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Premier Tooling and Manufacturing Earns Waste Reduction and Pollution Prevention Petals

Dubuque, IA (July 22, 2010) - Businesses are leading the sustainability movement in Eastern Iowa through their participation in the Petal Project, a green business certification program. The Petal Project consists of five areas: waste reduction, energy conservation, pollution prevention, staff education, and water conservation. Each area has required and optional criteria. Once the criterion for one area is completed, a business will receive one petal of the Petal Project logo and will continue to work toward full certification.

Premier Tooling and Manufacturing, Inc. has achieved success in both the waste reduction and pollution prevention categories and is diligently working toward others. Premier Tooling and Manufacturing, Inc. has developed a culture where quality and efficiency reign and employees at all levels are engaged in the company's "green" initiative by providing ideas for ways to reduce waste.

Premier incorporates sustainability into many of its daily practices and has been investing in smarter ways of doing businesses for many years. Having already completed ISO 9001:2008 quality management certification, documenting resource and cost savings came naturally to Premier's purchasing supervisor and lean/ISO manager.

As of February 2009 Premier has been recycling water through their Water Treatment Center. Water from the floor scrubbers and part washers that are used on all three shifts is recycled through our system. This water is reused in the floor scrubbers, mop buckets and Premier's parts washer. On average, 750 gallons per week are recycled. This totals 39,000 gallons of recycled water per year.

Premier Tooling & Mfg., Inc is conscious about its water usage, but also its management of other "waste" products like cardboard, office paper, plastics and metals. Premier has been recycling baled cardboard since 2007 and to date over 19 tons have been recycled. Beginning in 2008, Premier began to evaluate other sources of potential recyclables in their production process.

Premier's recycling program currently includes mixed/white paper (over 3 tons recycled), plastic knockdowns (over 2 tons recycled), recycled plastic (518 lbs recycled), shrink wrap (365 lbs recycled), copper wire, aluminum, steel and damaged or used carbide and, most recently, Premier has found a resource for recycling graphite. Premier also recycles waste materials that include used recovered oils, contaminated water/oil, used absorbent pads, sludge from the water treatment center and filters from Premier's vehicles and presses.

Jan Heister, President of Premier Tooling and Manufacturing, Inc. takes sustainability very seriously. "At Premier Tooling we are striving to incorporate green concepts where we can have the greatest impact. Our company promotes conservation using several communication methods: information shared at employee meetings, bulletin board postings, and a green committee which meets monthly. We don't view our green practices as an option, but an obligation for all of us. As we continue to work toward full certification Premier Tooling hopes to set an example of environmental responsibility to our industry, our employees and our community.