



For Immediate Release

October 20, 2005

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Governor Blagojevich Recognizes Illinois Businesses and Organizations for Achievements in Pollution Prevention

SPRINGFIELD – Governor Rod R. Blagojevich recognized Solvent Systems International (SSI) for their significant achievements in protecting the environment and for their assistance in boosting the economy by naming SSI's Grease Gator Aqueous Parts Washer a winner of the Governor's Pollution Prevention Award.

The Grease Gator is a water-based parts washer with a patented built-in fluid purifier. The Grease Gator splits oil from its cleaning solution enabling quick removal of the used oil that keeps the non-hazardous cleaning solution constantly clean. The Grease Gator eliminates the need for hazardous solvents and slashes parts cleaning costs. It has been proven in independent tests to clean 57 percent faster than mineral spirits while it reduces volatile organic compounds (VOC) emissions by 99.5% (VOCs facilitate the creation of greenhouse gases). Further, the Grease Gator eliminates 1,000 pounds of organic waste per year for each mineral spirits parts washer replaced. And by making used oil recovery easy, the Grease Gator creates a material resource that customers can use as is for a heating oil or can directly sell for recycling.

The Grease Gator is responsible for significant reductions in VOC emissions. Specifically, the Grease Gator reduced annual nationwide VOC emissions by 490,000 lbs. And use of the Grease Gator has resulted in substantial cost savings for industry in the areas of chemicals, labor, and maintenance. Nationwide, over \$465,000 was saved.

"These companies and organizations have led the way in finding and using innovative ways of reducing waste and protecting the environment," Gov. Blagojevich said. "They have made an ongoing commitment to pollution prevention practices that, in the long run, are good for them, their employees, their communities and all of us in Illinois. They have shown us that conserving raw materials and preventing waste and pollution helps them retain and create jobs, benefiting our state's economy."

The 19th annual Governor's Pollution Prevention Awards were presented during a luncheon hosted by the Waste Management and Research Center (WMRC), a division of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR).

"I join the Governor in applauding the accomplishments of these award winners in reducing and recycling waste to help us conserve valuable natural resources while keeping our land, air and water clean," said IDNR Director Joel Brunsvold.

The Pollution Prevention (P2) projects recognized through the Governor's Pollution Prevention Awards program produced millions of dollars of savings in material and disposal costs. The award winners worked to prevent hundred of tons of waste materials from being released into the environment and saved millions of gallons of waste water from being sent to treatment facilities.

"We were impressed again with the variety and quality of the projects undertaken by the winning companies," said George Vander Velde, WMRC Director. "These business and organizations have proven that pollution prevention makes good sense for the environmental and economic health of Illinois. They have achieved their pollution prevention goals and saved millions of dollars in pollution control, waste disposal, energy and raw material costs."

SSI, located in Elk Grove Village IL, is an expert in beneficial reuse, industrial waste recycling and pollution prevention.