

Sunday, September 30th, 2007

Collins Products receives Energy Leadership Award for upgrades to Klamath Falls mills

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. — Collins Products received the Energy Leadership Award today from Energy Trust of Oregon in recognition of their outstanding commitment to energy efficiency and the environment at the company's Klamath Falls facilities. Since 2004, Collins has invested more than \$1.34 million in energy upgrades at their particleboard and hardboard plants, resulting in combined annual electricity savings of nearly 3.5 million kilowatts hours. Energy Trust supported these projects with incentives of more than \$623,000.

“Collins has long been an environmental leader in the wood products industry,” said Margie Harris, executive director, Energy Trust. “We are pleased to recognize them for keeping energy efficiency high on their list of priorities.” But in the highly competitive wood products market, energy conservation projects also need to pencil out financially. By investing in their energy future, Collins shows that energy upgrades help companies improve the bottom line and protect Oregon's environment.

For a company whose motto is “Do the Right Thing,” it's no surprise that Collins Products is an industry leader in improving energy efficiency at their manufacturing facilities. “Projects like this support our corporate mission of environmental sustainability,” said Dale Slate, vice president and general manager, Collins Products. A family-owned business since 1855, Collins Products has received national recognition for their leadership in harvest practices and plant operations.

“Collins Products is very excited to be recognized for our commitment to energy efficiency and the beneficial effects it has on the environment,” said Slate. “Energy Trust's Production Efficiency program has enabled Collins Products to install equipment to improve energy efficiency that it would not have been able to do otherwise, to the benefit of Collins Products and all Oregonians.”

Since it started in 2003, Energy Trust's Production Efficiency program has worked with 462 Oregon industrial companies on energy projects that are saving more than 430 million kilowatt hours of electricity each year. The Production Efficiency program provides energy audits, technical assistance and cash incentives to industrial facilities seeking to improve electrical process efficiency. RHT Energy Solutions, the southern Oregon service delivery contractor for the Production Efficiency program, worked closely with Collins to identify the most cost-effective projects and to implement them to gain maximum energy savings. Taken together the annual energy savings from upgrades at Collins Products are equivalent to the amount of electricity used by more than 300 average Oregon homes.

Energy Trust of Oregon, Inc., is a nonprofit organization dedicated to changing how Oregonians use energy by promoting energy efficiency and clean renewable energy. The Production Efficiency program is available to Oregon customers of Portland General Electric, Pacific Power, NW Natural and Cascade Natural Gas. For more information, visit the Energy Trust website, www.energytrust.org, or call 1-866-368-7878.