

# Government Users of Biobased Products Again Recognized by White House Environmental Stewardship Award

## Several “Closing the Circle” Award Winners Use Soy-Based Products

Biobased products, many made with soybean oil, were recognized in a new category of their own during the presentation of this year’s prestigious White House “Closing the Circle” Awards at a ceremony June 10.

The winners in the biobased products category were: U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Beltsville (MD) Agricultural Research Center (BARC) and the Department of Defense, Defense Energy Support Center (DESC), Fort Belvoir, VA.

In addition to the two winners in the biobased products category, soy-based products played a role in the overall environmental stewardship efforts of several other award winners. The winners are using millions of gallons of biodiesel as well as a wide variety of biobased cleaning supplies, lubricants, soy-based carpet backing and much more.

“Use of biobased products is an excellent way for the government to lead by example,” said Federal Environmental Executive John L. Howard, Jr.

### Department of Agriculture, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC), Beltsville, MD Facilities Management & Operations Division, Biobased Products Program at Beltsville Agricultural Research Center

BARC is winning its third Closing Circle award in a row. It uses biodiesel (B20—20 percent biodiesel and 80 percent diesel) in all its diesel-powered vehicles and tractors/mowers, backup generators and as heating oil for several buildings. In addition, BARC has held seminars for federal, state and local officials on the benefits of biodiesel and has conducted workshops at federal fleet and clean air conferences. These efforts have resulted in more agencies switching to biodiesel. In addition to biodiesel, BARC also uses a number of other biobased products including: soy-backed carpet; 2-cycle oil; gear lubricant;

hydraulic fluids for tractors; lithium grease for high-pressure applications; anti-wear hydraulic oil; chainsaw bar and chain lubricant; oil cutter; penetrating fluid; power steering fluid; engine oil; hand cleaners; parts cleaners and metal cleaners.

### Department of Defense, Defense Energy Support Center (DESC), Fort Belvoir, VA; DESC Product Technology and Standardization Division and Ground Fuels Division Promotion of the Use of Biobased Fuels in the Federal Government

Under the leadership of Ms. Pam Serino, of the DESC Product Technology and Standardization Division, DESC has actively promoted the use of biobased fuels within the federal government. DESC is the largest single purchaser of

“We are pleased to recognize these Closing the Circle Award winners that showcase so many successful applications of environmentally preferable biobased products.”

More than 40 categories of biobased products – made from natural, renewable, domestically produced resources like soybean oil – are available in the marketplace today. The United Soybean Board (USB) — supported by funding from the soybean checkoff — has helped to lay the foundation for increased use of soy-based bioproducts, both in government and private industry, by investing in research and testing on new uses for these products and educational outreach to government procurement officials.

“We are thrilled that the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive recognized the environmental contributions of biobased products and created a new award category to encourage greater use of these products,” said United Soybean Board Domestic Marketing Committee Chair Janice Peterson. “This kind of spotlight showcases the environmental and health benefits of biobased products as well as their ability to perform.”

biodiesel. The agency has led the way for the military services and federal civilian organizations in the procurement of biodiesel (B20) and ethanol (E85). The DESC team developed a procurement clause for B20. This clause has had an extremely positive impact on the procurement of biodiesel across the country. It is being used by the federal government as well as state and local governments, and quoted by diesel engine manufacturers. The Government Services Agency has now approved the use of B20 in government-leased vehicles if the fuel is procured by DESC. In a period of three years, the federal government has gone from using almost no biobased fuels to requirements totaling approximately 6 million gallons (B20 and E85). The current yearly contracts total approximately 5.4 million gallons of B20 and 80,000 gallons of E85.

## **AFFIRMATIVE PROCUREMENT**

### **Department of Defense, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH Team Wright-Patt; Affirmative Procurement at Wright-Patterson AFB**

Since June of 2002, the base has been using biodiesel (B20) in all diesel-powered general purpose military vehicles. Wright-Patterson is the second base in the Air Force Material Command to use biodiesel and purchases an average of 20,00 gallons/month. In 2002, the Fuels Branch purchased 138,858 gallons of biodiesel. The base plans to expand the use of biobased products in the future to include the use of 2-cycle engine oil.

