

63 Businesses Across 30 Industries Honored as 'Best for the Environment'

WAYNE, Pa., May 29 /CSRwire/ - Today, 63 companies across 30 industries and 11 countries were recognized for creating the most positive environmental impact by the nonprofit B Lab, with the release of the 'B Corp Best for the Environment List', a second installment in its 'B Corp Best for the World' series.

Companies earning this honor include well known brands such as Method Products, New Belgium Brewing Company, Patagonia and Seventh Generation. Other honorees include Mas Ambiente, an Argentinian company producing handmade soap from used cooking and frying oil, Namaste Solar, a solar energy, employee-owned cooperative and New Leaf Paper, a developer and distributor of environmentally-responsible paper products. The 'B Corp Best for the Environment' companies come from over 30 different industries and 11 countries. 30% of honorees are based outside the US, with 8 companies operating in emerging markets. (Full list of honorees below.)

The 'B Corp Best for the Environment List' honors businesses that earned an overall score in the top 10% of all Certified B Corporations for their positive environmental impact, as measured by the B Impact Assessment, a comprehensive assessment used by more than 8,000 businesses to measure their impact on their workers, community, and the environment. This analysis includes metrics regarding their environmentally preferable products, services, and practices, such as their materials, waste, water, and energy inputs/outputs and the environmental impact of their offices, plants, land, suppliers and transportation.

"With so many companies marketing themselves as 'green', it's important to honor those walking the talk," said Jay Coen Gilbert, co-founder of B Lab, the nonprofit organization that certifies B Corporations and governs the B Impact Assessment. "The B Corp Best for the Environment honorees have proven they're the best of the best by meeting rigorous, comprehensive third party standards consumers can trust."

Each honored company is a Certified B Corporation, a new type of company that uses the power of business for good and meets rigorous standards of overall social and environmental performance, accountability, and transparency. Today there are nearly 750 Certified B Corporations across 60 industries and 25 countries, unified by the common goal to redefine success in business.

In April, B Lab recognized 67 companies as 'Best for the World' (overall impact) and will release separate lists recognizing companies as 'Best for the Community' (community impact) in July and 'Best for Workers' (employee impact) in September.

B Lab is a nonprofit organization that serves a global movement to redefine success in business. It's vision is that one day all companies will compete not only to be the best in the world, but best for the world.

B Lab drives this systemic change through a number of interrelated initiatives: 1) building a community of Certified B Corporations who lead this movement and make it easier to tell the difference between

“good companies” and good marketing; 2) passing benefit corporation legislation to create a new kind of corporation legally required to create value for society, not just shareholders; 3) helping investors invest for impact through use of the B Analytics data platform; and 4) helping businesses measure, compare and improve their social and environmental performance through use of the B Impact Assessment as a free powerful educational tool.

Executives from each honored company available for comment. For more information contact Katie Kerr at katie@bcorporation.net, (610) 293-0299.

2013 ‘Best For the Environment’ Honorees

Midsize Businesses (50+ Employees)

CO2 Bambu (Nicaragua) – CO2 Bambu designs, manufactures and assembles ecologically sound structures for homes, schools, and clinics.

GoLite (CO) – GoLite is a global manufacturer of high performance, responsible apparel and equipment designed specifically for outdoor athletes.

Hessnatur (FL) – Hessnatur is a clothing company that designs pure and natural apparel, with a goal to be 100% organic.

IceStone (NY) – IceStone manufactures the world's safest and most sustainable recycled glass and concrete countertops, vanities, desktops, and more.

Method Products, Inc. (CA) – Method Products produces nontoxic, biodegradable natural cleaning supplies with a focus on minimalist product design.

Namasté Solar (CO) – Namasté Solar is an employee-owned cooperative which provides PV design, engineering, installation, maintenance, and consulting services to residential, commercial, builder, non-profit, and government customers throughout the U.S.

New Belgium Brewing Co, Inc. (CO) – New Belgium Brewing Co. is a 100% employee-owned brewer of fine Belgian-inspired ales.

Patagonia, Inc. (CA) – Patagonia clothing company is a designer of outdoor clothing and gear with the mission to build the best product, cause no unnecessary harm and use business to inspire and implement solutions to the environmental crisis.

Seventh Generation (VT) – Seventh Generation is a leading brand of household and personal care products that help protect human health and the environment.

