

WORKSHOP SUMMARY

In October 2003, EPA and the natural gas industry convened in Houston, Texas, to recognize the continued growth and success of the Natural Gas STAR Program. Nearly 100 participants gathered to network, share information, and celebrate the achievements of this important voluntary partnership program.

Highlights from the workshop included: a keynote address by Mr. James Connaughton, Chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality and President Bush's top environmental advisor; presentations from partner companies on their experiences with the Gas STAR Program, methane emissions reductions projects, and tips for successful implementation; introductions to new leak detection technologies; updates on emissions inventory development and emissions markets; and breakout sessions for both new and mature partners. In addition, Natural Gas STAR Service Representatives provided partners with a demonstration of the Online Tools Suite including the Data Collection and Management Tool, the BMP/PRO Analysis Tool, and the Online Reporting System.

EPA recognized the outstanding accomplishments of all Natural Gas STAR partners and presented the 2003 Partner of the Year, Continuing Excellence, Implementation Manager, and Rookie of the Year awards during a special awards and recognition luncheon held on Tuesday, October 28. EPA also welcomed 13 new partners to the program and recognized the support of 6 trade associations.

EPA extends its gratitude to the organizations that generously co-sponsored this year's workshop:

- ★ **Heath Consultants, Inc.** for its sponsorship of the Attendee Ice Breaker Reception.
- ★ **Hy-Bon Engineering** for its sponsorship of the Continental Breakfast.
- ★ **American Gas Association** for its sponsorship of the Awards and Recognition Luncheon.
- ★ **American Petroleum Institute** for its general support of the Annual Implementation Workshop.