### **Department of Interior, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6, Regional Office and Field Stations in MT, WY, CO, UT, ND, SD, NE, KS**

#### **James J. Behrmann, Green Procurement**

Mr. Behrmann has provided the guidance and funds needed to use soy-based biodiesel (B20) at the facilities in Montana. Three facilities are now using biodiesel and one is using a soy-based lubricant. Other facilities are looking into purchasing biodiesel.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL PREFERABILITY**

### **Committee for Purchase from People who are Blind or Severely Disabled, Federal Buildings, Washington, DC**

#### **JWOD Partnership**

Nominated by the Department of the Interior, the Committee's cooperation with ten non-profit organizations affiliated with the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act, has led to the use of environmentally preferable products — the Green Seal certified Enviro Care line — in over 20 million square feet of federal office space,

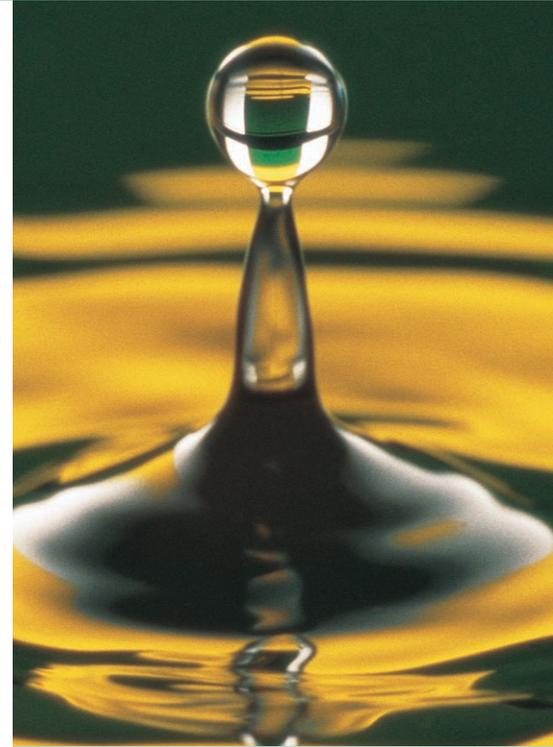
improving indoor air quality for as many as 90,000 federal employees in the Washington, DC area. These products are not only safer for employees who work in the buildings, but also for the custodial workers who use them and for the environment. Among the biobased products used is a soy-based cleaner/degreaser. These products are packaged by blind workers at the Lighthouse for the Blind plant in St. Louis, MO.

### **Department of the Interior, Pacific West Region, National Park Service, Multiple Parks and Offices in the Pacific West Region**

#### **Sonya J. Capek, Tools to Promote Environmental Purchasing**

Ms. Capek has developed an environmental purchasing program in the National Park Service, Pacific West Region (PWR), including tools to help educate and promote environmental purchasing. The "Green Janitorial Products & Practices Guide" includes a list of non-toxic cleaning products and practices, vendors, GSA availability and Green Seal standards. The "100+ Best Management Practices Guide" defines what a "green park looks like" from basic to advanced practices in a variety of environmental subjects. The "Environmental Purchasing in the National Park Service - a How-To Guide" is the first such handbook developed for the NPS. It is a "one stop shopping" for environmental purchasing and contracting, and includes an Affirmative Procurement Plan. Also developed were product reports for topics such as environmentally preferable paint and carpet. The Guides promote the use of biobased products, such as those made from soybean oil, in park operations.

The Guides have been distributed to the 56 National Parks in the PWR and beyond.



*The "Closing the Circle" Awards program was established by Executive Order 13101, "Greening the Government Through Waste Prevention, Recycling, and Federal Acquisition," to expand and strengthen the Federal government's commitment to waste prevention, recycling and buying recycled content and environmentally preferable products and services, including biobased products. The Awards recognize government agency's and their employees' efforts to have a positive impact on the environment. This year, 26 winners were chosen from more than 200 nominations. More information about all of the winners can be found on the web at: [www.ofee.gov](http://www.ofee.gov).*