Southern Energy Management (NC) – Southern Energy Management is a North Carolina-based sustainable energy company offering energy efficiency, green building and turn-key solar services for homeowners, builders, companies, government and military clients across the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic.

Sungevity (CA) – Sungevity is a leading web-based sales company making it easy and affordable for homeowners to go solar.

Vidrios Marte (Mexico) – Vidrios Marte is the largest insulated glass manufacturer in Mexico.

Small Businesses (10-49 Employees)

Alchemy Goods (WA) – Alchemy Goods creates bags, wallets, and other accessories from reclaimed materials.

Brightworks (OR) – Brightworks helps organizations of all types capture and create lasting value by aligning their efforts with basic principles of ecological, social and economic sustainability.

Britec Ltda. (Chile) – Britec Ltda. manufactures solar panels, specializing in solar energy for housing, offices, and factories.

Bullfrog Power (ON, Canada) – Bullfrog Power, Inc. offers renewable power and electricity generation and distribution services.

Clean Currents (MD) – Clean Currents is a local, independent green energy company, supplying wind power through the grid to residents and businesses in the Mid-Atlantic.

Climatesmart Business, Inc. (BC, Canada) – Climate Smart Businesses Inc. provides training and software tools for businesses to measure their carbon footprint and identify key opportunities for cost, energy, and carbon reduction.

Degraf Ltda (Chile) – Degraf Ltda. is an Chilean, electronic waste (e-waste) recycling company.

Building Insights (OR) – Building Insights is the start-up software group within Green Building Services Inc. (GBS) – a leader in the global green building movement. Building Insights allows building owners to manage green practices, saving significant time and money.

GreenCitizen, Inc. (CA) – GreenCitizen help consumers and businesses repair, reuse, and recycle their electronics and computers responsibly and help stop global e-waste dumping.

Highland Craftsmen, Inc. (NC) – Highland Craftsmen Inc designs, manufactures and sells all-natural Bark House® brand architectural elements to building, design and furniture professionals as well as individuals.

Icebox Knitting, LLC (CO) – Icebox Knitting is a maker of fine knit hats and accessories from recycled wool apparel.

Natural Systems Utilities (NJ) – Natural Systems Utilities plans, designs, builds, owns and operates decentralized water and wastewater systems.

New Leaf Paper (CA) – New Leaf Paper develops and distributes environmentally superior printing and office papers that compete aesthetically and economically with leading virgin-fiber products.

Preserve (MA) – Preserve makes stylish, high performance, eco-friendly products for the home, including a full line of personal care, kitchen, tableware and food storage products, using 100% recycled plastics that are BPA free and Made in USA.

Renewable Choice Energy (CO) – Renewable Choice helps companies of all sizes measure and reduce their environmental impact with renewable energy, software, and sustainability services and technologies.

SMART Watering Systems Inc. (ON, Canada) – SMART Watering Systems is a water efficiency consulting firm and a "hands on" irrigation water management company that works with municipalities, parks departments, architects and property managers to reduce potable water use on landscapes.

Solmetric Corporation (CA) – Solmetric Corporation designs and manufactures test and measurement equipment for solar energy professionals.

SunCommon (VT) – SunCommon helps Vermonters go solar with no upfront cost and a monthly payment less than their utility bill.

The Joinery (OR) – The Joinery builds sustainable hardwood furniture designed and handcrafted in Portland, Oregon.

Total P.E.T. SA (Costa Rica) – Total P.E.T. manufactures P.E.T. preforms and bottles with post-consumer recycled content.

W.S. Badger Co, Inc. (NH) – W.S. Badger Co manufactures Badger Balm and other USDA organic body care products.

World Centric (CA) – World Centric provides high quality, compostable food service disposables and food packaging products for use in schools, corporate cafeterias, restaurants, hospitals and parties.

Micro-Enterprises (<10 Employees)

Acción Verde (Colombia) – Accion Verde is a Colombian for profit enterprise that plants trees, as a third party Social Responsibility resource, in strategic places of Colombia to prevent natural disasters, while mitigating climate change.

Alterrus Systems Inc. (BC, Canada) – Alterrus Systems Inc. is the recognized world leader in the development, manufacturing and integration of proprietary vertical farming systems for global markets.

