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Highland Craftsmen Inc. Receives Distinguished SHARP Award for Worksite Safety

Spruce Pine based green manufacturing leader, Highland Craftsmen, received another industry distinguishing award. This time it's the SHARP by OSHA for their exemplary safety and health management system, making them 1 of 89 SHARP companies in NC.

March 12, 2010 - PRLog - (Spruce Pine, NC) North Carolina Department of Labor Commissioner

Cherie Berry, along with officials from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) presented its distinguished Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) award to Highland Craftsmen Inc at the company's manufacturing facility in Spruce Pine, NC. Company employees were joined by state, county and town representatives. These included Juleigh Sitton, the Director of Governor Perdue's Western Office; Mitchell County Manager Charles Vines; Town of Spruce Pine Mayor, Ralph Hise and Town Manager Richard Canipe.

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SHARP is the highest honor OSHA awards to

small worksites that demonstrate an exemplary commitment to workplace safety and health. There are eighty-nine SHARP companies in North Carolina. Forty-one of those are in the West district, which contains thirty-five counties. HC is the first business in Mitchell County to receive this honor. During the ceremony, HC owner, Marty McCurry thanked the employees for their daily contribution to the company's success, stating, "We spend more time together than we do with our families. It's important that we take care of each other and providing a safe work environment is our primary responsibility". McCurry went on to thank the community for its support.

Highland Craftsmen Inc is a company that has created many new products from what was once considered forest waste, including their nationally acclaimed Bark House® brand shingles. This involved designing and constructing several new tools. HC VP and Occupational Health Nurse, Chris McCurry states "We didn't just want to get the job done, we wanted to do it right". Chris and company Safety Manager, Gary McCurry, coordinated OSHA visits to ensure that the company lives up to it's guiding principle, "Simply do your best on everything, every time". At the end of the process, HC staffers would definitely recommend calling the OSHA team in to review company policies and procedures. "They were thorough, but great to work with," acknowledges Gary. "With OSHA's help, we have improved our safety program with participation from all employees."

Acceptance into SHARP by OSHA identifies a company as a model for worksite safety and health. Upon receiving SHARP recognition, a worksite is exempt from programmed inspections for two years. After this exemption period is over, the employer may be awarded a renewal of up to three years.

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Highland Craftsmen was founded in 1990 as the original poplar bark shingle manufacturer. HC products are sold under the Bark House® brand name.

HC is a Certified and Audited B Corporation, which validates community participation and positive social impact. HC received a Cultural Contribution Award from the Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce. Our Bark House brand exterior shingles have achieved Cradle to Cradle Gold Level Certification. HC is a Chain of Custody certified by FSC, SFI and PEFC which means we track the materials from forests so there is an assurance of responsibly managed land and that the materials are legally sourced. We are now recognized by OSHA with the SHARP Award.

Our materials are locally sourced, 90% within a 100 mile radius and 100% within a 500 mile radius and all are forestry waste products. We have created economic opportunities for over 700 vendors.

To learn more on HC, its awards, products and staff, visit the website at http://www.BarkHouse.com



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: Spruce Pine - North Carolina - United States Location Industry : Architecture, Manufacturing, Environment

: Sharp, Osha, B Corp, B2B, C2c, Chain-of-custody, Cradle To Cradle, Design And Tags

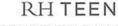
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