

EPI Wins BEST Award for Sustainability

Epson Portland is *extremely* pleased and honored to announce its selection as the winner of the *BEST Award for Sustainability* in the Large Company category from the City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability.

Standing for “Businesses for an Environmentally Sustainable Tomorrow,” the BEST award is perhaps the most prestigious external recognition EPI has received since earning the *Recycler of the Year* award from the Association of Oregon Recyclers in 2002. Selection was based on an extensive written application that considered all aspects of EPI’s environmental stewardship and evaluation by a panel of over a dozen distinguished judges, including representatives from past winning companies.

EPI was fortunate enough to have won a BEST Award back in 2000, shortly after announcing its decision to send zero waste to landfill, however at that time the award was a bit more narrowly focused on waste reduction and recycling efforts. This year’s award was based on the company’s entire system of sustainability, including Salmon-Safe certification, purchasing 15% of its electricity from wind generation facilities, reusing waste plastic to produce new ink cartridge parts, reusing non-potable water from its water purification process as flush water for toilets, and removing HEPA filters from its cleanroom and replacing them with low pressure drop/high efficiency filters to save well over half a million kilowatts of electricity per year.

This is the 17th year of the BEST

Awards, and it is amazing how the event has grown. In the beginning, there were no more than about 50 people in attendance, but at this year’s event, held appropriately on Earth Day (Wednesday, April 22), there were more than 600 people filling the grand ballroom at the Hilton Hotel in downtown Portland.

Mayor Sam Adams confirmed to the crowd that Portland is indeed the most sustainable city in the U.S., and is consistently ranked among the top cities in the world for its environmental efforts.

“Portland’s early leadership has drawn the best talent to create a confluence of expertise, fueling local innovation in sustainable design, production and clean technology,” the Mayor explained. “It’s the innovators of today that help set that bar higher and higher for tomorrow’s companies--innovators and entrepreneurs like this year’s BEST Award winners.”

Pulitzer Prize-winning *New York Times* journalist Nicholas Kristof was the event’s keynote speaker, skillfully addressing the audience about climate change and its effect on all living things.

Following Mr. Kristof’s speech, Mayor Adams and Portland City Commissioner Dan Saltzman revealed the winners of this year’s BEST awards in the categories of Sustainable Food Systems; Sustainable Products or Services; Green Building New Construction/Major Renovation and Tenant Improvement; and Best Practices for Sustainability for Very Small, Small, Medium and Large companies. Ten winners were announced from among 77 applicant companies; Epson was the sole winner in its category.



From left: EPI’s environmental specialist Kimberley Sackman and public relations representative Beth Graser hold the BEST Award for Sustainability - Large Companies. *Photo credit: Sally Painter, City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability.*

For more information about the BEST Award, visit www.portlandonline.com/osd/index.cfm?c=41891