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Phila.-area organizations win environmental awards

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Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceutical Research & Development LLC in Montgomery County and PhillyCarShare in Philadelphia were among a dozen winners of the Pennsylvania Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence on Wednesday.

The state's Department of Environmental Protection received 78 applications for the award and evaluated applications based on the following criteria: overall environmental benefit, public service, economic impact, use of innovative technology, teamwork and environmental education and outreach.

Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceutical Research & Development in Lower Gwynedd installed a "zero" discharge cooling tower water treatment system, which achieved a water use and corresponding wastewater discharge reduction of 4.8 million gallons per year that resulted in a cost savings of \$29,472 annually. The system also reduces the burden on the local water authority and publicly owned treatment works. The company is part of Johnson & Johnson (NYSE: JNJ).

PhillyCarShare, a program in which government employees and local residents share vehicles by the hour, has replaced 330 municipal vehicles, saving the city of Philadelphia \$2 million annually. Additionally, residents have sold or avoided the purchase of roughly 1,200 vehicles and saved about \$5.5 million annually compared to car ownership.

For a detailed summary of the 12 winning projects, go online to the Department of Environmental Protection's Web site at www.depweb.state.pa.us and click on "2005 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence."

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