



N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVE CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

RALEIGH – The N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources will celebrate the 10-year anniversary of its Environmental Stewardship Initiative by recognizing the newest members of the program during a meeting tomorrow on the main campus of National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences in Research Triangle Park.

ESI member facilities from across the state will gather at NIEHS on March 23 to hear presentations from the state's two most recent facilities to achieve Environmental Steward, the highest level of ESI. They are John Deere Turf Care of Fuquay Varina, and Thomas Built Buses of High Point. Stewards are recognized for their superior environmental performance, commitment to continued reduction of environmental impact and demonstrated commitment to exceed compliance.

The ESI program currently has 128 member sites located in 56 counties across the state, representing a broad array of industry sectors including: pharmaceutical; manufacturers; agribusiness; local, state and federal government agencies; schools and universities. The program consists of three levels: Partners, Rising Stewards and Stewards, the highest level of achievement. This year, the program has grown to 16 Stewards, 13 Rising Stewards, and 99 Partner sites.

DENR Secretary Dee Freeman tomorrow will recognize the following new members for their commitment to environmental improvement. This year's five new Environmental Partners – B/E Aerospace, Crown Equipment, Daimler Trucks North America – Mt Holly, Haw River State Park, and Performance Fibers – will be acknowledged for their commitment to compliance, environmental performance goals and development of an environmental management system.

Bridgestone Bandag of Oxford will also be recognized at this meeting for achieving the Rising Steward level. Rising Stewards demonstrate a mature environmental management system and measurable environmental goals.

ESI members make a formal public commitment to environmental reductions when they join the program. Over the 10 years that the program has existed, members of this DENR-sponsored initiative saved more than three billion gallons of water; 40,000,000 million BTUs of energy; 231 million gallons of wastewater; 421,000 tons of landfill waste; 1,300 tons of air emissions; and 780 tons of hazardous waste. Total financial savings reported by the facilities based on environmental reductions is nearly \$37 million dollars to date.

The Key Note address will be given by William G. Ross, Jr. from Brooks Pierce LLC. Ross formerly was the Secretary of DENR and was instrumental in creating the ESI.

For more detailed information or to see a complete list of members and a map of facility sites, please visit the Environmental Stewardship Initiative Web site at <http://www.ncesi.org>. You may also contact Julie Woosley at (919) 707-8113 or julie.woosley@ncdenr.gov; or Angela Barger at (919) 707-8126 or angela.barger@ncdenr.gov.

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