

# Polish Ecology Leader 2007

Laureates of the 10th Polish Ecology Leader competition under the auspices of the Minister of the Environment were awarded at a ceremony in Dramatyczny Theatre in Warsaw on October 17. Polish President Lech Kaczyński was the honorary patron of the competition.



The Polish Ecology Leader title is awarded by the Minister of the Environment to companies and local governments which, by working to preserve and improve environmental quality in Poland, enhance the quality of life for present and future generations and are guided in their activities by the principle of sustainable development.

The competition is held in three categories: enterprise, product and local government. This enables the organisers to highlight environmental activities pursued by production and service companies, as well as local initiatives designed to promote environmental protection.

There were 131 entrants in the 10th edition of the competition: 73 communes (unions of communes) and counties, and 58 enterprises. The jury selected 26 entrants for final review. Ultimately, 11 organisations were honoured with the Polish Ecology Leader title. Twelve honourable mentions were also awarded.

Green Certificates in the 8th edition of the programme for certifying schools and kindergartens as sustainable development centres and badges of merit for contribution to environmental protection and water management were also distributed during the ceremony. A concert by Edyta Geppert added splendour to the event.

A total of 1,001 projects carried out by companies and local governments in conjunction with R&D units, universities and local communities were submitted for the competition in the years 1996-2006. The Polish Ecology Leader title was awarded to 76 of the entrants. "Polish Market" is one of the media patrons of the competition.

## Laureates of the 10th edition of the Polish Ecology Competition under the auspices of the Minister of the Environment:

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT CATEGORY

#### Urban commune (municipality)

- Wągrowiec, Wielkopolskie province – for comprehensive environmental activities
- Lubań, Dolnośląskie province – for activities aimed at environmental protection, with a special focus on water and sewage management

#### Urban-rural commune

- Police, Zachodniopomorskie province – for comprehensive activities in the area of environmental protection

#### Rural commune

- Warta Bolesławiecka, Dolnośląskie province – for comprehensive environmental activities for the sustainable development of the commune

#### County

- Belchatów, Łódzkie province – for waste management and measures taken to minimise threats to the environment and residents of the county

No title was awarded in the unions of communes category

### ENTERPRISE CATEGORY

#### Production enterprise

- HMS Sp. z o.o., Niepołomice, Małopolskie province – for the construction and expansion of a new platform grating plant in Niepołomice

#### Service enterprise

- Miejskie Przedsiębiorstwo Oczyszczania Sp. z o.o., Kraków, Małopolskie province – for achievements in municipal waste management
- Leśny Bank Genów Kostrzyca, Miłków, Dolnośląskie province – for protecting biodiversity and forest gene pool

### PRODUCT CATEGORY

#### Products

- Orlen Oil Sp. z o.o., Kraków, Małopolskie province – for the Orlen Oil Platinum family of oils for engines meeting the Euro 4 requirements

#### Technologies

- Łomża Forest District Office, Podlaskie province – for restoring forest function to the former Czerwony Bór military training ground in the Łomża forest district
- Biuro Projektów Koksoprojekt Sp. z o.o., Zabrze, Śląskie province – for a modern coke-oven battery equipped with innovative and environment-friendly solutions

No title was awarded in the Equipment category

### HONOURABLE MENTIONS

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT CATEGORY

#### Urban commune (municipality)

- Częstochowa, Śląskie province – for the city's environmental protection activities over many years



Laureates of the 10th Polish Ecology Leader competition in the enterprise category



**Urban-rural commune**

- Niepolomice, Małopolskie province – for activities for the sustainable development of the commune
- Koźnice, Mazowieckie province – for activities for the sustainable development of the commune

**Rural commune**

- Bierawa, Opolskie province – for comprehensive activities in the area of environmental protection
- Strawczyn, Świętokrzyskie province – for environmental protection activities in the commune

**County**

- Wągrowiec, Wielkopolskie province – for thermal improvements to public utility buildings in the county

No honourable mention was awarded in the union of communes category.

