

PRESS RELEASE

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Local Organizations Honored with 2010 Emerald Award for Innovation

Columbus, OH - May 13, 2010 The Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO) held its fifth annual Central Ohio Emerald Awards luncheon today at the Aladdin Shrine Center. The luncheon honored local individuals, businesses, and organizations in the areas of Entrepreneurship, Environmental Education, Leadership, Litter Clean-Up, Partnership, Innovation, and the new Young & Green youth award, honoring students ages 12-18.

TechSolve and a large network of partners, including the City of Columbus, American Electric Power, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Commerce, and U.S. Department of Energy were awarded SWACO's 2010 Emerald Award for Innovation for their work on the E3 initiative. E3, which stands for Economy, Energy, and the Environment, helps manufacturers cut waste and promote green business practices. The program is a model for collaboration among manufacturers, utilities, local government, and federal resources.

The E3 collaboration was judged on five criteria, including patent and commercialization potential, scope of potential impact, challenges overcome, educational potential, and program replication. It was awarded on its promise to significantly improve the effectiveness of waste reduction in Central Ohio. In fact, E3's "Lean & Clean" audits, the centerpiece of the E3 program, are designed to identify cost savings through waste and waste disposal cost reduction, energy efficiency, and carbon emission reduction. These audits have already been replicated at six Columbus area companies in E3's pilot program. These companies, Central Ohio Welding, G&J Pepsi, Hirschvogel, Arcelor Mittal, TimberTech, and Crane Plastics, have identified 10,000 tons of potential CO2 emission reductions, as well as environmental savings of more than \$3 million annually.

"E3 is innovation at its finest and we are honored to be part of this award-winning program," said TechSolve Executive Vice President David Couchot. "The results from E3 can become a blueprint to renew Ohio businesses. Our goal for this initiative at TechSolve is to manage the local waste stream with an eye toward economic development that will benefit the region. E3's goal is to develop sustainable companies in the U.S., and the E3 model is a strong toolset to support this initiative. It really advances the idea that environmental stewardship can work hand-in-hand with sound business practices."

Through the Department of Commerce's NIST Hollings Manufacturing Extension Program, E3 is now being implemented in other states including Georgia, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Washington, and Wisconsin. For more information on E3 in Ohio, please contact Mr. David Couchot at 513-948-2000.