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Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Recognizes Environmental Achievements

Denver - A project designed to show how environmentally friendly building projects can be simple and affordable earned a University of Colorado professor and student an Environmental Achievement Award Friday from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

Reduced waste streams; less emissions; and implementation of a variety of prevention methods and technologies that benefit the environment link more Colorado individuals, businesses and organizations recognized today at an awards ceremony at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.

"It's important that we recognize the significant achievements of individuals and businesses in Colorado who have taken their commitment to the environment seriously," said Douglas Benevento, executive director of the Department of Public Health and Environment. "True change occurs when we go above and beyond compliance to improve air and water quality, and reduce energy use and waste streams."

Businesses, community groups, government agencies and other organizations were nominated for an award in recognition of one or more significant environmental achievements.

The Farmhouse Project resulted from a collaboration between architect and University of Colorado associate professor Julee Herdt and Steve Gates, a former student. They shared a vision that designing and building a "green" home ultimately could be better for the environment, and simple and affordable at the same time.

By utilizing everything from wheat, corn and cotton to waste paper, scrap wood and recycled plastic, The Farmhouse Project demonstrated how renewable energy and bio-based environmental building are viable, cost-effective alternatives to traditional design and build methods.

The result is an efficiency-minded house that used 40 percent less materials for construction and consumes 70 percent less energy than a standard wood frame house. For more information on the Farmhouse Project, contact Julee Herdt or Steve Gates at 303-946-3951.

Other 2004 Environmental Achievement Award winners include:

- City of Aspen Transportation Options Program (Aspen): The Transportation Options Program (TOP) is an initiative by the City of Aspen and 30 other employers to promote alternative modes of transportation in an effort to reduce traffic congestion and the resulting pollution. Aspen has kept its traffic levels for more than a decade and is in full compliance with federal health standards for particulate matter. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

- recently recognized Aspen as the nation's first Best Workplaces for C because of the success of the TOP program. Contact: Ms. Lynn Bad Transportation Coordinator, 970-920-5038.
- Blue Sun Biodiesel (Fort Collins): Blue Sun Biodiesel is an agricultural company, developing oilseed energy crops and production and distribution networks to bring high-performance biodiesel fuel to the west-central States. In May, Blue Sun opened up one of the nation's largest retail stations at Offen Petroleum in northeast Denver, one of 10 new retail Colorado. Blue Sun is working to reduce the cost of high-grade biodiesel through the development and production of low-cost oilseed crops in Kansas, and Nebraska. Contact: Jeff Probst, President and Chief Executive Officer, 970-221-0500.
 - Bowie Resources, LLC (Paonia): A coal mining company that began Colorado's North Fork Valley in 1995, Bowie Resources has demonstrated leadership in reclamation and mining activities, and in improving communication with interested stakeholders within the community. A founding member of the North Fork Coal Working Group composed of local coal mines; government officials; representatives of environmental organizations and interested parties. Bowie Resources is committed to hearing concerns and addressing them in a public forum. The work group seeks to sustain the viability of the coal industry in the North Fork Valley while protecting the environment, economy and quality of life in the local community. Contact: Chad M. Isaman, Chief Surveyor, 970-825-3333.
 - Climax Molybdenum Co. - Henderson Operations (Empire): Despite being the largest primary molybdenum producer in the world and Xcel Energy's largest industrial customer in Colorado, Climax's Henderson Operations reduced its peak energy consumption by 20 percent during the last year through a variety of efforts. These efforts have included a sophisticated energy management system; an automated ventilation system that uses a computerized programmable logic control (PLC) system; installation of high efficiency conversions of various heating systems from electricity to PLC controlled gas; conversion from pneumatic drilling to hydraulic drilling; and, conversion of variable frequency pumps in underground dewatering operations. Contact: Cecilia Lucero, Environmental Coordinator, 303-569-3221.
 - Colorado Daily (Boulder): Since switching to 100 percent post-consumer newsprint in February 2004, this Boulder newspaper has saved 9,550,000 gallons of water, 48,000 pounds of air pollutants and 3.3 million hours of electricity. In addition, the fiber from papers put in the recycling bin may end up back in the newspaper months from now. The University of Colorado Recycling Center collects and subsequently sells 375 tons of newspaper to Ecocycle. Ecocycle sells that paper to a company that, in turn, sells the paper to the same mill that Colorado Daily purchases its paper from. Contact: Randy Miller, President, Publisher and Editor, 303-433-6272.
 - Colorado Department of Transportation Region 6 (Denver): The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) implemented water conservation and recycling strategies in various projects and activities that reduced water consumption in its irrigated landscape highway areas by 47 percent through a computerized system that monitors, tracks, and schedules irrigation; used asphalt emulsion and shredded tires in numerous activities, including the resurfacing of East Avenue; recycled concrete from the former Stapleton International Airport in highway concrete aggregate and road base, and; reused scrap metal from the previous Mile High Stadium for light rail steel. Contact: John Muscato, Transportation Director, 303-757-9459.
 - Colorado Mountain Cleaners (Silverthorne): This dry cleaning business replaced its silicone-based GreenEarth cleaning solvent as an alternative solvent to perchloroethylene or "perc". GreenEarth is non-toxic and non-irritating.

