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ESD ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS ASSIST CAPITAL REGION BUSINESSES

Ecovative Design and Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics will retain jobs, invest in region

Empire State Development (ESD) today announced that two Capital Region businesses will receive Environmental Investment Program (EIP) awards to move forward with their projects. EIP helps businesses—like Ecovative Design LLC and Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics—capture the economic benefits associated with pollution prevention, waste reduction, re-use, recycling and green product development.

“ESD’s Environmental Investment Program is a valuable tool to help New York State businesses achieve measurable recycling, pollution prevention and sustainable economic development results,” said ESD Chairman & CEO Dennis M. Mullen. “Ecovative Design shows strong potential for new product development and manufacturing growth at its Green Island facility, while the award to Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics will strengthen the global competitiveness of the plant by improving product quality and reducing environmental management costs, inducing the parent company to make the investment in New York State. Governor Paterson and I both feel strongly that our state should take the lead as a steward of the environment and these two businesses are leading the charge.”

Ecovative Design LLC of Green Island will receive a \$200,000 research and development grant to support a \$404,000 project to develop and test the performance of two new green products made from organic materials and wastes sourced in New York, including mushroom roots, oat and buckwheat hulls, and paper mill residuals. Ecovative makes custom-molded electronics packaging forms, as an alternative to Styrofoam, which can be remolded for subsequent uses or composted, thereby eliminating Styrofoam waste. Ecovative also makes alternative building insulation panels from organic materials and wastes that eliminate the off-gassing of formaldehyde produced by fiber and particle board products. Ecovative employs 15 and will add three new positions for this project.

Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics of Granville will also receive a \$175,000 award to support the purchase of equipment that will improve quality control of high performance plastic/adhesive films and eliminate landfill waste. The \$1.38 million project will result in the elimination of 448 cubic yards, which is equal to 87.6 tons, of product discard per year. Saint-Gobain employs 142 high-skilled workers in Granville. The Washington County Local Development Corporation

submitted the application for the EIP award on behalf of Saint-Gobain. Saint-Gobain is a global manufacturer and distributor of flat glass, building products, glass containers, and high performance materials. Based in Paris, France, Saint-Gobain has operations in 64 countries and employs more than 190,000 people. The company's Performance Plastics' worldwide business, of which the Granville operation is a part, includes 4,400 employees in 45 plants in 15 countries, generating more than \$1 billion in sales.

Ecovative Design LLC Chief Scientist and Cofounder Gavin McIntyre said: "Ecovative will leverage the EIP award to match support from private industry in the protective packaging and furniture core industries. The focus of this project is to develop a suite of MycoBond™ materials that surpass the performance of synthetics but are comprised entirely of waste streams from other NYS industries. Using such raw materials that are sourced from within 200 miles of our facility will concurrently reduce the energy consumed during transportation and the burden on municipal landfills. The result will be a significant reduction in embodied energy and a bolstered sustainable competitive advantage over synthetic foams."

Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics Plant Manager Kevin Borkowski said: "We are very pleased to have been awarded a grant that supports our local efforts to compete worldwide. Saint-Gobain is strategically focused on manufacturing products which make a positive impact on the environment while simultaneously doing so in an environmentally responsible manner. It is a great feeling to know that we can find ways of operating competitively, improve our environment, and gain the support of the public sector in doing so."

Washington County Local Development Corporation submitted the application for the EIP award on behalf of Saint-Gobain.

Washington County LDC Executive Director Tori J.E. Riley said: "This is an opportunity for Saint-Gobain, which boasts proven top-notch business practices and global operations, to continue to invest in our region with the support and recognition of county and state organizations, while maintaining a "greener" way of doing business. We believe the EIP award offers not only an incentive to the parent company to invest in the Granville plant with more effective production operations, but will also have a true impact in our communities by helping to reduce the amount of waste in landfills. Saint-Gobain has consistently been recognized as a leading manufacturer in our county and this award is a great way for us to support the contributions it maintains in our region."

ESD Capital District Regional Director Peter Wohl said: "EIP awards are vital to encourage our businesses to make capital investments, research green products and explore the latest in technology developments. Ecovative and Saint-Gobain are both innovative companies that provide good jobs to New Yorkers. We are proud that they call the Capital District home."

The EIP was created in statute in 1987, and amended in 1999 to work in partnership with the New York State Department of Conservation (DEC), to achieve state environmental objectives by investing in market-driven capacity to recycle solid and industrial wastes and reduce industrial pollution. EIP investments generate net economic value by helping manufacturers expand production and improve competitiveness through enhanced environmental performance.

Since 1994 EIP has received annual appropriations from the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) to support sustainable economic development.

EIP is a competitive program. Project proposals are reviewed monthly and evaluated for the competitiveness of the environmental and economic results they will achieve when compared to the cumulative portfolio of EIP investments. Businesses with potential projects should call EIP staff to discuss at 518/292.5340.

Empire State Development is New York's chief economic development agency, committed to being recognized on a global scale as the economic development engine driving job growth, strategic investment and prosperity in New York State. ESD is intent on paving the way for New York State to become the leader of the innovation economy and one of the most business friendly, productive and competitive economic development climates in the world. ESD also oversees the marketing of "I LOVE NY," the State's iconic tourism brand. For more information, visit www.esd.ny.gov.

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