

GSA Recognizes Evergreen Companies

GSA honors innovative, green businesses for commitment to environment

Adapted from a press release

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) recently honored four businesses with an Evergreen Award. GSA's Integrated Workplace Acquisition Center developed the Evergreen Award Program in 1998 to annually recognize the efforts of partners who have environmentally friendly businesses.

A total of 25 businesses were considered for the 2010 Evergreen Award. The award was presented to one business in each of four categories.

"These companies have done an outstanding job of making environmentally friendly options available to our federal customers and are committed to helping us reduce waste and save taxpayer dollars," said Regional Administrator David H. Ehrenwerth. "We are honored to partner with companies that help us to green the government's supply chain while creating a more sustainable environment and building a greener future."

Sustainable playgrounds

Play Mart Inc., a manufacturer of recycled plastic commercial playground equipment, received the



2010 Evergreen Award in the Sports and Recreation category. Play Mart, a woman- and family-owned small business that provides jobs in rural Kentucky, manufactures 100 percent recycled plastic playground equipment and site amenities, keeping millions of jugs and bottles out of landfills. Almost all of the company's manufacturing waste and more than 75 percent of the company's operation waste is recycled.

The company's Take Back program ensures that the company's products are reused and recycled and don't end up in landfills. In 2010, the company

also eliminated its shop lighting and replaced it with an energy-efficient system of zoned and motion-detected fluorescent lighting. This change has provided an energy savings of nearly 7,000 kilowatt-hours per month, which is equivalent to providing enough energy to power 20 three-bedroom houses annually.

The Evergreen Award itself "closes the recycling loop," as the actual award is crafted out of recycled glass. The award sets a high standard for other business partners to follow and is an example of how the federal government and businesses can work together. ■