A LBANY, N.Y. — Saying that solid waste reduction and recycling is connected to a rebuilding state economy, New York Gov. George E. Pataki has asked for applications for the 1997 Governor's Waste Reduction and Recycling Awards program.

"Recycled waste is diverted from landfills and incinerators and put to economically productive use, creating new industries and jobs along the way," DEC Acting Commissioner John P. Cahill said.

"Solid waste reduction and recycling is connected to a rebuilding state economy," Pataki said. "We continue to rebuild New York's economy and improve its economic competitiveness," Pataki said. "These goals are connected." Awards will be given in two categories: innovation and achievement of excellence.

Applications, which will be accepted through June 18, are available from the Division of Solid & Hazardous Materials, Bureau of Waste Reduction & Recycling, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Room 212, 50 Wolf Road, Albany, N.Y. 12233; or by contacting Kim Thurn at 518-457-8829.

Applicants will be judged by industry experts and DEC staff on their reduction and recycling achievements, as well as their overall environmental record, the economic benefits of their overall programs, the extent of employee participation and benefits to the community and environment.

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