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# Governor Bob McDonnell

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### Governor McDonnell Announces Winners of 2010 Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards

**RICHMOND** - Governor Bob McDonnell today announced the winners of the 2010 Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards. The awards were presented by Lieutenant Governor Bill Bolling on April 7<sup>th</sup> at the Environment Virginia 2010 Symposium in Lexington. The awards recognize the significant contributions of environmental and conservation leaders in three categories: environmental projects, environmental programs and land conservation. They are given to businesses and industrial facilities, not-for-profit organizations, government agencies and individuals.

Speaking about the award recipients, Governor McDonnell remarked, "It is critical that all Virginians work to better protect our environment. This begins with promoting green initiatives and conservation throughout the state. The Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards represent some of the best activities in Virginia that focus on protecting our natural resources. I congratulate all the winners, and all the entrants in the competition, for their ongoing commitment to bettering Virginia's environment."

Lieutenant Governor Bolling also commented, "The most important issue currently facing our state is the need to get the economy moving again and create jobs. We cannot let anything stand in our way of accomplishing this important mission. However, we do recognize that we also need to have a balanced approach that protects Virginia's important natural resources. We can accomplish both of these goals at the same time. Economic development and environmental protection are not mutually exclusive goals."

Below are gold medal winners in the various categories.

**The Environmental Program Category:**

- The Lipton Tea facility in Suffolk for its sustainability improvement program
- James Madison University for the work of its Institute for Stewardship of the Natural World

**Environmental Project Category:**

- **Wetlands Studies and Solutions Inc. of Gainesville for its new green headquarters building**

**The Land Conservation Category:**

- Protection of Crow's Nest Peninsula by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and Stafford County, in partnership with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality's Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund, The Nature Conservancy, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust, the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation and the DEQ Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program

Award winners were chosen based on criteria including environmental benefit, stakeholder involvement, public outreach and innovativeness.

This year's awards were sponsored by the Department of Environmental Quality, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Dominion and Du Pont Co.

Additional information on the Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards is available on the DEQ website at [www.deq.virginia.gov/info/geea/2010](http://www.deq.virginia.gov/info/geea/2010).

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## *2010 GOVERNOR'S ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARD*

### **Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc.**

**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, Robert F. McDonnell, Governor, do recognize Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc., as a recipient of the 2010 Governor's Environmental Excellence Award for its demonstrated commitment to the stewardship of Virginia's natural resources through its Headquarters Building.

  
Governor

  
Secretary of Natural Resources



Governor's Environmental Excellence Award

Gold Award 2010

*Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc.*  
*Headquarters Building*

## **Environmental Project (Small Business/Non-Manufacturing)**

### **Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc.: Green Headquarters Building Gold Medal Winner**

Wetland Studies and Solutions, located in Northern Virginia, provides natural and cultural resources consulting services. The company's new headquarters building is the Commonwealth's first facility to be certified Gold under the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) green building rating system. The building reduces potable water consumption by 72% and energy consumption by 47%. It also uses low-impact development techniques to mimic the hydrology of an undisturbed forest, reduce downstream degradation, and help maintain biodiversity and wildlife habitat. Recycled and renewable materials, passive "green" building design, and high-tech solutions all help to create a healthy, vibrant work space for employees. The company performs retrofits frequently to keep up with new sustainable products and technologies.