

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality 2017 Governor's Environmental Excellence Award Winners

The 2017 Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards were announced on April 4, 2017 at the 28th Environment Virginia Symposium in Lexington. The awards recognized the significant contributions of environmental and conservation leaders in four categories: sustainability, environmental project, land conservation and implementation of the Virginia Outdoors Plan. They are given to businesses and industrial facilities, not-for-profit organizations, and government agencies.

Piedmont Geriatric Hospital in partnership with Virginia Center for Behavioral Rehabilitation *Renewable Energy Program Environmental Project – Gold Medal*

The Piedmont Geriatric Hospital (PGH) has partnered with the Virginia Center for Behavioral Rehabilitation (VCBR)[and FDC Enterprises] to provide heat to both facilities. The PGH operates a boiler that previously used wood waste, supplemented by fuel oil when wood was no longer sufficient, to produce steam that delivered heat. PGH established a new way to obtain heat by using locally grown herbaceous biomass (native grasses) as a feedstock, in collaboration with FDC Enterprises and the Conservation Management Institute at Virginia Tech. Before the project was implemented there were years of testing and evaluation of methods for delivering and processing material through the existing feed and boiler systems. The new feedstock consisted of native warm season grasses that provide benefits in water quality protection, wildlife habitat and soil restoration. By reducing the use of fuel oil and switching to the use of the herbaceous biomass, the project supports local farms in Southside Virginia. This has also resulted in an increase in wildlife habitat and a reduction of 5,292 tons of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere as well as 3.67 metric tons of CO₂e/acre-year sequestered in soils. This conversion has created a rural economic boost and employment opportunities. The total savings since 2011 has been \$540,133 which was the result of reduced fuel oil consumption by 517,296 gallons. The cost of fuel oil is approximately twice as much as the cost of grass biomass needed to produce an equal amount of steam.



This program provides other businesses with an outline for how small facilities can switch to renewable energy in heat delivery systems. Other facilities have reviewed information by PGH to evaluate the possibility of switching to renewable biomass.



2017 GOVERNOR'S ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

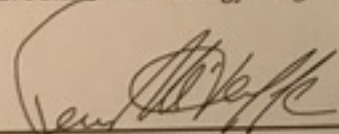
Piedmont Geriatric Hospital and the Virginia Center for Behavioral Rehabilitation

WHEREAS, Article XI of the Constitution of Virginia states that "it shall be the Commonwealth's policy to protect its atmosphere, lands, and waters from pollution, impairment, or destruction, for the benefit, enjoyment, and general welfare of the people of the Commonwealth;" and

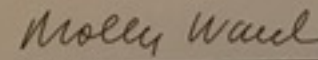
WHEREAS, the Commonwealth seeks to recognize those who have demonstrated leadership, innovation, and commitment to implement pollution prevention practices to reduce environmental impacts and improve our natural environment; and

WHEREAS, pollution prevention is a cost-effective and environmentally sound approach to environmental management that strives to eliminate or reduce pollution at its source by minimizing the use of energy, water, and other natural resources through increased efficiency and conservation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Terence R. McAuliffe, Governor, do recognize Piedmont Geriatric Hospital and the Virginia Center for Behavioral Rehabilitation as Gold Medal recipients of the 2017 Governor's Environmental Excellence Award for their demonstrated commitment to the stewardship of Virginia's natural resources through their collaborative Renewable Energy Program.



Governor



Secretary of Natural Resources

Piedmont Geriatric Hospital in partnership with Virginia Center for Behavioral Rehabilitation Renewable Energy Program



To date the Commonwealth's Piedmont Geriatric Hospital is the only facility in America utilizing SG as their primary fuel source.



"This project is an example of how properly planned and executed community based and community sized power generation can enhance local community economies, utilizing locally produced biofuel and, at the same time, enhance water quality, wildlife habitat and land conservation." Steven Thomas USDOE



FDC Enterprises, Inc.
Conservation & Bioenergy