



# News Release

For More Information

Ronnie Kweller 202-530-2203 [rkweller@ase.org](mailto:rkweller@ase.org)

For Immediate Release

## **Alliance to Save Energy Announces 2008 'Stars of Energy Efficiency' Award Winners**

Washington, D.C., June 11, 2008 – The Alliance to Save Energy has announced its 2008 “Stars of Energy Efficiency” award winners, selected from among a record-setting 100 nominees. The Alliance’s Dinner and Awards Committee, comprised of experts in the energy-efficiency field, reviewed the nominations against published criteria and selected the “crème de la crème” as the seven winners. They represent a diverse and impressive roster of individuals, companies, and government entities working to advance energy efficiency in noteworthy and creative ways.

This year’s “Stars of Energy Efficiency” awardees are global technology firm United Technologies Corp.; tankless water heater manufacturer Rinnai Corp.; the York County, Va., School Division; and Embraco, a worldwide company noted for state-of-the-art, high-efficiency refrigeration compressor technology. Jupiter Oxygen Corp., an oxy-fuel combustion innovator, was selected as the first recipient of the Alliance’s new Innovative Award. Federal Energy Regulatory Commissioner Jon Wellinghoff was named the winner of the Charles H. Percy Award for Public Service for his outstanding public sector service and lifetime commitment to energy efficiency. And, finally, Philips Electronics was chosen by Alliance Honorary Board Chair Sen. Mark Pryor (D-Ark.) for the Chairman’s Award.

All awards will be presented at the Alliance’s 16th annual *Evening with the Stars of Energy Efficiency* black-tie gala and awards dinner on Thursday, September 25, at the historic Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium in Washington, D.C.

“The Alliance to Save Energy commends this year’s stellar lineup of awardees for their significant contributions to energy efficiency,” said Alliance President Kateri Callahan. “Their leadership, innovation, and unflagging dedication truly make them ‘Stars of Energy Efficiency.’ Today’s rising and often record energy costs are squeezing consumer, government, and company budgets alike, making this an ideal time to celebrate those working to advance energy efficiency.”

Information on each award winner is provided below. For additional details on each award, please [see longer version of this release](#).

**United Technologies Corporation (UTC):** Since 1991, UTC has exceeded its own ambitious environmental goals, for example by reducing its own energy use by 20

percent in the past 10 years. UTC also aims to invest \$100 million from 2007 to 2010 in energy conservation projects, including co-generation systems, and, by 2020, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 12 percent and water use by 10 percent.

Richard Bennett, UTC vice president, environmental health and safety, noted, “At UTC, we have focused on energy conservation both in our own operations and for UTC products in use around the world, and we’re pleased to be recognized for our results. There is always still work to be done, but recognition along the way is a source of pride for the corporation and its 225,000 employees worldwide, who invent and implement changes and help us achieve our aggressive goals.”

**Rinnai Corporation:** For more than 30 years, Rinnai has been a leader in energy-efficient innovative gas appliance technologies. Rinnai was instrumental in the U.S. Department of Energy’s February 2007 decision to establish an ENERGY STAR program for residential water heating – at the time, the only major residential energy end use without such a designation. In January 2008, Rinnai launched the industry’s first line of residential and commercial high-output, high-efficiency tankless water heaters and the first Tankless Heating System that delivers on-demand, comfortable heat using the same source for household hot water and space heating.

Said Rinnai Executive Vice President Ervin Cash, “We at Rinnai appreciate the Alliance’s award recognizing our company’s strides in making homes and commercial buildings more energy efficient. *Builder* magazine has ranked Rinnai tankless water heaters the most popular product among builders for four years, demonstrating that energy-efficient products are getting more attention from builders than typical aesthetic products. This is great news for energy-efficiency advocates, for -consumers, and for our nation.”

**York County Schools (Va.):** Virginia’s York County School Division has six of the Commonwealth’s seven school buildings with the EPA’s ENERGY STAR building certification and, since 2004, has reduced its energy consumption by more than 48 billion Btu, saving more than \$1 million. A hallmark of the division’s energy-saving efforts is that six schools are heated and cooled with geothermal power, which not only reduces energy consumption, but also significantly reduces the need for maintenance and repairs.

