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Northstate Carpet Mills, based at Molendinar, won the second annual SouthROC award as a result of its stringent efforts in implementing waste minimisation principles as a participant in the Environmental Protection Agency's WasteWise program.

SouthROC is the Southern Regional Organisation of Councils which comprises the local governments of Redland, Logan, Beaudesert, Gold Coast and Tweed. The awards recognise solid waste minimisation leaders in the private sector and reward companies that demonstrate a commitment to waste avoidance, reduction, reuse and recycling.

Logan City Council Mayor and Chairman of SouthROC, Councillor John Freeman, presented the award to Northstate Carpet Mills' Financial Controller, Baudouin Verriest, and Inventory Controller, Mike Davis, at a recent SouthROC meeting.

Northstate achievements included product redevelopment, reduced packaging and waste disposal costs, freeing up valuable warehouse space and discovering innovative ways to turn waste carpet backing into weed matting or carpet underlay as an income generating resource.

Gold Coast City Council's Health Cultural Services and Community Safety Committee Chairperson Councillor Jan Grew said Northstate's participation in the WasteWise program had assisted the company greatly in minimising their wastes.

"Diligent waste auditing and the energetic sourcing of recycling options have seen them divert over 100 tonnes of material from landfill in the last year, resulting in an annual cost saving of \$330,000", she said.

Cr Grew said it was important for local government to play such a proactive and positive role in the encouragement of waste minimisation by the private sector.

"We would encourage all businesses to adopt corporate social responsibility charters and reap the rewards of contributing to our clean and green environment for which the Gold Coast is renowned," she said.

Northstate has been manufacturing commercial synthetic carpets since 1970 at Molendinar on the Gold Coast servicing Australia, New Zealand, Asia and the Pacific region.

Northstate's Mr Davis said it was a great pleasure to receive an award recognising our contribution to the environment.

"To be recognised for our achievements is not only great for all those involved it also further inspires ideas and solutions that address waste reduction. We look forward to 2003 and who know's we may just win again."

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