

## Commissioner Lori F. Kaplan

---

*Text as prepared for:* Governor's Conference - Awards Ceremony  
*Date presented:* September 27, 2002  
*Location:* IGCS – Auditorium Indianapolis  
*(Text does not include verbatim comments)*

---

Good afternoon. For those who may have joined us since our last assembly in this auditorium, I am Lori Kaplan, Commissioner of IDEM. Welcome to all, and especially our distinguished honorees who are with us today. It is with much pleasure that I am here today to present awards to this year's recipients of the 2002 Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence.

Before we continue, it is my great honor to introduce the Governor of Indiana, Frank O'Bannon.

Governor O'Bannon has spent nearly all his adult life in public service. He served 18 years in the state senate, representing southeastern Indiana, and spent 8 years as Lieutenant Governor where his priorities were developing jobs for Hoosiers as well serving as the state's Commissioner of Agriculture, where he oversaw and took a hands-on approach to agricultural issues.

He has always been a strong advocate for protecting Indiana's environment and for preserving our state's natural beauty for generations to come. Now in his sixth year as Governor, he continues to work on ways to encourage environmental awareness and to champion those who actively work to protect the environment, and our natural resources. Under his administration, Indiana has taken some of the strongest actions ever against polluters, and is continuing to work on ways to balance the needs of economic progress and environmental protection -- a daunting task for anyone.

I am proud to serve as his Commissioner for the Department of Environmental Management, and in my other role as a regular citizen of Indiana, I am glad to have such a caring person as my governor. Ladies and gentlemen, Governor Frank O'Bannon.

### **Governor's Comments**

#### **Lori Kaplan**

Thank you.

Now, on to the awards!

This year, we expanded the format of the awards programs for recycling and pollution prevention to offer some new categories. These new categories are:

**Land Use**  
**Outreach or Education**  
**Energy/Renewable Resources and**  
**Greening the Government**

For the first time in the history of the environmental awards program, IDEM partnered with the Indiana Department of Administration, the Indiana Department of Commerce and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to implement these changes. John Goss, from the Department of Natural Resources joins us here today.

We hope that by making these changes, we are able to recognize some new and exciting environmental projects that were not receiving recognition in the past.

This year, we will be presenting 18 awards to entities representing all corners of the state. Review committees with specific expertise made recommendations to the Governor in the selection process. Please join me in recognizing and thanking the review committee members at this time.

Also, I want to personally thank GE Plastics, Mount Vernon, for donating the amazing awards we will be presenting to each of these recipients. This is the third year GE Plastics Mt. Vernon, Inc. has donated the awards. They are made from the 1999 award-winning lexan. Lexan is a polycarbonate used for a wide variety of applications, including bullet-resistant windows, shatter-resistant eyeglass lenses and other-high grade plastic applications such as compact and digital video discs.

We couldn't have this program without Hoosier integrity and the organizations and industries that apply to the program.

In the words of Fernando Flores, "Great work is done by people who are not afraid to be great." I want to thank these recipients for their great work and for achieving success in spite of the obstacles they may have encountered. I hope we will be inspired to follow in their footsteps.

Before we announce the recipients, I would like to direct your attention to those receiving an Honorable Mention in our conference program on the second to last page.

On with the show! Now it is once again my good fortune to introduce Beth Compton.

For those of you who have joined us since this morning's introductions, on July 13, 2001, Governor O'Bannon announced Beth Compton as his Deputy Counsel and executive assistant for the environment and natural resources.

Prior to serving in this capacity, Compton served as the head of the Indiana Health Profession Bureau. Before that, she served with the attorney general's office, here she was section chief of

the consumer protection division. She also worked previously in private practice from 1992 to 1997. Compton graduated cum laud from the Indiana University School of Law.

Here today to announce the award recipients is Beth Compton.