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**CONTACT**

Diane Sandstrom  
(215) 898-1219  
dsand@wharton.upenn.edu

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Pennsylvania SBDC Client Wins 2011 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence**

### **SBDC Locations**

Bucknell University  
Clarion University  
Duquesne University  
Gannon University  
Indiana University  
of Pennsylvania  
Kutztown University  
of Pennsylvania  
Lehigh University  
Lock Haven University  
Penn State University  
Saint Francis University  
Saint Vincent College  
Shippensburg University  
Temple University  
University of Pittsburgh  
University of Scranton  
The Wharton School,  
University of Pennsylvania  
Widener University  
Wilkes University

PHILADELPHIA, Pa - Governor Tom Corbett announced last week that Engineered Plastics, Inc. (EPI) was a winner of a 2011 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence for its "Waste to Profit" project. The awards are presented each year by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to highlight the best in environmental innovation and expertise throughout the Commonwealth.

EPI, a Pennsylvania Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) client, manufactures plastic parts and assemblies for the medical, electrical, sporting goods, and consumer products industries. The company is based in Erie County and employs 200 workers.

The Pennsylvania SBDC and its Environmental Management Assistance Program helped EPI develop a post-industrial materials recycling program that allowed the company to weather a recession that forced many other plastics manufacturers to lay off employees, outsource jobs or even go out of business. With guidance from the Pennsylvania SBDC, EPI applied for and earned a \$500,000 Recycling Markets Infrastructure Development grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

The grant enabled EPI to purchase processing equipment and develop the infrastructure necessary to turn plastic waste into pellets for reuse in new plastic products, thereby reducing landfill costs, helping customers meet environmental and cost reduction goals, and creating demand for recycled materials.

Prior to the "Waste to Profit" project implementation, recycling operations made up less than five percent of EPI's total business. Now it has grown to near 30 percent. Due the increased demand, a newly created Recycling Division at EPI was created and moved to a 75,000 square foot facility this month, and within a year additional space will be added to handle the increased volume. The EPI Recycling Division now operates 24 hours per day, seven days a week and employs up to 30 workers at any given time.

For its achievements in environmental innovation, EPI was formally recognized and honored last week at a dinner hosted by the Pennsylvania Environmental Council.

**About the Pennsylvania SBDC**

For 30 years, the network of 18 university- and college-based Pennsylvania Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) has helped grow the economy through small businesses. Operating out of the [University of Pennsylvania](http://www.universityofpennsylvania.edu), the SBDC is funded in part by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration and higher education institutions. This support enables confidential consulting services to be provided at no charge to the client. For more information, visit [www.pasbdc.org](http://www.pasbdc.org).

**About the Environmental Management Assistance Program**

The Pennsylvania Small Business Development Centers' Environmental Management Assistance Program (EMAP) offers in-depth assistance with environmental regulatory requirements, identifying and implementing energy efficiency and waste minimization opportunities, developing new environmental technology and finding sources of financing for environmental upgrades. Visit [www.askemap.org](http://www.askemap.org) for more information on how businesses can start saving and make contributions to a cleaner environment.

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