

STERIS gets conservation award from U.S. EPA

News Herald

Brandon C. Baker Oct 07
BBaker@News-Herald.com

STERIS Corp. in Mentor was one of 34 companies recognized this week by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for environmental conservation efforts.

The infection prevention, decontamination, health and science technology company won an EPA SmartWay Transport Partnership Environmental Excellence Award Monday for conserving energy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions from its transportation and freight activities. The awards were announced Monday at the Council of Supply Chain Management

Professionals in Philadelphia.

"STERIS is serious about safety, environmental responsibility and health," Walt Rosebrough, STERIS' president and chief executive officer, said in a news release. "We are honored to receive this recognition from the EPA."

According to the EPA, this year's award winners, which also included Wal-Mart, IBM and J.C. Penney, integrated fuel-saving strategies and technologies into their freight and fleet operations.

In STERIS' case, speed regulators were installed in the vehicles of the company's freight partners, preventing them from speeding, Corporate Communications

Manager Stephen Norton said.

"We also don't allow freight partners to idle," Norton said. "That is one of the key criteria to being hired by STERIS."

In the company's quest to be environmentally responsible, those regulations are important for partners that move raw materials to STERIS manufacturing sites and to international customers, Norton said.

STERIS was one of only two Ohio companies to receive the award.

The EPA began SmartWay in 2004. The program works with more than 600 businesses to find lower fuel use and emissions opportunities; locate financing for fuel-saving equipment and technology; and

help those companies improve their bottom lines.

In 2006, STERIS' became a SafeWay partner for using the highest possible percentage of SmartWay member carriers in the transportation of STERIS materials, and by finding fuel conservation methods for transport vehicles.

"The EPA is pleased to recognize partners with SafeWay Excellence awards," said Margo T. Oge, director of the U.S. EPA's office of transportation and air quality. "The award winners are leading the way to a cleaner, more efficient transportation future with strategies that reduce emissions and increase profits."