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KIC an environmental winner

Western Australia's heavy industry sector has won a state environment award recognising its efforts to reduce the impact it has on the environment.

The industries of the Kwinana Industrial Area won the "Corporate Business Leading by Example" category of the 2008 WA Environment Awards and were a finalist in the "Resource and Waste Management" category.

Under the leadership of Kwinana Industries Council (KIC), member companies have combined to create: water savings of 8,200 megalitres per year, energy savings of 3,740 terajoules a year, waste reductions of 240,000 tonnes a year and carbon dioxide reductions equivalent to removing 73,000 cars from the road.

These continual savings are created by 32 by-product and 15 shared utility synergies between companies in the Kwinana Industrial Area, which are co-ordinated through the KIC-managed Kwinana Industries Synergies Project.

"Synergies is a fancy word for 'working together'," said Mr Gale.

"Neighbouring industries realised they can share resources – it's a bit like all the houses in one street only using one lawn mower or having a common bore.

"By pooling resources, using waste products from one company as raw materials for another and identifying mutually beneficial and environmentally sustainable projects, industry has dramatically reduced its environmental impact."

2008 was the third year in a row KIC had entered and become a finalist in the awards, (in each case citing KISP) but this is our first year as a category winner.

"KIC sincerely thanks all its member companies who take part in the synergies project," said KIC spokesman Alan Gale.

"We also pay tribute to the work carried out by The Centre for Sustainable Resource Processing at Curtin University, which has provided academic rigour and conducted research and feasibility studies to identify the inter-industry synergies which do so much to reduce Kwinana industry's environmental impact," he said.

Kwinana Industries Council (KIC) was formed in 1991 with the original purpose of organising air and water monitoring for the industries in the area.

Since then it has expanded its responsibilities to the point that it manages industrial hazards programs, air- and watershed monitoring and protection, and has co-ordinated industry's efforts to reduce industry emission impact on the sensitive marine environment of the adjacent Cockburn Sound.

"Kwinana Industries have accepted the challenge of over-achieving when it comes to regulatory compliance," Mr Gale said.

"KIC is itself a community – an industrial community of stakeholders and partnerships which has discovered the value of maintaining and creating integrated relationships. This has led to the formation of a unique atmosphere of mutual regard and trust amongst KIC's member companies which has spread throughout the KIA."

Caption:

KIC project partners receive the award from state environment Minister Donna Faragher: Thys Heyns (KIC President), Ms Faragher, Alan Gale (KIC Acting Director), David Cooling (KIC environment committee chair), Dr Michele John (Curtin University).