

# EnviroGuard Awards go to Dixon, DEQ, HDR, New Life

IBR STAFF REPORT

Three Boise businesses and one state agency were honored Sept. 21 with the Mayor's EnviroGuard Award.

The award is given each year to Boise businesses that conserve energy and promote a healthy environment, according to Elizabeth Duncan, community relations coordinator for the city.

Boise Mayor Dave Bieter, along with members of the Boise City Council, were on hand for the event, which was held at Dixon Container on Braniff Street, off Federal Way east of the airport.

The four award winners this year include: Dixon Container, Product Innovation; Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (266 employees), Large Business Category; HDR Inc., (50+ employees), Medium Business Category;

and New Life Office (5 employees), Small Business Category.

**Dixon Container** won for its Foam Fill product, which the company invented. Dixon Container designs and manufactures corrugated shipping boxes for industrial and electronics markets, and Foam Fill is made from waste or trim from its production line. Foam Fill is a strong material that can be used in place of the traditional plastic peanuts for shipping.

A press release about the award reads: "Scrap foam was unusable and previously disposed in the landfill. Through innovation and invention, the scrap foam is now a usable product."

**The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality** was recognized for its pollution-prevention efforts, including: outreach and education programs direct-

ed toward businesses and communities throughout the state; waste reduction of its own office paper and other products; office recycling; and "environmentally preferable purchasing," which includes buying green products when possible for business cards, envelopes, and other items.

**HDR Inc.** is a national architecture and engineering company with an office in Boise that, according to the release, is committed to improving environmental quality.

"HDR promotes sustainable best management practices in their corporate operations and in the products they help to create - low-impact roadways, clean watersheds, advanced storm water systems, and sustainable buildings," said the release.

Pollution prevention efforts at HDR

include a comprehensive recycling program and waste-reduction efforts that include using double-sided copies and reusable mugs. HDR's efforts to limit transportation impacts and fossil-fuel consumption were also cited.

**New Life Office** is a company that specializes in the re-manufacturing of modular workstations. The firm purchases surplus workstations and refurbishes them for re-use, saving landfill space, said the release.

The company uses environmentally-friendly paint products in its re-creations, as well as recyclable and compostable materials. Office supplies are re-used by staff or donated to businesses and schools.

The Mayor's EnviroGuard Award was established in 1998. For more information, contact Duncan at 384-3927.

