

GM Baltimore Operations

GM Baltimore Operations, located in White Marsh, MD, manufactures the two-mode hybrid drive train, and starting next year will manufacture electric motors for hybrids and electric vehicles.

GM Baltimore Operations is our first repeat award winner. They were awarded one of the first Maryland Green Registry Leadership Awards in 2010 and the fact that they are being recognized again two years later is a testament to their commitment to continual improvement. They have successfully expanded upon ongoing environmental objectives, but also took on an entirely new set of goals and initiatives in 2011 including:

- Installation of a rooftop solar panel array as well as a solar panel electric vehicle charging station to charge employee vehicles;
- New community outreach projects including a partnership with local schools testing the quality of local rivers lakes and streams, and a project with the Boy Scouts building bird houses;
- Certification by the Wildlife Habitat Council for enhancing the wildlife habitat around the plant grounds which involved planting over 200 native trees and shrubs;
- Significant reduction in energy consumption through more energy efficient plant lighting and ongoing employee training; and a
- Significant increase in the amount and type of materials recycled.

GM has achieved these results through annual goal setting, the use of environmental metrics which are reviewed monthly, an active Green Team, and the recognition of employee environmental champions.

JBS International, Inc.

JBS International, Inc, headquartered in North Bethesda, provides management and information technology services to the public and private sector. JBS stands as a model example of what organizations with just commercial office space can do to reduce their environmental footprint. It starts with choosing an office location and for JBS accessibility to public transportation was a major criterion. Their current location is just blocks from a metro station.

JBS has also incorporated environmental responsibility into their corporate culture by creating and empowering their green team. The Green Team has spearheaded a number of their practices including:

- Providing all new employees as part of company orientation a handout that describes their efforts and invites employees to join the Green Team;
- Hosting brown bag lunch presentations with experts and providing information at managers meetings and through the company intranet;

- Presenting a Green Employee Award every six months in recognition of green living practices in both personal and work life;
- Making efforts to reuse old computers and furniture by offering used equipment to employees at bargain prices;
- Setting standards for green purchasing and green meetings;
- Adopting incentives to reduce the impacts of employee commute, travel to business meetings and the efficient operation of their fleet vehicles; and finally
- Implementation of a successful composting program that has resulted in over 12 tons of compostable waste being diverted from landfills over the course of one year.

Life Technologies

Life Technologies, is a global biotechnology company with a facility located in Frederick. It is one of two US-based biotechnology companies listed on the Dow Jones Sustainability Index.

Life Technologies has an active Green Committee that meets monthly and achieves its success through annual goal setting, consistent monthly measurement, environmental sustainability behavior audits to identify what's working and what needs improvement, ongoing employee training, and the recognition of employees through Environmental Leadership Awards. Life Technologies has also achieved their environmental successes through their own research and development of solutions that allows them to outperform their competitors. Some of their outstanding goals and accomplishments include:

- A corporate goal to reduce their carbon footprint by 25% by 2012. This has translated to specific annual energy, water, and CO₂ emission reductions goals at the Frederick site that have been accomplished through lighting upgrades and process and equipment changes;
- A commitment to green chemistry principles including reformulation of their products to make them non-hazardous as well as a substantial reduction of hazardous waste generation through systematic analysis of their lab protocols;
- Elimination of the use of radioactive materials;
- Design of new products that allows them to be shipped at ambient temperature rather than requiring frozen coolers;
- Successful and ongoing efforts to reduce, re-design and reuse packaging and coolers through a customer return program, as well as a significant reduction in dry ice consumption.
- A Race to Zero waste campaign challenging each building to reduce waste and increase recycling. The Frederick facility is proud to report that it is recycling 76% of its waste.

Lucy School

The Lucy School, an arts-based school and teacher training center for students in preschool through fourth grade, is located on a 17-acre farm in Middletown and was recently named a national Green Ribbon School.

- The school is housed in a LEED Platinum building. All beams, decking and trim are from reused material and 86% of the construction waste was recycled. The building is energy efficient taking advantage of passive solar gains and walls that are heavily insulated with recycled newspaper and denim.
- Food served at the school is primarily from local organic farms and some is grown at the school's own gardens.
- The school produces very little solid waste – students bring lunches in reusable containers, organic waste is composted, and much of everything else is recycled.
- The Lucy School has also been recognized for two consecutive years for planting more trees than any other school in the state.

The school is not resting on its laurels, however, but plans to expand its solar panel assembly, which currently supplies 42% of the school's electrical needs, and install a second geothermal system.

Staples, Inc.

Staples, which has distribution centers located in Hanover and Hagerstown, as well as retail locations around the state was ranked second in the retail industry in Newsweek's Top 500 Green Companies in 2011. The company continues to push forward in many key areas of environmental performance including:

- A Race to the Top partnership with their top suppliers to reduce chemicals of concern in both products and packaging;
- Significant reductions in their packaging material;
- Documented progress toward their goal of 50% carbon emissions by 2020 from a 2010 baseline;
- Expansion of the number of locations that are certified Energy Star buildings;
- Continued commitment to solar power through power purchase agreements with SunEdison. Staples hosts 36 rooftop solar power systems including more than 2.7 MW of solar capacity in Maryland with a rooftop solar array at the Hanover distribution center and a ground-mounted solar system at the Hagerstown distribution center;
- Staples is also working to reduce the impact of its delivery fleet. Fuel conservation efforts include limiting the top speed of their trucks to 60 mph and installing idle-limiting equipment. They are continuing efforts to optimize delivery routes and are expanding their fleet of plug-in electric vehicles. Staples also has a "zero emission" all-electric truck that is the first of its kind in the industry.