renewable energy. The turbines generate the equivalent electricity to power 700 homes and are expected to reduce CO2 by 6,600 tons/year and save \$500,000/year.
- ◆ Implemented renewable energy projects worldwide including: wind turbine at their facility in the Netherlands that generates 50% of facility's power; mini wind turbines at sales office in Arkansas that reduce over 2.5 tons/year of greenhouse gases; boiler at facility in Indonesia that uses biofuel from waste rice husks to heat water and reduces greenhouse gases by 7,800 tons/year.

###### Union Cab- Madison

- ◆ Converted entire sedan fleet to hybrid electric cars, improving fuel economy by 23%, saving \$180,000 since implementation, and reducing CO2 so far by 567 tons.
- ◆ Implemented a no-idling policy for non-hybrid fleet vehicles, which is improving fuel economy 3-10% and in 2012 saved at least \$6,600 in fuel cost and over 20 tons of CO2.
- ◆ Installed solar panels on their maintenance building, which have since provided over a third of the electricity used in the building, reduced energy costs, earned rebates from the local utility, and reduced CO2 by 6 tons.
- ◆ Offer bike racks (of which all 4 are typically full in warmer months), covered bike storage, and discounted bus passes through paycheck deduction for employees, most of whom live nearby and are encouraged to bike, walk, or bus to work.
- ◆ Held an event with displays represented by various groups to educate employees about healthier living, ways to reduce energy, and driving tips through Union Cab's Drive Smarter Challenge.
- ◆ Distributed a company newsletter with 15 helpful eco-driving tips from and for the company drivers.

##### Commuter Champion Award

###### Rockwell Automation- Milwaukee

- ◆ Sells transit passes and tickets on-site and displays transit schedules
- ◆ Provides a guaranty ride home service
- ◆ Promotes Wisconsin Department of Transportation's Rideshare Program and an internal carpool program
- ◆ Provides secured covered bike parking and changing/shower facilities for bike commuters
- ◆ Offers bike repair kits and repair assistance when needed
- ◆ Promotes Bike to Work event at company headquarters with local bike vendors and Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin, including prize drawings
- ◆ Organize employee commuting groups and has a designated commuter benefits coordinator
- ◆ Offers compressed work flexible schedules to minimize commutes
- ◆ Offers on-site amenities such as laundry, stamps, event tickets, and convenience items
- ◆ Maintains an internal informational website dedicated to commuting options and a monthly \$50 gift card raffle for those who participate

***Want to be featured in the WPCA Success Spotlight?***

Send us your emission and environmental success story.