“The York County School Division takes pride in its energy management team and energy conservation efforts that save energy and money without sacrificing the comfort and security of our students, teachers, and staff,” said Douglas Meade, the division’s director of information technology, who is responsible for all energy management and direct digital control building automation systems.

**Embraco:** Embraco is the world market leader in energy-efficient reciprocating compressors for refrigeration and is known for its state-of-the-art high-efficiency products. An example is the Embraco VCC – Variable Capacity Compressor – which reduces refrigeration system power use by up to 40 percent compared with a conventional compressor. The energy saved in 2006 by all Embraco VCCs around the world would power all the houses in a city the size of Washington, D.C., for 37 days.

“It’s an honor for us, a Brazilian-based, global organization, to receive such a prestigious award and recognition of our efforts on energy-efficiency initiatives,” said Embraco President Ernesto Heinzmann. “VCC is just one of Embraco’s innovative products working to advance energy efficiency in noteworthy and creative ways.”

**Jupiter Oxygen Corporation:** Concerned about industrial furnace efficiency, rising fossil fuel costs, and environmental issues at his aluminum recycling and manufacturing business, Jupiter Oxygen Corp (JOC) Chairman and CEO Dietrich Gross developed a new method for combustion in industrial furnaces. Deployed since 1997, this technology allows Jupiter Aluminum Corporation, a licensee of JOC’s technology, to reduce industrial furnace natural gas consumption by up to 73 percent and fuel oil use up to 68 percent, along with an equivalent reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> and ultra low NOx.

Gross states, “I started this business to help address the environmental issues threatening our planet. I am very proud to have pioneered and patented a specific form of oxy-fuel technology, which is an untempered, high flame temperature oxygen combustion technology that is maximizing heat transfer and results in significantly improved fuel efficiency and reduced emissions.”

**Federal Energy Regulatory Commissioner Jon Wellinghoff:** Wellinghoff’s decades of outstanding public service and leadership on energy efficiency include authoring the country’s first state renewable energy portfolio standard with an energy-efficiency requirement for electric utilities. The law resulted in a tripling of energy-efficiency investments by Nevada’s electric utilities. As a lighting efficiency consultant, he was responsible for millions of square feet of lighting-efficiency retrofits in commercial and institutional buildings nationwide. At the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), he has led by example with a reduction in lighting energy use of more than 50 percent in his office suite; and he continues to encourage FERC to consider energy-saving technologies and applications in making regulatory decisions.

Wellinghoff commented, “Sen. Percy is a hero of mine for his efforts in advancing energy efficiency and his work to create the Alliance to Save Energy. I am extremely honored to be named this year’s Charles H. Percy Award winner by the Alliance and will continue to advocate the use of our ‘first and best fuel,’ energy efficiency, to reduce global warming and keep consumer energy costs down.”

**Philips Electronics:** Alliance Honorary Chair Mark Pryor (D-Ark.) selected Philips to receive his award for the company’s crucial role in spearheading the creation and success of the Lighting Efficiency Coalition in developing and gaining enactment of a revolutionary, industry-wide phase-out of inefficient lighting under the Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) of 2007. The law establishes technology-neutral, performance-based lighting-efficiency standards, as well as government incentives to accelerate the use of compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs), light-emitting diodes (LEDs), and energy-efficient halogen lamps, which will result in significant economic, environmental, and energy-security benefits.

Says Philips Lighting North America Chairman Kaj den Daas of the honor, “We are delighted to be recognized by the Alliance to Save Energy for the landmark efforts of the Lighting Efficiency Coalition and to have worked so successfully with the lighting industry, the government, and the environmental community to enhance our nation’s sustainability, establish a precedent for the continued enactment of proactive energy legislation, and help drive a more energy-efficient future for generations to come.”

####

*The Alliance to Save Energy is a coalition of prominent business, government, environmental, and consumer leaders who promote the efficient and clean use of energy worldwide to benefit consumers, the environment, economy, and national security.*