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Groups Unveil New York's "Dirty Dozen" Awards

"Winners" Asked to Step Up and Make Necessary Changes

(Albany) On Tuesday, May 22, 2007, community and environmental groups across the state unveiled the "winners" of Citizens' Environmental Coalition's (CEC) Fourth Annual "Dirty Dozen" Awards at a press conference in the LCA Press Room to draw attention to pollution and environmental health problems in New York State. Each Dirty Dozen award is a bright orange miniature hazardous waste barrel symbolic of the threats posed to the health of all New Yorkers by current and past pollution.

"Winners" in the Capital Region include: the Food Industry Alliance for its sponsorship of the "astroturf" group "New Yorkers for Real Recycling Reform" designed to short circuit the Bigger Better Bottle Bill; the City of Albany for its proposed landfill expansion into the Pine Bush; General Electric for its decades-old toxic dump aka the Dewey Loeffel Landfill Site in the Town of Nassau; and the NYSDEC Division of Natural Resources under the Pataki administration for its years-long refusal to adequately fund the laboratory of Wildlife Pathologist Ward Stone. Other "winners" include the Lower Manhattan Development Corp. for poor Ground Zero clean-up, the EPA's Region 2 for failure to clean-up Onondaga Lake, Entergy for its radioactivity-leaking Indian Point Power Plant, and NYS Ag & Markets for preempting local control of factory farms.

"As environmentalists, we are generally upbeat, friendly, and optimistic" said Steve Breyman, Executive Director of Citizens' Environmental Coalition. "But our smiles turned into frowns as the nominations for this year's awards poured in." CEC Program Associate Laura McCarthy added, "Grassroots groups across the state rely on us to help highlight their local toxic polluter or unresponsive regulatory agency." "We're hoping the new Spitzer administration will end the need for these awards," said Breyman.

The Dirty Dozen "winners" were selected by a selection committee based on the severity of the threat they pose and the unwillingness of the polluters and government officials to adequately address the situation.

See the attached list for descriptions of the winners.

Citizens' Environmental Coalition (CEC) is the leading statewide environmental health advocacy organization working to eliminate pollution and protect human health and the environment in New York. For twenty-four years, we have accomplished this by serving as the nexus of grassroots organizing, statewide policy advocacy and national collaboration. Visit www.cectoxic.org for more information on our work.