

Connecticut businesses get 'green' awards from local firm

By Alexandra Hanrahan

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Connecticut businesses have been recognized with the 2006 CTGreen9 awards from AuctorVerno, a Connecticut-based marketing firm that specializes in environmentally responsible operations, culture, and goals. Among these companies recognized were the Rideshare Company based in Windsor, Oakleaf Waste Management of East Hartford, and East Hartford High School.

Visitors to the company's Web site nominated the agencies.

- Rideshare Company of Windsor, nominated by Nanci Fitzgerald of Rideshare, is a nonprofit that operates commuter transportation programs in conjunction with the state Department of Transportation.

Through its statewide vanpooling program, called Easy Street, the number of cars on the road has been reduced by 1,522 annually and the

Businesses were recognized for conserving resources and reducing waste.

number of vehicle trips by 696,000 annually, thus conserving 735,000 gallons of gasoline and cutting emissions by 13,000 tons, according to Fitzgerald.

- Oakleaf Waste Management, founded in 1995, provides waste and recycling services to national, multi-location fast food and restaurant chains, retail companies, and others.

Oakleaf's goal is to redirect waste from landfills, come up with ways to reduce overall waste, increase recyclable materials, and

assist in meeting environmental needs, according to Vanguard Strategies Company of New Haven, which nominated the company.

- East Hartford High School was nominated by Erika Herz of UTC Power in South Windsor for its adoption of a new heating and cooling system powered by United Technologies.

Albert Costa, director of facilities for the East Hartford school system said the package provides cooling heating, and on-site power to the school at savings in costs and energy.

The system saves enough electricity to light 200 homes and creates the same benefit as planting 90 acres of forest, according to Herz who adds the system reduces nitrogen oxide emissions equivalent to removing 170 cars from the road ways each year.

ON THE WEB

AuctorVerno, LLC

buildingctgreen.com