



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **EARTH FRIENDLY PRODUCTS™ RECOGNIZED BY U.S. EPA AS 2016 WASTEWISE SMALL BUSINESS PARTNER OF THE YEAR**

*Cypress, CA (December 15, 2016)* – Earth Friendly Products™, the maker of ECOS™ environmentally friendly cleaning products and a U.S.-based green manufacturer, has received the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s prestigious 2016 WasteWise Small Business Partner of the Year award for leadership in reducing waste, practicing environmental stewardship, and implementing sustainable materials management. WasteWise helps businesses, non-profit organizations and local governments find practical solutions to reduce costly waste, benefiting both the environment and the organizations.

“We’re honored to be recognized by the EPA for our commitment to waste reduction and environmental protection,” said Kelly Vlahakis-Hanks, president and CEO of Earth Friendly Products. “We believe it’s our responsibility to reduce waste and reuse materials as much as possible at our manufacturing facilities. It’s an important part of our larger sustainability program that also includes carbon neutrality and water neutrality.”

“Being recognized as a WasteWise Partner of the Year shows how serious we are about creating a more sustainable future. Over the past four years, we’ve implemented comprehensive training and educational programs that extend the sustainability and reuse of waste materials,” said Dr. Nadereh Afsharmanesh, Vice President of Sustainability and Education at Earth Friendly Products. “We also work very closely with our vendors to be sure they share our vision and goals to minimize waste reduction.”

In addition to the 2016 WasteWise honor, Earth Friendly Products also received the EPA’s coveted Safer Choice Partner of the Year Award in 2015. Also, the company received the prestigious Zero Waste Platinum certification from the U.S. Zero Waste Business Council (USZWBC), making Earth Friendly Products the first company to have all its manufacturing facilities certified Platinum-level Zero Waste, the highest possible distinction from the USZWBC.



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"We're enormously proud of all of our sustainability achievements," says Vlahakis-Hanks. "We hope to serve as a model of sustainable business practices for other manufacturing companies, and we encourage them to join us in our fight to protect our health, and the health of our planet, so future generations will have a clean and beautiful planet to enjoy."

### **ABOUT EARTH FRIENDLY PRODUCTS**

Family owned and operated since 1967, Earth Friendly Products is the maker of ECOS™ Laundry Detergent and over 200 other environmentally friendly cleaners that are safer for people, pets and the planet. Made with plant-derived ingredients, ECOS™ and Baby ECOS™ cleaners are thoughtfully sourced, free of formaldehyde and dyes, pH balanced, readily biodegradable, and never tested on animals. As a primary manufacturer, Earth Friendly Products makes its own products in sustainable manufacturing facilities located throughout the U.S. The company has received many awards for its innovations in safer green chemistry, including the U.S. EPA's coveted Safer Choice Partner of the Year. All Earth Friendly Products facilities are carbon neutral, water neutral and Zero Waste Platinum certified, saving over 53 million pounds of carbon dioxide annually and diverting over 95% of all waste from landfills and incineration through recycling and reuse. ECOS™ products are available at selected major retailers throughout the U.S. and in over 60 countries and online at [www.ecos.com](http://www.ecos.com) and [www.babyecos.com](http://www.babyecos.com).

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