

the game-changer for IEP and revolutionize water treatment across the globe.

Resource Conservation/Pollution Prevention

Sonderen Packaging, Spokane

www.sonderen.com

[@Sonderen1](https://twitter.com/Sonderen1)



This family-owned business in Spokane is celebrating more than 50 years in operation as the third generation prepares to take over leadership. As makers of custom folding cartons, they demonstrate environmental sustainability in both their materials acquisition and their manufacturing practices. They work with suppliers who are equally committed to preserving and enhancing the environment — and have the certifications to prove it. They use recycled paperboard as well as virgin paperboard harvested from Forest Stewardship Council certified forests. Sonderen uses soy-based printing inks, water-based coatings and alcohol-free foundation solutions. They reuse printing plates for reprint jobs, saving on chemicals, materials and energy. What waste they generate is neutralized and reduced. A solvent distillation unit allows Sonderen to recycle 90 percent of its solvents and reduce waste hauling by 95 percent. The bottom line is that all products that Sonderen manufactures are recyclable and fully sustainable — which means that as Americans continue to go green, they have an environmentally friendly producer of paperboard boxes ready to keep the cycle going.

Award videos created and produced by:



About the Association of Washington Business

Formed in 1904, the Association of Washington Business is Washington's oldest and largest statewide business association, and includes more than 8,100 members representing 700,000 employees. AWB serves as both the state's chamber of commerce and the manufacturing and technology association. While its membership includes major employers like Boeing, Microsoft and Weyerhaeuser, 90 percent of AWB members employ fewer than 100 people. More than half of AWB's members employ fewer than 10. For more about AWB, visit www.awb.org.

2014

Environmental Excellence Awards Celebrating 22 Years of Excellence



May 13, 2014 ■ 11:45 a.m. ■ The Davenport Hotel, Spokane

Agenda

Welcome: Mel Russell, Chair of the Board, AWB
Guest Speaker: Tom Malone, President & CEO
MicroGREEN Polymers, Inc.

Awards Presentation: Kris Johnson, President, AWB

Awards Sponsored By:



About the Awards

AWB's annual Environmental Excellence Awards recognize member companies of all sizes and types across the state for their initiative, innovation and outstanding achievements in environmental compliance, protection and conservation.

Environmental Innovator

MacDonald-Miller Facility Solutions, Seattle

www.macmiller.com

[@MacDonaldMiller](https://twitter.com/MacDonaldMiller)



MacDonald-Miller Facility Solutions, Inc. is an innovator in a crucial aspect of environmental innovations — they develop creative financing that can get clients over the capital investment hurdle. Their “on-bill” collection and financing model, developed with Seattle Steam Company, allows investments with no up-front cost that are guaranteed to deliver results in year one. The Seattle Renaissance Hotel is just one client using this energy retrofit model. For nonprofits, the Sustainable Energy Trust, developed with the Energy Efficiency Finance Corporation, allows similar upgrades with no upfront cost. Many other products and services help reduce costs and increase efficiency, including meter-based energy reporting and verification that takes the mystery out of energy savings by accounting for variations in weather, occupancy, utility rates and space utilization. Put together, these investments are proving very worthwhile: MacDonald-Miller's energy efficiency projects save building owners in the Puget Sound region more than \$2.1 million per year and reduce carbon emissions by 17,724 metric tons annually.

Environmental Innovator

MicroGREEN Polymers, Inc., Arlington

🌐 www.microgreeninc.com

🐦 [@InCycleCup](https://twitter.com/InCycleCup)



MicroGREEN Polymers was born through innovative research at the University of Washington and is quickly turning the foodservice industry on its head. MicroGREEN recycles plastic — including plastic water bottles — into cups that are themselves recyclable. Their patented Ad-Air process emits no volatile organic compounds during manufacture. Their products require 50 percent less source material than competing products. The cups are highly insulated (better than double-walled paper) and much lighter than your normal “disposable” coffee cup. That matters for customers such as Alaska Airlines, one of many airlines to quickly sign up for as many cups as MicroGREEN can deliver. The beverage cup industry is a \$7 billion market eager to use the InCycle leakproof, unbreakable, made-in-America, all-recycled, fully recyclable cup.

Environmental Rising Star

Ag Energy Solutions, Spokane

🌐 www.agenergy-solutions.com



Ag Energy Solutions is creating renewable biomass energy generation systems designed to add value — and eliminate carbon emissions — from the field residue produced by wheat and other crops. The company is in the development stage for products that use field residue to produce electricity for use on the farm or for selling back into the grid, along with heat for feedstock drying or other applications. The systems will also create bio-char, a type of charcoal that sequesters carbon when placed back into the soil, while at the same time increasing soil health and reducing fertilizer applications. Bio-char can also be sold to the mining industry for reclamation or for use as potting soil in greenhouses. The company is focusing its early efforts on wheat farmers in Whitman County and the Palouse, but they hope to eventually bring their product — and its energy-producing, greenhouse-gas-reducing potential — to the world.

