

Industrial sand company welcomed into Green Tier

MENOMONIE, Wis. – Fairmount Santrol, a Wisconsin industrial sand company, was formally welcomed into the state’s innovative environmental Green Tier program today at a celebration at the company’s Menomonie facility.

Fairmount’s facilities in Hager City, Maiden Rock and Menomonie joined Green Tier, a program that encourages businesses to voluntarily move beyond regulatory compliance in order to promote superior environmental performance. Fairmount Santrol is participating in Tier 1 of the program, which is designed to encourage new goal setting and innovation.

“We are pleased to have Fairmount Santrol participate in Green Tier,” said Department of Natural Resources Secretary Cathy Stepp. “This sustainability-minded company demonstrates how solutions that are good for the environment can also be good for the economy.”

In her congratulatory message to Fairmount, Stepp noted the company’s diligent efforts to embrace environmental opportunities make it a leader in the nonmetallic mining industry.

Fairmount Santrol helped organize the state’s sand mining industry by co-founding the Wisconsin Industrial Sand Association (WISA). With a commitment to superior environmental performance, WISA set a membership requirement of enrollment in Green Tier.

As part of its acceptance into Green Tier, Fairmount Santrol has implemented an Environmental Management System (EMS), a “plan-do-check-act” tool that helps the company understand its environmental impacts. An EMS sets benchmarks to measure environmental improvements and allows Fairmount Santrol to monitor its performance with indicators such as energy conservation and water use.

“Fairmount Santrol is committed to exceeding expectations and going beyond compliance,” said Aaron Scott, Fairmont’s regional mine manager. “Our culture is unique. This approach to every aspect of our operation has allowed us to work together to achieve positive things for our business, the communities we operate and our other stakeholders. We are excited to be honored by the DNR in this way.”

Scott noted that Fairmount Santrol makes environmental stewardship a fundamental element of the way it operates, including:

- reducing its carbon footprint by installing more energy efficient electric motors, automated equipment and lighting;
- building a LEED gold-certified building in Menomonie and installing a solar panel array to reduce dependence on other sources of electricity;
- reducing its transportation carbon footprint by using more rail transportation;
- achieving the goal of zero waste to landfills at all three Wisconsin facilities by incorporating programs that reduce incoming materials, reuse resources and increase recycling, composting and waste-to-energy incineration;
- proactively addressing its water footprint by reducing overall consumption and recycling water through a closed-loop process in all its Wisconsin facilities, by measuring water inputs, outputs and use; and

- restoring its mining sites by planting trees, shrubs and native grasses and by managing invasive; and species; the company also works closely with conservation organizations to enhance biodiversity and environmental education programs for the communities where it operates.

Additional information about Fairmount Santrol and Green Tier can be found on the [DNR's Green Tier web page](#) and at: <http://fairmountsantrol.com> [Exit DNR].

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~~Fairmount Santrol provides high performance sand and sand-based products, strong technical leadership, and applications knowledge to end users in oil and gas exploration, foundry, building products, water filtration, glass, and sports and recreation markets. As one of the nation's longest continuously operating mining organizations, Fairmount Santrol has developed a strong commitment to all three pillars of sustainable development, People, Planet, and Prosperity. Correspondingly, the company's motto is: "Do Good. Do Well." The company employs approximately 1,000 worldwide, of which 140 are in Wisconsin.~~

~~, and is sequestering greenhouse gas emissions through extensive planting efforts~~

~~Outside of its own operations, Fairmount Santrol is helping improve global water supply by supporting Aqua Clara International in its effort to provide clean, safe water to homes throughout the developing world.~~