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**WISCONSIN SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED**

The Wisconsin Sustainable Business Council presented its annual Sustainable Business Awards during an awards reception at the Global Water Center in Milwaukee on Dec. 11.

The awards recognize businesses and individuals for prioritizing sustainability and making strides towards impactful change in Wisconsin. Award winners demonstrate leadership, initiative, innovation and are making measurable impacts.

“There is a growing interest in sustainability for many Wisconsin businesses,” Wisconsin Sustainable Business Council Managing Director Jessy Servi Ortiz said. “These awards are designed to recognize businesses for their efforts in developing sustainable products and processes, and to honor some of the incredible business leaders in the state.”

Winners of this year’s Sustainable Business Awards are:

**SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPION**

**Dr. Peggy Murphy, Sustainability Strategy Leader, North America Consumer Products, Kimberly-Clark Corp., Neenah**

Murphy is an original sustainability person at Kimberly-Clark. She began by writing the company’s first sustainability report in 2004 and has had increasing responsibility in the sustainability space and now serves as sustainability strategy leader across Kimberly-Clark’s operations in North America. Murphy is regarded as a sustainability expert and is often asked to help mentor many new employees who have expressed an interest in sustainability.

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**EXECUTIVE LEADER**

**Pam Mehnert, General Manager, Outpost Natural Foods Cooperative**

Sustainability is a framework through which all decisions are made at the co-op. Mehnert created a full-time Sustainability Manager position seven years ago which shows how central sustainability is to her person core values and those of the business. Outpost produces an annual Sustainability Report, an in-depth look at 12 core metrics, including: organic and land use practices; sourcing; distribution; energy use; climate change and air emissions; water use and Quality; and solid waste reduction.

**Sustainable Process**

Mercury Marine, Fond du Lac, for Sustainable Stewardship of Aluminum for Manufacturing

Mercury Marine's process for using aluminum in the making of its award-winning engine blocks realizes considerable energy savings in multiple ways. The process uses 100% recycled aluminum for the die-casting and manufacturing of the engine blocks. The energy required to

melt and purify aluminum scrap is approximately only five percent of the energy required to create primary aluminum from bauxite ore. Heat exhaust generated by the furnace

that melts scrap aluminum is redirected through a stack heating device to

preheat solid aluminum scrap that is waiting to be melted in the furnace. This preheating process saves Mercury 20 percent of the natural gas it would otherwise use to melt scrap aluminum.

Mercury Marine also employs highly sophisticated and world-renowned techniques in aluminum die-casting to create outboard engines using less raw material. Consequently, Mercury's newest generation of outboard engines are the lightest in their class and the most fuel-efficient, without sacrificing performance and durability.

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**SUSTAINABLE PRODUCT**

**N1 Critical Technologies, Janesville, for its lithium-ion Uninterruptible Power Supply System**

N1 Critical Technologies’ new line of lithium-ion uninterruptible power supply (UPS) systems saves energy and significantly reduces raw materials used to

support backup power needs. Most traditional UPS systems use lead acid batteries, which include two toxic materials to provide stored energy

— lead and sulfuric acid. They also typically need to be replaced every two to three years, sending tons of heavy metals, plastics and chemicals to landfills

and recycling centers. The lithium-ion batteries found in N1 Critical Technologies’ UPS systems have a 15-year design life and are lighter and easier to transport. The lithium-ion systems have been shown to use significantly fewer watts/amps when operating normally.

**ABOUT WISCONSIN SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS COUNCIL**

WSBC’s mission is to advance sustainable principles and practices through the power of business. WSBC supports businesses and sustainability professionals through an array of programming, education, resources and tools and is a catalyst for businesses looking to integrate sustainability into the fabric of their organizations. WSBC is an affiliate of the Wisconsin Manufacturing Extension Partnership. For more information, visit www.wisconsinsustainability.com