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## **AIDEA/AEA RECIPIENT OF TWO GREEN STAR AWARDS**

ANCHORAGE - The Alaska Industrial Development Authority/Alaska Energy Authority (AIDEA/AEA) received the Green Star Award for waste reduction and the new Air Quality Award for a commitment to clean air on Monday - Earth Day - at the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce's "Make It Monday" Forum at the Fourth Avenue Theatre.

Green Star, Inc. is an EPA award winning organization established to recognize businesses and organizations that voluntarily meet and exceed Green Star's high standards of environmental responsibility by reducing waste, recycling, preventing pollution, increasing energy efficiency and, in the case of the air quality award, implementing specific educational initiatives designed to reduce air pollution in Anchorage.

AIDEA/AEA improved energy efficiency by replacing older lighting fixtures with compact fluorescents and more efficient light tubes, replacing windows with newer models that reduce heat absorption and installing motion sensors for lighting in most rooms in their office building.

"AIDEA/AEA often offers advice to consumers throughout the state on conserving energy through its Rebuild America Program," said AIDEA/AEA Executive Director Bob Poe. "We thought it was important to walk our own talk."

AIDEA/AEA has a strong recycling program and provides information to employees about both waste reduction and air quality through meetings, bulletin boards and regular emails. They helped reduce air emissions by using course gravel rather than sand in its parking lot this winter, and cleaning the parking lot several times each spring using a wet-sweep system to reduce dust.

Loan Servicing Officer Sue Weimer was the driving force behind the effort to achieve the Green Star and Air Quality Award. "It was a wonderful group effort," stated Ms. Weimer. "Peter Crimp, who heads up the Alternative Energy Section, planted the seed to seek this award, and I was enthusiastically assisted by Rebecca Garrett, Pernie Smith, Eryn Nelson, Jessica Stolpe, Jodi Peterson and Art Isham."

Earning a Green Star Award is more than just a one-time event. Recipients are expected to continue the initiatives they've implemented and improve upon them. This helps ensure that the workplace continues to operate efficiently and assures employee buy-in even as staff changes over the years.

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