skin, and does not require air quality permits. Listed as a preferred alternative to ozone-depleting chemicals in the U.S. EPA's Significant New Alternatives List, the solvent degrades to sand, water and carbon dioxide. GreenEarth solvent increases productivity and efficiency from full loads, decreases energy costs, and; reduces electricity usage and disposal costs. Contact: Tom Eikenberg, General Managing Partner, 970-262-1182.

- Engle Homes Colorado (Englewood): Since 2001, Engle Homes has worked with national programs (Building America(and Energy Star()), and state programs (Built Green(and E-Star Colorado()). Through September, 2003, Engle Homes has built 678 Energy Star(Qualified High Performance Homes that have eliminated 4,451 tons of carbon dioxide; 324 pounds of carbon monoxide, 324 pounds of nitrogen oxide, and; 1,146 pounds of particulate matter annually through energy efficient designs, climate control and environmental solutions. Homeowners' utility bills have been reduced by \$400,000. Contact: Tom Eikenberg, Vice President of Operations, 303-770-4646.
- Forest City Stapleton, Inc. (Denver): The master developer for the redevelopment project of the 4,700-acre Stapleton Airport, Forest City Stapleton has incorporated sustainability principles into every applicable aspect of the project. Forest City requires that all homes meet or exceed Colorado Built Green Standards. Forest City has implemented mixed-use zoning to reduce traveling distances to businesses and groceries, and has created a sustainability education center that provides businesses and homeowners with knowledge of technologies and strategies to make their homes and practices more sustainable. Contact: Melissa Knott, Director of Sustainability, 303-382-1800 x751.
- Recovery Options Inc. of Colorado (Denver): Recovery Options has established a leadership in pollution prevention efforts and the management of uncontrolled and hazardous waste. In 2003 alone, Recovery Options received, handled, dismantled, and recycled 852,366 pounds of electronic salvage waste and 2,301,589 pounds of copper cable. Contact: Fernando Chavez, Manager, 303-316-0200.
- Recycled Materials Company, Inc. (Arvada): Hired to dismantle the runway, taxiways, and concourses at the former Stapleton Airport, Recycled Materials Company recycled more than six million tons of concrete and asphalt during the dismantling of the 5000-acre site. The company's efforts preserved more than 10 million tons of landfill space, an equal amount of native gravel and sand, and reduced truck traffic, noise and fossil consumption through the use of recycled materials. Contact: Rick Givan, President, 303-431-3701.
- Spectranetics Corporation (Colorado Springs): Spectranetics develops and manufactures and markets the latest laser technology for multiple cancer treatment procedures to physicians and hospitals worldwide. Spectranetics corporation goes beyond required compliance with its pollution prevention efforts and the handling of hazardous waste. Contact: Tom Plasket, Manager of Facility Services, 719-633-8333.
- TASROP Inc. (Florence): TASROP is a five-person company owned by Tom Miller that powder coats cars and other metal parts. Spurred by water scarcity during drought conditions, Miller developed and installed a water recycling system that reduced his company's monthly water consumption by 77 percent and cut the use of chemicals from 165 gallons to 10 gallons. As a result, the water recycling system paid for itself in a year. TASROP's Stop the Waste (STW) recycling system is being marketed to other businesses like car washes and laundries. The Colorado Department of Transportation has purchased 10 STW recycling systems for use in maintenance facilities throughout the state. Contact: Robert Miller, 719-784-3712.
- Trapper Mining, Inc. (Craig): Trapper Mining has undertaken a series of sustainability efforts to improve mine reclamation in sediment control; plant commu-

