



2007 Corporate Award Winner

Ray Anderson

Interface, Inc.

The Corporate Award is given to a corporation or business (or a division, program, or individual of such) for demonstrated accomplishments in incorporating sound ecological concepts, knowledge, and/or practices into its planning and operating procedures. To be eligible, an organization must have a primary mission other than the accomplishment for which the award is to be given. This year's recipient is Ray Anderson, founder of Interface, Inc. Based in Georgia and founded in 1972, Interface is the largest carpet manufacturer in the world.

Mr. Anderson has set the goal of reducing the ecological footprint of Interface to zero, and Interface is making progress toward this goal on multiple fronts. For example, Interface has reduced the amount of waste it produces; in 1994, it identified \$70 million in waste from its operations alone. As a result, Interface aimed to halve that amount by 1997, and again by 2000. In addition to reducing waste, Interface emphasizes recycling, the use of natural raw materials, and compostable products. Interface has made a commitment to achieve "benign" emissions and is reducing its emissions daily based on the results from an inventory of every stack and outlet pipe in the company. As of December 2005, Interface had reduced the number of stacks by 35% and the number of effluent pipes by 53%.

Interface is committed to using renewable energy throughout its operations; energy derived from fossil fuels is considered by the company to be waste and has been targeted for elimination. With this objective in mind, the company has begun to use more energy-efficient transportation options such as electric and hybrid gas/electric cars. Since 1999, Interface has contributed nearly \$125,000 to environmental education programs involving over 23,000 students in the communities where the company operates. In short, Interface serves as a model for companies wishing to institute more ecologically responsible business practices.