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The 2001 Volvo Environment Prize has been awarded to Dr. George M. Woodwell

The 2001 Volvo Environment Prize has been awarded to Dr. George M. Woodwell, founder and director of the Woods Hole Research Center. Dr. Woodwell was honored at a ceremony on October 30th in Gothenburg, Sweden, as "a biologist of international distinction, who was one of the earliest to recognize, understand, and point out remedies for several of the most important threats to the global environment...well before his methods and conclusions became generally accepted."

Instituted in 1988, the Volvo Environment Prize acknowledges people who have made an outstanding contribution to understanding or protecting the environment through scientific, socio-economic or technological innovation. Dr. Woodwell was praised by the Volvo prize scientific committee for his "pioneering scientific work on the negative impacts of persistent pesticides, ionizing radiation, and other human induced stresses, and of forest clearance on global warming, as well as his equally path-breaking activities in science-based public policy development." He was recognized for his contributions as founder and former director of the Ecosystems Center of the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole and as a former senior scientist at Brookhaven National Laboratory. He was also a founder and remains as a board member of the Natural Resources Defense Council and honorary board member of the Environmental Defense Fund (now Environmental Defense). He is a former board chairman and currently a member of the National Council of the World Wildlife Fund. The committee singled out Dr. Woodwell as an "outstanding scientist and policy analyst of great vision, courage, and determination, operating well before his time."

According to Dr. Kilaparti Ramakrishna, deputy director of the Woods Hole Research Center, "George Woodwell now joins a very small but extremely distinguished group of world leaders in environment who have received this distinction." Woods Hole Research Center visiting distinguished scientist and Harvard professor John P. Holdren of Falmouth was a recipient of the Volvo award in 1993.