Sustainable Communities

Batdorf & Bronson Coffee Roasters, Olympia

🌐 www.batdorfcoffee.com

🐦 [@BatdorfCoffee](https://twitter.com/BatdorfCoffee)



From the shade-grown, bird-friendly farms where their coffee beans are organically grown to the ecologically sustainable facilities where they are roasted and served, Batdorf & Bronson is a green company through and through. This Olympia-based company has built environmental consciousness into its business since it was founded as the Dancing Goats Coffee Bar in 1988. They collect the thin layer of “chaff” on the outside of the coffee bean for use as mulch by local gardeners, thus converting 10,000 gallons of waste into new topsoil. Batdorf powers office computers with rooftop solar panels, provides bicycles for employees to ride for in-town trips and commutes, and pays extra for fully compostable cups at its seven locations in Washington and Georgia. They were the nation’s first 100 percent green-powered coffee roaster with all locations purchasing green energy tags or the equivalent. They installed compact fluorescent lights in their retail stores 10 years ago, and last year upgraded again to LEDs. The environmental benefits help the business, too: replacing their metal halide warehouse lights with T5 fluorescence cuts energy use by 20,000 kilowatts and saves the company \$150 a month.

Virginia Mason Medical Center, Seattle

🌐 www.virginiamason.org

🐦 [@VirginiaMason](https://twitter.com/VirginiaMason)



Health care facilities are like small cities, providing food, water, shelter and care to patients and team members around the clock. Virginia Mason Medical Center is focused on reducing resource usage and lowering environmental impact. These conservation efforts — nicknamed “EnviroMason” — save almost 8 million kilowatt hours of electricity each year, enough to power 824 homes. They save more than 7 million gallons of water a year — enough to fill more than 10 Olympic-sized swimming pools. Last year they diverted 43 percent of their solid waste from the landfill, well above the industry standard of 31 percent. They do this in many ways. In 2007 Virginia Mason became the first hospital in the Northwest to compost food waste. Soon after, it achieved another “first” by implementing a recycling program in its operating rooms. They continue to innovate. Last year alone the medical center hired a full-time sustainability director, was named a Practice Green Health Partner with distinction, and was recognized by Becker’s Hospital Review as one of the 50 greenest hospitals in the nation.

Leading Environmental Practices

Canyon Creek Cabinet Company, Monroe

🌐 www.canyoncreek.com

🐦 [@canyoncreekcomp](https://twitter.com/canyoncreekcomp)



Canyon Creek is a state and national leader in environmental sustainability. The company’s cabinets meet some of the strictest environmental rules in the world, from Japan’s 4-Star certification to the California Air Resources Board requirements. The company has upgraded its 2006-era trucks with newer, cleaner models that are Clean Idle Certified. Canyon Creek Cabinet Company helped create the Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturers Association’s Environmental Stewardship Program and in 2006 was the first cabinet company awarded the ESP certificate for voluntarily going above and beyond to development of environmentally friendly products. Canyon Creek is a member of the By-Product Synergy Northwest group, which brings innovative companies together to turn waste into resources — including new products. The company helped create www.materialsinnovationexchange.com, which allows companies to buy, sell or trade industrial byproducts. In one case, Canyon Creek saves \$10,000 a year by buying clean, used rags from a sheet metal fabricator in Kent. They also process used solvent and sell it to other companies for cleaning metal products — turning hazardous waste into new and useful products. Other companies have followed Canyon Creek’s lead and have installed similar equipment.

Green Enterprise & Technology

Inland Empire Paper Company, Spokane

🌐 www.iepco.com



Inland Empire Paper Co. is a forest products company that depends on the sustainability of its renewable resources, so environmental stewardship is at the core of its operations. While IEP has long been a leader in green technology, environmental standards are expanding faster than technology solutions have developed. With no options commercially available to meet new stringent water quality criteria, IEP is creating its own. In partnership with a Montana-based biotech company, IEP is designing a water treatment system that uses algae to remove nutrients to ultra-low levels. The algae not only cleans the water of nutrients, it also sequesters carbon and creates useful by-products that include pure oxygen and biomass useful for making plastics, fertilizers, fuels or even nutritional supplements. This process is in the developmental phase and could be