

# *Press Release*

---



October 26, 2006

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: **Wayne Scharber at 1-615-256-5141**

**Perry Smith at 1-615-937-1416**

## **Bridgestone Firestone—LaVergne Plant Receives Environmental Recognition**

Bridgestone Firestone North American Tire, LLC—LaVergne Plant (BFNT-LV) was the recipient of Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry award for outstanding environmental accomplishments at the annual Tennessee Chamber Environmental Conference.

BFNT-LV, with more than 250 employees, was presented an award for air quality. BFNT-LV located in LaVergne, Tennessee, makes tires for passenger vehicles, trucks and busses. The LaVergne plant is:

- ISO 14001 certified, (first U.S. tire plant to achieve this certification)
- EPA National Environmental Performance Track member,
- Pledge level in the Tennessee Pollution Prevention Partnership.

The original LaVergne tire plant built in the early 1970's used hot water and steam in the manufacturing process. A new project, using hot nitrogen gas instead of hot water was initiated to conserve energy and reduced electricity consumption by approximately 4,960,000kwh/yr (equivalent usage of over 550 homes per year). The process saves approximately 162,600 mcf/yr of natural gas and reduced NOx and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions which contribute to improved air quality.

“BFNT-LV has truly demonstrated by this project their environmental awareness and stewardship and was selected for the Air Quality award,” said Wayne Scharber, Vice-President for Environmental Affairs for the Tennessee Chamber.

The awards and achievement certificates, presented during the 24th annual Tennessee Chamber Environmental Conference at Montgomery Bell State Park, cited industries for successes in the areas of air quality, water quality, solid waste management, hazardous waste management, and environmental excellence. Awards are given on the basis of past performance, innovation and compliance beyond legal requirements for companies with less than 250 employees and those with more than 250 employees.

The award was accepted by Greg Morris, Environmental and Facilities Manager. (Digital pictures may be obtained at [www.tnchamber.org](http://www.tnchamber.org))

“All of the companies receiving recognition have gone the extra mile to protect the air we breathe, the water we drink, and to make our environment a cleaner and safer place to live,” said Scharber. “They are excellent examples of how Tennessee companies work to preserve the environment.”

The award winners are selected by a panel of state officials who review the nominations submitted and the accomplishments and compliance records for the respective environmental programs.

Velsicol Chemical Corporation in Chattanooga, with less than 250 employees, received an award for Air Quality and “Achievement Certificates” for solid waste management and water quality. Pull-A-Part, Used Auto Parts of Nashville, with less than 250 employees, was an award winner for solid waste management. Pull-A-Part also received “Achievement Certificates” for air quality, hazardous waste management, water quality and environmental excellence. Buckman Laboratories of Memphis, with less than 250 employees, received an “Achievement Certificate” for environmental excellence. Glenn Springs Holdings of Columbia, with less than 250 employees, was an award winner for water quality. Other “Achievement Certificate” winners included BWXT Y-12 of Oak Ridge and DuPont of Old Hickory for air quality accomplishments; BWXT Y-12 and The Memphis Valero Refinery received certificates for hazardous waste management; DENSO Manufacturing Athens Tennessee, BWXT Y-12, DENSO Manufacturing Tennessee, Inc. of Maryville, Nissan North America of Smyrna; and U.S. Smokeless Tobacco Manufacturing of Nashville for solid waste management successes. Weyerhaeuser Company, Kingsport Pulp and Paper Mill received an “Achievement Certificate” for environmental excellence.

Other award winners, with more than 250 employees, include the following:

- JTEKT Automotive Tennessee-Vonore Co. for Solid Waste Management
- Nissan North America, Inc in Smyrna for Hazardous Waste Management

- ❑ DENSO Manufacturing Athens Tennessee, Inc. for Water Quality
- ❑ BWXT Y-12, L.L.C. of Oak Ridge for Environmental Excellence.

“Just as the 2006 Environmental Award recipients are WINNERS, the citizens of Tennessee and our environment are also winners,” said Scharber. The Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry is the state’s largest broad-based trade association, representing employers and their employees across the state.

# # #

This press release is available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.tnchamber.org>