**ENTERPRISE CATEGORY****Production enterprise**

- Baterpol Sp. z o.o., Katowice, Śląskie province – for the recycling of components of used lead-acid batteries containing sulphur

**Service enterprise**

- Aqua SA, Bielsko-Biała, Śląskie province – for innovative projects designed to reduce the impact of the enterprise on the environment
- Regional State Forest Authority in Białystok, Białystok, Podlaskie province – for using Białowieża Forest to meet the needs of today's society

**PRODUCT CATEGORY****Products**

- Przedsiębiorstwo Gospodarki Komunalnej Sp. z o.o. PGK Koszalin, Zachodniopomorskie province – for managing sludge and organic wastes from green area maintenance and conservation
- Engorem Sp. z o.o., Łódź, Łódzkie province – for the ENGO-01 heat pump

No honourable mention was awarded in the Technologies and Equipment categories

**SPECIAL AWARD**

- Foundation for the Protection of Great Mazurian Lakes, Giżycko, Warmińsko-Mazurskie province – for the protection of the natural environment of the Great Mazurian Lakes.



## State Environmental Council of Poland (PROS) – a Member of European Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils Network (EEAC)

PROS was established in the mid-1980s as the consulting body to the Polish Prime Minister. After the political and economic changes of 1989, it became an advisory council of the Minister of the Environment and an obligatory body specified in the Environmental Law of 2001.

In the transition period of the 1990s, PROS provided abundant critical advice helping to make important decisions concerning large-scale investments potentially in conflict with the environment. The most important PROS activities in the past 2001-2006 term were connected with adjusting Polish environmental law to European Union requirements, both prior and after the accession date.

The Council nominated for the current 2007-2013 term consists of 24 members including the Presidium (Professors: Piotr Paschalis-Jakubowicz and Maciej Sadowski – Deputy-Chairs, Jan Żelazo – Secretary, Edward Garścia – Member and myself as the Chair).

The links established with the network of corresponding European environmental councils have played an important role in achieving the above mentioned goals.

The EEAC is a growing network bringing together national advisory councils of various character and independence from governmental institutions. Some countries such as the UK, Germany, the Netherlands and a few others have more than one advisory councils. Others are in the process of applying to become a full member – France, Spain, Croatia, Belgium (the third council applying), the Czech Republic, Slovakia and others.

Once a full member of the Network (2002), PROS adjusted its internal structure to the EEAC working groups composition. The ap-

proaching date of Poland's accession to the European Union provided the encouragement to run for the organization of the EEAC Annual Plenary Session and Conference. The positive decision by the EEAC Steering Committee allowed PROS to organize the annual summit in Warsaw in 2006.

Sustainable forest management was selected as the subject of the 14th EEAC Annual Conference as an introduction to the topic of the summit of European forestry ministers to be hosted by the Polish Minister of the Environment in Warsaw in November 2007. The minister sponsored the publication of a booklet regarded both as an informal report on the 14th Annual Plenary Session and Conference of the EEAC Network, as well as a selection of information presenting the achievements of Poland in sustainable forestry economy, protection of biodiversity and recovery of unique nature-species in this country (see the EEAC home page at: [www.eeac-net.org](http://www.eeac-net.org) (annual conferences)).

The EEAC internal structure, mirrored by PROS, consists of six Working Groups: Agriculture, Biodiversity, Energy & Environment, Environmental Governance, Marine (Water) and Sustainable Development. The WG E&E was responsible for an annual conference on "Energy Efficiency – Key Pillar for a Competitive Secure and Sustainable Europe" hosted by the Portuguese council (CNADS) and co-organized by the German council (SRU) in the city of Evora in October 2007.

The international network has elaborated numerous important documents among them the medium-term EEAC Strategy (until 2015), which will be the starting point for the programme of the 2008 annual conference on Europe in the Longer View to be held in Bordeaux, France.



Tomasz Winnicki is PROS Chairman, Professor of environmental science and engineering, member of the European Academy of Sciences & Arts and the Ukrainian Academy of Technical Sciences, the Honorary Chair of Rectors' Conference of Public Colleges of Poland, holder of an honorary doctorate of Częstochowa University of Technology.