FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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NWCAA awards local businesses for protecting air quality

The Northwest Clean Air Agency has selected PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center in Bellingham to receive this year’s Partners for Clean Air Platinum award.

The hospital achieved the agency’s top honor for businesses through its exceptional work to reduce emissions and improve air quality. Projects include lighting upgrades that resulted in an annual energy savings of $165,000, reducing hazardous air emissions from sterilization processes, eliminating the use of products that contain mercury and starting a trip reduction program for employees.

NWCAA will present the hospital with a plaque during the agency’s Board of Directors meeting at 1:30 p.m. on Dec. 13.

Partners for Clean Air awards have been presented annually to businesses in Island, Skagit and Whatcom counties since 2010. There are three levels awarded: Platinum, Gold and Silver. This year, 42 of the 408 businesses registered with NWCAA applied for awards.

NWCAA selects the Platinum winner as the stand-out business among the Gold award winners.

To win Gold, businesses must comply with all applicable air quality regulations for at least three years and employ additional clean air practices in at least two categories: Energy efficiency; emissions reductions; air pollution prevention practices related to their specific business sector; and transportation, such as commute trip reduction, no idle policies and cleaner fleets.

Gold winners are:

- Cedarprime, Sumas
- Commercial Aircraft Interiors, Burlington
- Concrete Nor’west in Oak Harbor, Everson and Anacortes
- Granite Precasting & Concrete, Bellingham
- Olsen Auto Body & Collision, Bellingham
- Fairhaven Shipyard, Bellingham
- Skagit Grand Central Collision Repair, Burlington
- Teal-Jones Lumber Services, Sumas
- Trident Seafoods, Anacortes

To achieve Silver, businesses must demonstrate 100 percent compliance with air quality regulations for at least three years. This year, 26 received the Silver award.

More information:

Northwest Clean Air Agency: www.nwcleanair.org
NWCAA Partners in Clean Air awards, including more detail about award winners’ efforts:
www.nwcleanair.org/aqPrograms/busInfo_pg4.htm

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