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## Environmental Carolinas Launched to Support and Promote Environmental Efforts

### Charlotte -

A new pro-business organization founded by a leading environmental advocate has been launched to support and promote the environmental efforts and achievements of Carolina companies.

[Environmental Carolinas](#), based in Harrisburg, N.C., works with Carolina businesses to green them from the inside out. The company's new Eco Carolinas Certification is setting a new standard for green business improvement.

Environmental Carolinas has developed a unique way to improve companies' environmental efforts while showcasing their achievements. Because of this, businesses are starting to receive the recognition they deserve, according to Environmental Carolinas President and CEO Neil C. Swiacki.

"Unfortunately, businesses don't get enough credit for their environmental accomplishments," he said. "Many businesses are spending a tremendous amount of time and money on environmental efforts, but their communities, their customers and even their employees don't really know about what they're doing. That simply has to change, and we're helping to change it."

Coca-Cola Bottling Company's Snyder Production Center earned the Environment Carolinas Eco Carolinas Certification earlier this year.

"We are pleased to receive the recognition," said Lauren Steele, vice president of corporate affairs for Coca-Cola Bottling Company Consolidated. "Coke Consolidated has given high priority to continuously improving our environmental efforts. From our bottling plants to our corporate offices, we have a distinguished track record for waste reduction and recycling. The Eco Carolinas Certification continues to showcase our efforts."

The Eco Carolinas Certification is designed to improve internal business processes. When a company implements waste reduction and recycling processes into its everyday operations, it can save money and make significant steps toward long-term environmental sustainability, Swiacki said.

Environmental Carolinas awards its Eco Carolinas Certification to businesses that focus on improving their environmental DNA.

It bases its certification on the principles of the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, the Environmental Protection Agency and Energy Star programs. Environmental Carolinas has developed a patent-pending approach for companies to use a web-based application to monitor progress and improve success.

Environmental Carolinas is not a regulator agency. Customers, the community and employees apply oversight. "We believe the market will reward businesses when a company can demonstrate its environmental efforts," Swiacki

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said. "We give businesses the tools to demonstrate the steps they've taken. It's a powerful and a different way of doing business."

Businesses are taking notice.

"We were interested immediately," said Scott Garmon, vice president of sales and project management at Garmon & Company of Charlotte. "As a commercial flooring company, it is vital for our customers and prospects to know that we are serious about environmental sustainability. The Eco Carolinas Certification recognizes our commitment to incorporating good environmental practices throughout our business."

Swiacki is a member of the United States Green Building Council, past co-chair of the USGBC Charlotte, N.C. chapter's communications committee and is currently the secretary for the marketing and development committee. His work in the environmental sector began in 1997 while a specialist in Chrysler Corporation's Environmental and Energy Planning Division. In that capacity, he developed carbon emissions trading positions for U.S. automakers and prepared plans to meet the challenges of the Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change.

For more information, visit [www.ecocarolinas.com](http://www.ecocarolinas.com).

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