



Environmental **Newsletter**

Prepared by WG Environment

ENL N° 23/10

Environmental Award

1- Summary

EIGA Working Group 5 – has produced this newsletter to share with EIGA members the learning and best practices highlighted in the Environmental award nominations. In 2008 EIGA received 18 award nominations that cover a range of best practices.

2- Introduction

The **EIGA Environmental Award** was established in 2008 (EIGA IGC Document 903/09 EIGA Safety and Environmental Award Scheme) and its aim is to recognize EIGA members for Environmental Excellence. Recognition for an EIGA award for member companies can be for sites, teams, or individuals. The program also enables EIGA to identify and share best practices as well as promote environmental awareness and improvements within companies and across the industry.

The EIGA environmental award aims to recognise and promote best environmental practice in EIGA member companies as well offer the opportunity to spread good practice, motivate and recognise employees involved in the Industrial Gas industry.

The award is open to all EIGA member companies. An application for an award is first submitted to EIGA and is categorised according to a number of areas that offer benefits to the environment and the EIGA member company operations.

The environmental categories are:

- i) Projects that focus on pollution prevention e.g. recycling, reuse, reclamation of waste materials,
- ii) Initiatives focused on product stewardship e.g. designing products so that their environmental impact is minimised,
- iii) Activities that conserve resources e.g. efficiency improvements for process to reduce energy and water use,
- iv) Projects that work with local community aimed to work with and improve the local community
- v) Developing and innovating new solutions to environmental issues that demonstrate the industries environmental leadership.

Once award applications had been submitted to EIGA each application is assessed against criteria that focus on:

- Initiatives that aim to go beyond regulatory compliance
- Achieving long term effectiveness for the project
- Ensuring that the project provides significant and measureable environmental benefit

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- Bringing environmental benefits to the local community where the project is initiated
- Employee involvement and participation in the project
- Providing environmental benefits to the gases industry
- Creating and innovative solution to an environmental issue

3- Selection of best practice initiatives from EIGA members

During 2008 EIGA received a range of environmental projects that merit recognition for improving the environment, involving employees and minimising environmental impacts. The following is a selection of these projects that were judged to have met the criteria and should be seen as best practice in the Industrial gas industry.

Project to recover waste water, minimise use and reduce pollution

One award application worked to reduce water consumption at an ASU site by recovering the discharged water by reverse osmosis to save water consumption and reduce the need for water treatment at the effluent treatment works. This resulted in sustained water use reduction of 30000 m3 per year and 95 to 99% reduction in the pollution contained in the treated water, as well cost improvements.



Employee involvement in environmental initiatives to reduce environmental impact

A team from an EIGA member company took a systematic approach to reducing waste and environmental impact in the business and combined this with a communications programme to raise awareness with employees to achieve further improvements. The initiative resulted in reductions in waste, energy use, and transport emissions, increased in recycling rates.

Community project to remediate a decommissioned lime disposal pond

An EIGA member company's site employees set up a project whose aim was to work with the authorities and the community in order to remediate a disused lime pond. One aspect of the project focused on developing some of the land into an authorised waste disposal landfill for inert waste as well as setting up operations for the recovery of road embankment material so that they could be recycled and put back into a useful use. In addition the surrounding land was remediated so that the land was classified for "residential use" by the land use planning authorities. Several houses have now been built on this land.



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Process improvements to lime handling at dissolved acetylene operations

An EIGA member site team installed a new lime caking plant and chiller system for handling lime waste and waste water effluents at its dissolved acetylene operations.

This initiative reduced water use by 7,263 m³ per year, reduced the number of vehicle movements that were required for waste handling, increased acetylene yield and reduced raw materials consumption. There was also an overall energy savings of 16 MWh per year.

The site was also recognized in the regulators magazine published for stakeholders for business environmental improvements.



4- Actions

The EIGA member companies should continue to encourage their employees, site teams to initiate environmental improvement projects since they have the potential to benefit the business, the environment and also promote the good environmental stewardship of member companies in the communities where they operate.

A list of Operational Best management practices can also be found in EIGA document 88.

Comments

The EIGA WG-5 members welcome any feedback on this and other publications. If you need any more information, or if you would like to make any comments please contact your WG-5 representative, the WG-5 Chairman or the EIGA office. Stephen Bradley, Air Products PLC Chairman WG-5; Telephone +44 1932 24 9992; Fax+ 44 1932 24 9271; e-mail: bradlesc@airproducts.com

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