- biodiversity; water development; and wildlife habitat/response. Trapp has reclaimed 3,361 acres of mined lands. The company has been named one of the three best examples of successful reclamation in the nation and recently received the Office of Surface Mining Good Neighbor Award for well-developed community relations. Contact: Frank Self, Senior Environmental Specialist, 970-824-4401.
- United Airlines, Denver International Airport Operations (Denver): At hangar and ground equipment maintenance facilities at Denver International Airport, United Airlines consistently goes beyond the required levels of compliance and management for the generation of hazardous waste. Orlo Peterson, Plant and Equipment Maintenance Foreman/Environmental Coordinator, 303-348-7453.
 - The University of Colorado Environmental Center (Boulder): The Environmental Center has created a campus-wide energy efficiency fund that is investing \$100,000 per year for five years in energy efficiency projects. This effort led to an energy awareness campaign to commit the campus to a five percent energy reduction; gathered 13,000 signatures and \$65,000 to assist in energy efficiency projects; passed a 100 percent renewable energy standard for student housing; and developed and promoted environmental standards for all new construction. Contact: Will Toor, Director, 303-492-8308.
 - Winter Park Resort (Winter Park): A year-round destination resort owned by the City and County of Denver, Winter Park is the oldest continually operating resort in Colorado. It has 24 lifts that provide an uphill capacity of 36,000 skiers per hour. Winter Park installed a comprehensive energy management system called AreaNet that has achieved electricity savings through software programmable controllers that automate control of electric heat in lift motor rooms and selected outbuildings. Contact: Jon Rosen, Electric Utility Manager, 970-726-4693.
 - Xanterra Parks and Resorts (Aurora): The Colorado-based park management company consists of 8,000 employees; 33 hotels and lodges; 51 retail stores; 51 restaurants; and 1,800 campsites within national and state parks throughout the country. Xanterra is dedicated to protecting the natural environment by minimizing the use of hazardous substances; preserving natural resources; and minimizing greenhouse gas emissions. Xanterra implemented an environmental management system to continuously assess its environmental impact and set goals towards becoming sustainable. In its 2003 Sustainability Report, Xanterra noted that electricity usage is down 5.3 percent; propane and natural gas as cleaner alternatives to fuel oil has increased an average of 16.5 percent; total fuel oil usage has decreased 15.3 percent; and total greenhouse gas emissions have decreased 3.7 percent. Contact: Andrew Todd, President/Chief Executive Officer, 303-338-2660.

Environmental Achievement Award winners also earn entry into the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Environmental Leadership Program as Sustained members.

Pollution Prevention Champion Awards also were distributed at Friday's event. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, the Colorado Environmental Federation, and the Pollution Prevention Advisory Board have given the awards annually. Champion Awards go to individuals, programs and teams within an organization for the way to improved environmental performance through a variety of activities.

Champion Award recipients for 2004 include:

