

# Green Notes

## **Thule to Use Solar Energy at its Headquarters**

SEYMOUR, CT—Thule plans to power 26 percent of its 108,000-square-foot Seymour, Connecticut, headquarters with solar energy through a 318-kilowatt solar system installed on the building's roof. "We are experts in maximizing a vehicle's roof space and we are pleased to be able to use our building's roof space to reduce and stabilize our energy cost," said Fred Clark, president of Thule. The Thule solar PV system will consist of two separate arrays with 1,876 solar panels, and will supply an estimated 324,800 kilowatts per year. Thule will host the system under a power purchase agreement where Nautilus Solar Energy LLC, a developer of distributed generation and utility scale solar power projects, will own the solar system and Thule will purchase energy produced at a fixed price below current utility rate. This allows Nautilus to receive federal tax incentives, rebates and renewable energy credits associated with the project. The project will get a \$1.3 million boost from the Connecticut Clean Energy fund's On-site Renewable Distributed Energy Program. The solar system should be running by the end of July.

## **QBP Wins Governor's Award for Eco Practices**

BLOOMINGTON, MN—Quality Bicycle Products won the 2008 Minnesota Governor's Award in recognition of its extensive environmental achievements. QBP shares the award with LHB, an architectural design firm. Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty presented the accolade at a ceremony in February attended by more than 1,500 people. Pawlenty credited the companies for "discovering unique ways to prevent waste and pollution through creativity, innovation and resourcefulness while often increasing efficiencies at the same time." Over the last two years, QBP has launched aggressive initiatives to reduce its environmental footprint, including designing and constructing a new 35,000-square-foot office complex and 100,000-square-foot distribution center according to LEED standards. The warehouse and office space employ numerous energy-saving and waste-reducing features like extensive natural lighting, high-efficiency florescent lights, wall panels made from recycled paper and water-stingy lavatories. QBP also installed a 40-kilowatt solar panel array—the largest installation in the Upper Midwest. QBP saves \$12,000 a year in energy costs.

## **Cannondale Reduces Emissions at its Plant**

BEDFORD, PA—Cannondale is making strides toward reducing emissions from its Bedford, Pennsylvania, plant. In its plant operations, it has switched from using Methyl Ethyl Ketone to a mixture of Acetone and Butyl Alcohol, which has reduced emissions from 6.7 pounds per gallon to .7 pounds per gallon. The company uses about 385 gallons per month, which translated into a savings of more 25,000 pounds of pollution kept out of the environment between 2005 and 2006. In 2004, the company was considered a Large Quantity Generator, a category for companies that emit 2,200 or more pounds of pollution per month. It is now classified as a Small Quantity Generator thanks in part to shortening paint gun lines, adding plural component systems to reduce the amount of solvent flushing and switching to a less hazardous stripper. Cannondale also upgraded paint, which eliminated the need for a primer coat, saving time, money and emissions, and upgraded to a non-hazardous solvent in its parts washers. All packaging materials used by Cannondale can be recycled by its dealers.

## **Sea Otter Classic Trims its Carbon Footprint**

MONTEREY, CA—The Sea Otter Classic joined forces with Sierra Nevada Brewing Co. to provide recycling bins at this year's four-day festival. Sierra Nevada, which kept 98.2 percent of its total solid waste out of the landfill in 2007 through recycling and reuse programs, served as the official recycling sponsor at the Sea Otter Classic. In a further effort to reduce the festival's carbon footprint, everyone arriving in a hybrid vehicle, a pedal-powered vehicle or a carpool of more than four people enjoyed premier reserved parking for the weekend.