

Calaveras Materials Inc. Earns Mayor's Business Recycling Award



Representatives of Calaveras Materials Inc. join their neighbors and fellow honorees in accepting the City of Fresno Mayor's Business Recycling Award for 2006. Burt Gilpin, third from right in the back row, is Vice President & General Manager of CMI. Next to him, second from right, is Pete Mouliot, Operations Manager for Fresno County Ready Mix. Second from right in the front row, CMI Office and Training Coordinator Shari Larkin holds the etched award, made of recycled glass.

Late last year the City of Fresno publicly recognized Calaveras Materials Inc. as a commercial business that actively supports recycling in the workplace. Burt Gilpin, Vice President & General Manager, accepted the Mayor's Business Recycling Award from Deputy Mayor Roger Montero at a ceremony during a City Council meeting.

To qualify for the award, a business must be located within the city limits of Fresno, and demonstrate strong recycling and waste reductions efforts. Three criteria were used in selecting award winners: 1) Active effort demonstrated to implement recycling throughout the business; 2) Demonstration of at least 50% recycling, through cubic yard or tonnage evaluation; and 3) Demonstration of

effort to buy recycled content products and to promote waste reduction in the workplace.

CMI operates three plants in the City of Fresno: a ready-mix concrete plant, an asphalt plant and a recycle plant—a stand-alone recycling business that accepts construction debris from other businesses, municipalities and contractors. With recycling as its primary business, that operation itself is not eligible for the Mayor's Business Recycling Award, but CMI's overall business practices and commitment to reducing waste earned them the distinction.

At the Thorne Avenue ready-mix plant, 100% of the approximately 42,000 tons of waste concrete, sand and gravel and 2.75 million gallons of waste water that is generated annually in the manufacturing process is recycled into fresh concrete and other aggregate products.

CMI has modified its asphalt plant to blend recycled asphalt back into fresh asphalt products. Historically, waste asphalt generated in the routine maintenance of City streets and highways has been dumped in landfills. In 2006, CMI projected to utilize about 60,000 tons of recycled asphalt.

In the business office, CMI also promotes a culture of recycling. Efforts towards a "paperless" business environment are ongoing, with widespread use of electronic documents and elimination of



Shown above is the ready-mix operation of Fresno-based Calaveras Materials Inc. The company has been recognized for its recycling efforts at each of its locations.

unnecessary hard-copy reports. Recycling containers throughout the office collect paper, bottle, cans, and plastics. Empty toner cartridges and old defective office equipment are properly disposed of and recycled. When it is necessary to buy products, employees are conscious to look for recycling symbols.

CMI is one of a diverse group of organizations in Fresno recognized for their commendable recycling programs. Others include schools, churches, apartment complexes, retail operations and other manufacturers.