- Ross Alarid, New Belgium Brewery (Fort Collins): Alarid is a dedicated creative manager who increased the New Belgium Brewery's diversion from 80 percent to 98 percent in the last two years. Alarid has been instrumental in finding innovative ways of keeping materials out of the landfill. He and his workers currently are developing an amber glass-recycling program for their customers. Contact: Ross Alarid, 970-221-0524 or ralarid@newbelgium.com
- Mark Bowen and Kurt Buss, Center for ReSource Conservation (Boulder): Bowen and Buss are the managers for the Boulder Center for ReSource Conservation, which diverts more than two million pounds of solid waste per year from landfills. Through the center, education is provided on how to deconstruct buildings so that materials can be recycled and used in building. The center also has several flooring and furniture product lines using recycled materials. Contact: Mark Bowen, Yard Manager or Kurt Buss, ReSource Program Manager, 303-440-3278 or mbowen@conservationcenter.org and kbuss@conservationcenter.org
- Luke Cartin, Vail Resorts (Vail): Cartin provides ski industry leadership in energy conservation, energy efficiency and renewable energy. Under Cartin's leadership, Vail has installed water conservation devices that save 1.7 million gallons of water per year. Vail also has earned the ski industry Silver Eagle Award for Environmental Excellence in Energy Conservation for several energy conservation projects and exploration of the placement of wind turbines. Contact: Luke Cartin, Environmental Manager, 970-479-3048 or lcartin@vailresorts.com.
- Fort Carson Pollution Prevention Program (Fort Carson): A leader in the implementation of pollution prevention projects to reduce waste and environmental impact while supporting mission readiness, Fort Carson's recent projects include deconstruction and diversion of buildings keeping more than 160 tons of materials from landfills; the distillation of parts washer solvent for reuse to reduce generation and disposal costs; the use of more alternatively-fueled vehicles; and the elimination of hazardous air pollutants from vehicle emissions. Contact: Carlos DeAguiar, ECRP Division Chief, 719-526-6838 or carlos.deaguiar@carson.army.mil.
- Justin Laboe, Tri-County Health Department (Commerce City): Laboe is the lead implementer of the Northeast Metro Pollution Prevention Alliance (NEMPPA) Diesel Testing and Repair Project and currently is leading another NEMPPA project to assist small businesses in implementing energy conservation measures. Laboe also has coordinated several household hazardous waste roundups in Adams and Douglas counties. Contact: Justin Laboe, Pollution Prevention Specialist, 720-322-1541 or jlaboe@tchd.org.
- Poudre School District New Construction and Building Renovation Team (Fort Collins): The Poudre School District has helped to change the way schools are built, saving energy, protecting the environment, and allowing children to learn in a more sustainable setting. Since 1995, Poudre School District has installed 96 energy efficiency projects that have resulted in a combined saving of \$311,000 per year. Contact: Bill Franzen, Executive Director of Operations, 970-482-7420 or info@psdschools.org.
- Lance Shepherd, Colorado Department of Personnel and Administration (Denver): Shepherd played a primary role in the initiation of cutting-edge energy efficiency projects in Colorado state buildings. In his role as a project manager and architect for the Colorado Department of Personnel and Administration State Buildings and Real Estate Programs, Shepherd has been instrumental in numerous energy efficiency and water conservation projects; has coordinated the installation of a microturbine for a combined heat and power demonstration project; and has pushed for meeting LEED standards in new and existing buildings. Contact: Lance Shepherd, 303-866-3450 or lance.shepherd@state.co.us.
- David Wann, Greening America Productions (Golden): Wann has devoted the last 16 years of his life to pollution prevention and sustainability.

working at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and since his retirement. David Wann has generated books, videos, songs and television programs on a wide range of environmental topics. His recent books include *Affluenza: The All-Consuming Epidemic*, *The Zen of Gardening*, and *Superbia! 31 Ways to Create Beautiful Neighborhoods*. Contact: David Wann, 303-216-1281 or davewann@earthlink.net

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment also welcomed seven new members to the Gold Level of the agency's Environmental Leadership Program: Aeroflex Colorado Springs; Denver International Airport; Dinosaur National Monument; Forever Resorts - Rocky Mountain Park Company and Holiday Inn Rocky Mountain Park (Estes Park); Kodak Colorado Division (Windsor); National Renewable Energy Laboratory (Golden); and Raytheon Aurora Campus.

The Colorado Environmental Leadership Program, created in 1998, encourages environmental prevention and environmental responsibility among businesses and municipalities throughout the state. Program eligibility requires the creation of verifiable environmental management systems, continual environmental improvement goals, community efforts and environmental compliance audit programs.

The seven new members join existing Gold Level members Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corp. (Boulder); Ball Metal Beverage Container Corp. (Golden); Ball Aerospace (Boulder); Lockheed Martin Space Systems Astronautics Operation (Denver); Metals Inc. (Denver); Roche Colorado Corp. (Boulder); and the U.S. Postal Service (Denver).

Other Colorado Environmental Leadership Program members include Aspen Environmental (Snowmass); Celestica Corp. (Fort Collins); Management and Engineering Solutions L.L.C. (Longmont); SAE Circuits Colorado Inc. (Boulder); Sanmina-SCI Corp. (Fountain), and; Western Area Power Administration (Lakewood).