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## Mack Molding given state ANR designation

**KEITH WHITCOMB JR.**

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ARLINGTON -- A local manufacturer's northern operations division has been named an environmental partner by two Vermont agencies.

Mack Molding announced this week that it has been given the "Green Partner" designation by the state Agency of Natural Resources and the Vermont Small Business Development Center.

Two agencies

The two agencies work together on the Vermont Business Environmental Partnership, which encourages companies to go beyond existing environmental regulations.

Julie Horst, director of communications for Mack Molding, said the company met all eight of the criteria set forth by ANR and the development center and plans on going through a more comprehensive process that will allow the company to claim Environmental Leader status.

She said being named a partner does nothing more than let the public and customers know the company is committed to being environmentally friendly.

"More and more we are being asked by our customers to define our environmental role in all aspects of the business," Horst said, adding that the company was taking on many of the initiatives required for the designation anyway, and decided to put it into one package and submit it to the state when it heard of the program.

The company's northern operations have three manufacturing facilities, two in Arlington and one in Cavendish. Mack Molding makes a number of plastic products, many for the medical industry.

### Improvements

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Horst said Mack Molding has made additional improvements, including eliminating water discharge at the facility in East Arlington, reducing electricity use by replacing 2,100 lighting fixtures with high intensity fluorescent fixtures, and installing high-efficiency air compressors in two facilities.

The company recycles 920,000 pounds of plastic resin, 98,500 pounds of sheet metal and 45,000 pounds of cardboard on an annual basis.

At the Cavendish facility, fuel oil use has been reduced by 51 percent over last year and participates in environmental training programs and pollution prevention best management practices.

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