

Engineers with a green streak stand out

Two British Columbians earn awards for their environmentally sound innovations

BY SCOTT SIMPS ON, VANCOUVER SUN SEPTEMBER 8, 2010



UBC professor of civil engineering Don Mavinic holds fertilizer recovered from the sludge of a waste water treatment plant.

Photograph by: Gerry Kahrmann, Vancouver Sun, Vancouver Sun

Civil engineer Don Mavinic started looking for a way to rid waste treatment plants of a concrete-like compound that was jamming up equipment - and ended up with a techno-fix that could help feed the world.

Mechanical engineer Ray Roussy stubbornly persisted with a belief that he could build a better drill rig -and ended up with a machine that's ideal for installation in the booming field of geothermal energy systems.

Both men, residents of British Columbia, will be announced today as winners of 2010 Manning Innovation Awards.

The awards -- named for former Alberta premier Ernest Manning -- are distributed nationally each year to a total of four applicants across Canada in recognition of "innovative talent in developing and successfully marketing a new concept, process or procedure."

In B.C.'s case, Manning Foundation executive director Bruce Fenwick said Tuesday in a telephone interview, both winners had a noticeable green streak.