Atayne, LLC (ME) – Atayne makes high performing outdoor and athletic apparel that is good for people and the environment.

BluPlanet Recycling Inc. (AB, Canada) – BluPlanet Recycling is Calgary, Canada's, premier provider of mixed-materials (co-mingled) recycling collection services for both multi-family residential and commercial properties.

Cool Energy, Inc. (TN) – Cool Energy is a best-in-class supplier of heat-to-power systems for clean energy applications such as waste heat recovery, biomass power, and solar thermal power.

Cultivating Capital (CA) – Cultivating Capital is a business consulting firm that helps entrepreneurs and small business owners, especially women business owners, do the two things that all businesses have to do to be successful in the 21st century: go green and market their businesses online.

Eco-Bags (NY) – Eco-Bags is the original reusable bag company, founded in 1989, producing durable, reusable bags for retail and promotions.

EcoLogic Solutions Inc. (NY) – EcoLogic Solutions Inc.'s sole purpose is to introduce the safest, effective and cost competitive cleaning products to consumers.

Ecotrust Forest Management (OR) – Ecotrust Forest Management is a forestland investment management and advisory services company that generates long term value for both investors and society by facilitating positive environmental outcomes and supporting job creation in rural communities.

Energy Opportunities (PA) – Energy Opportunities, Inc. provides technical consulting services on projects relating to energy management, efficiency and conservation; renewable energy systems, and the environmental impacts of human enterprises.

Episencial (CA) – Episencial is a 3-step skincare system for babies and kids to support skin immunity, helping to strengthen skin while protecting children from environmental hazards like chlorinated air pollution and UVA.

Feronia Forests LLC (MA) – Feronia acquires and manages natural hardwood forests in the U.S., generating revenues from timber harvests, products of the forest, renewable energy and carbon credits.

Honeyman Sustainability Consulting, LLC (CA) – Honeyman Sustainability Consulting, LLC, helps businesses save money, add value to their brand, and cultivate happier and more committed employees—while reducing their impact on the environment.

Incite Directives (GA) – Incite Directives assesses facilities and operations using national and international standards; then works with property owners to map a strategy to "green" buildings over time.

Luscious Garage (CA) – Luscious Garage is an auto shop for hybrid cars.

Mas Ambiente s.a. (Argentina) – Mas Ambiente recycles used cooking and frying oils into environmentally-friendly, handmade soaps.

Palmetto (United Kingdom) – Palmetto offers a fully integrated service to lead organizations towards cost-effective and sustainable solutions. Through customized planning and efforts to deliver tangible investment opportunities, they have delivered over \$10 billion towards a clean energy future.

Physis Energy Solutions Ltd (Ireland) – Physis Energy Solutions provides energy management solutions to SMEs and community organizations.

Piedmont Biofuels (NC) – Piedmont Biofuels is a manufacturer and distributor of B100 biodiesel fuel.

Project Repat (MA) – Project Repat upcycles t-shirts into more fun and fashionable clothing accessories while creating fair wage employment opportunities in the US.

REfficient Inc. (ON, Canada) – REfficient is an online marketplace enabling service providers to go shopping in other companies' surplus inventory for reliable telecom and audiovisual equipment at significant discounts.

Route to Green SPA (Chile) – Route to Green imports and distributes natural products throughout Chile and South America.

Saul Good Gift Co (BC, Canada) – Saul Good Gift Co. is a gift basket company providing customized gourmet and organic corporate gift solutions.

Seeds Printing (PA) – Seeds Printing is a eco-friendly printing company.

TerraLocke, Inc. (IL) – TerraLocke, Inc. is a sustainability consulting firm focusing on local communities.

The Paradigm Project (CO) – The Paradigm Project partners with well-established global relief and development organizations to help them identify, fund and develop scalable projects that meet immediate development needs while creating a foundation for long-term community benefit.

TheGreenOffice.com (CA) – TheGreenOffice.com is a one-stop online retailer featuring over 38,000 green and conventional office products and a comprehensive range of sustainability services designed to make office greening easy and cost effective.

Water Power Group LP (ON, Canada) – Water Power Group develops small run-of-river hydropower projects in partnership with local & Aboriginal communities.

Zero to Go (NY) – Zero to Go is a sustainable reverse-logistics services, emphasizing the needs of the immediate community by making sure materials stay local and out of the waste stream.

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