



Utah Industrial Companies Rack up Impressive Energy Savings

Three companies are awarded with Excellence in Energy Efficiency Awards

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SALT LAKE CITY (March 23) – When a handful of Utah industrial companies are able to cut back on enough energy to power the equivalent of nearly 1,000 homes for a year, energy efficient experts are guaranteed to take notice. Which is why today, the Utah Industrial Energy Efficiency Challenge and Utah Office of Energy Development are recognizing three Utah industrial firms for their ambitious and successful improvements in energy efficiency in their operations. Utah companies, Rio Tinto Kennecott, J.R. Simplot Co., and Utah PaperBox were presented with the Excellence in Energy Efficiency Awards at the Utah State Capitol Building.

"Through energy efficiency improvements in their facilities, these companies are leading the way for responsible use of energy resources, and positively impacting Utah's air quality by reducing pollution from their operations," sates Mitalee Gupta, Manager of the Utah Industrial Energy Efficiency Challenge led by local nonprofit Utah Clean Energy. "We are proud to recognize these companies which have made strong commitments to energy efficiency."

Executive Director of the Office of Energy Development, Dr. Laura Nelson, presented the awardees with the honor. "We commend these companies for their leadership in energy efficiency" said Dr. Nelson. "Each has achieved impressive results that provide economic benefits within their organizations and to the state. Moreover, their programs have resulted in measurable reductions in emissions which contributes to improving our environment and delivering sustainable energy development for all of Utah."

Winners were selected based on demonstrated excellence in reduced energy intensity, the number of efficiency projects implemented, and their commitment to ongoing strategic energy management. "Energy efficiency is a smart investment for any business. Rio Tinto Kennecott is always looking for opportunities to improve our energy efficiency to realize the environmental benefits and save money" states Michael Vaughan at Rio Tinto Kennecott.

2015 EXCELLENCE IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY AWARD WINNERS

First-place Winner: Rio Tinto Kennecott

Rio Tinto Kennecott, a mining giant that has been in Salt Lake Valley for more than 109 years, is one of the winners for this year's Utah Industrial Energy Efficiency Challenge. The company has recognized the energy intensiveness of mining operations and committed itself to energy efficiency since 2008.

Winner: J.R. Simplot Co.

J R Simplot Co., a food and agribusiness company, considers energy as a critical component under their Sustainability efforts. Their facility in Vernal has shown proactive energy management and commitment to energy efficiency by reducing their year on year energy intensity (energy per unit of production).

Winner: Utah PaperBox

Utah PaperBox, a packaging manufacturer based in Utah, has established a goal towards reducing increasing its production while optimizing their energy consumption and building on renewables as a part of their energy mix.

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Media Backgrounder: Advancing Energy Efficiency for Utah's Largest Energy Users

From taking public transportation, to riding bikes and carpooling, Utahns have rallied to work together to improve air quality. However, we often overlook the impact *inefficient* energy use has on the air we breathe. We can help improve our air quality by reducing energy consumed by Utah's largest energy customers – the industrial sector. Utah's industrial sector alone consumes 29% of all the energy consumption in the State including 32.4% of the state's electricity consumption. With energy use of this magnitude, there are plenty of opportunities to stop energy waste through improved energy efficiency.

The **Utah Industrial Energy Efficiency Challenge** is a voluntary program that encourages new and ongoing investment in energy efficiency by Utah manufacturing and industrial companies. The two-part Challenge includes peer-to-peer networking workshops followed by public recognition of leading industrial firms.

Industrial Energy Efficiency is Imperative to Utah's Energy Future and Competitiveness

- Implementing energy efficiency projects is consistently recognized as the most affordable “energy resource,” helping to delay or avoid the need to build new power plants.
- Industrial energy efficiency projects play a critical role in meeting Utah's growing energy demand, while also improving competitiveness for industries and the State of Utah.
- Accounting for about one-third of all end-use energy in the United States, the nationwide industrial sector consumes more energy than any other sector.

Primary functions of the Challenge include:

- Providing peer-to-peer mentoring to highlight the cost effectiveness of investing in energy efficiency improvements for Utah's industrial facilities.
- Promoting tools to help firms investigate energy-efficiency improvements.
- Recognizing energy-saving commitments and leadership.