

PRESS RELEASES AND NEWS

Mar 16, 2010

Bigelow Tea named Business Leader for Energy Efficiency

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CT Company Recognized for Its Commitment to Achieving Energy Savings



NORTHEAST ENERGY EFFICIENCY PARTNERSHIPS
FACILITATING PARTNERSHIPS TO ADVANCE ENERGY EFFICIENCY

LEXINGTON, MA, March 23, 2010 - Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships (NEEP) has announced that specialty tea blender, Bigelow Tea will be recognized as a 'Business Leader for Energy Efficiency' at the Northeast Energy Efficiency Summit in Boston, MA on March 31. Nominated by Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund (CEEF) and the United Illuminating Company (UI), the company is being honored for its continued efforts to advance energy efficiency which have resulted in savings of 1,147,000 kWh and \$81,000 annually.

Since 2005, the family-owned company has pursued an aggressive approach to increasing efficiency by working with CEEF and UI in evaluating and understanding its energy profile to identify strategic ways it can reduce its energy usage and carbon footprint.

Bigelow Tea has conducted a significant warehouse retrofit, installing a new cooling tower and air compressor, and erecting a 900-panel solar array on the roof of its Fairfield, CT headquarters which meets approximately 10 percent of the company's annual electricity requirement. Most recently Bigelow chose to participate in CEEF's pilot program, the Business Sustainability Challenge (BSC). As part of its participation in the BSC Bigelow implemented several energy saving measures in 2009 including:

- Replaced Fluorescent T12 lighting fixtures with T8 fixtures requiring less electricity in all facilities
- Installed motion sensors in all Fairfield offices, restrooms, storage rooms and the warehouse. There are even sensors to turn off the vending machine lights when they are not in use.
- Installed software that automatically shuts down 200 desktop computers at night.

"Bigelow Tea has shown how energy efficiency measures are significant in a company meeting its triple bottom line of environmental, social and economic value," said Jeff Gaudiosi, Chairman of Connecticut Energy Conservation Management Board. "Not only has the company been able to save money, critical for every company in this economic climate, but it has also shown how energy efficiency has helped streamline its operations. Beyond energy efficiency, Bigelow is ultimately dedicated to doing the right thing."

As a result of the partnership with CEEF and UI in realizing the energy and costs savings of these measures, the company is developing a strategy to further reduce its energy usage and carbon footprint over the next three years.

"NEEP is proud to recognize Bigelow Tea, CEEF and the United Illuminating Company for their commitment to energy efficiency," said Sue Coakley, Executive Director of NEEP. "Bigelow Tea provides an excellent example of how energy efficient measures can improve a company's bottom line, contribute to economic growth and reduce environmental impact."

Bigelow Tea will be recognized, along with 12 other Northeast Energy Efficiency Business Leaders at a luncheon ceremony during the 2010 Northeast Energy Efficiency Summit. The event is open to the public and members of the media are invited to attend at no charge. For more information about the Summit and Business Leaders Recognition program, please visit <http://neep.org/neep-summit>.

Other 2010 Northeast Business Leaders for Energy Efficiency include: AFC Cable Systems, Inc. (New Bedford, MA); CNC Software, Inc. (Tolland, CT); County of Suffolk, Department of Public Works (Long Island); FiberMark (Brattleboro, VT); Hi-Tech Mold & Tool, Inc. (Pittsfield, MA); Mezza Luna (Buzzards Bay, MA); New Hampshire Ball Bearings, Inc. (Laconia/Peterborough, NH); Pratt Industries (Staten Island, NY); Princeton University (Princeton, NJ); Sleepy's & Steel Equities (Hicksville, NY); Syracuse University (Syracuse, NY) and Tufts University (Medford, MA).

ABOUT THE NORTHEAST ENERGY EFFICIENCY SUMMIT

NEEP's Northeast Energy Efficiency Summit, March 30-31, is the premier regional forum to learn about and become involved in energy efficiency in the Northeast. This two-day event brings together leaders from across the region in public policy, business, energy efficiency solutions, and consumer and environmental advocacy to support the vision of energy efficiency as a solution to the challenge of reliable and clean energy. Esteemed speakers plus exhibits from up to 60 exhibitors will also showcase the benefits, successes and challenges of public policies and programs that advance energy efficiency as the leading clean energy resource for the Northeast. Register today at www.neep.org/neep-summit

ABOUT NEEP

NEEP is a regional nonprofit that promotes the efficient use of energy in homes, buildings and industry across the Northeast. We advance cutting-edge products and practices through coordinated, whole-building efficiency programs and policies. Saving energy creates a stronger economy, a cleaner environment and a more reliable and affordable energy system. For more information, visit www.neep.org.

Contact: Carrie Nash

Phone: 781-860-9177 781-860-9177 Ext. 125

Email: cnash@neep.org

Web: www.neep.org