

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Environmental Protection Division

Small Business Environmental Assistance Program

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Georgia Concrete and Products Association Receives Environmental Stewardship Award

Atlanta, June 12, 2009 – Georgia Concrete and Products Association (GC&PA) has received a national environmental award recognizing exemplary performance and leadership by a trade association to enhance its members' compliance with environmental regulations and to encourage "going beyond compliance" by implementing environmental best management practices and conservation programs.

The 2009 Environmental Stewardship award was given by the National Steering Committee for the Small Business Ombudsman/Small Business Environmental Assistance Programs (SBO/SBEAPs) in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Gordon Kenna, GC&PA director, accepted the award on behalf of the association at the 16th Annual National SBO/SBEAP conference in Louisville, Kentucky on June 3.

Small Business Environmental Assistance Programs help small businesses all over the country comply with environmental regulations through one-on-one technical assistance, education and outreach. The Georgia Small Business Environmental Assistance Program, part of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, nominated GC&PA for the award based on its dedication to helping the state's ready-mix concrete producers understand their environmental regulatory requirements.

Georgia SBEAP and GC&PA have collaborated on several environmental initiatives, including the development of two environmental compliance workshops for ready-mix concrete producers and the creation of a brochure on best practices for managing washout water from concrete trucks. More than 3,000 of the brochures have been distributed statewide to homebuilders, developers, concrete truck drivers and state and local enforcement officials

"I can't tell you how important this type of outreach and training is to our members," said Kenna. "This type of training is exactly what the industry needs. Many of our members want to do the right thing but are afraid to ask for help for fear that their operations will be targeted for inspection. We are proud of the award and proud to be a part of these types of environmental initiatives. What I have learned through this experience is that the majority of good business practices are grounded in environmental responsibility and sustainability."

GC&PA members continue to look for ways to promote environmental responsibility. For example, the association is currently leading an effort to work with its members to collect empty polyethylene tanks at concrete plants to use as rainwater harvesting vessels for local environmental organizations including Trees Atlanta, Marietta Tree Keepers and the Atlanta Parks Department. The tanks will be kept out of landfills and will reduce the cost of watering urban green spaces.

"This award represents a successful collaboration between the regulated community and EPD," said Teresa Shiflett, program manager and ombudsman for Georgia SBEAP. "GC&PA provided the bridge of trust needed to achieve EPD's mission: *pursuing a sustainable environment that provides a foundation for a vibrant economy and healthy communities*. Georgia SBEAP could not have completed these initiatives without the support of GC&PA and its industry members."

GC&PA, based in Tucker, Georgia, represents the leading firms in Georgia's concrete industry. For more information on GC&PA, contact Gordon Kenna at (770) 621-9324 or visit www.gcpa.org. For more information about the Georgia Small Business Environmental Assistance Program, contact Rachel Cochran, public affairs coordinator, at (404) 362-4842.