

WINNERS OF THE 10TH ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

The Environmental Recognition Awards began in 1999 and were created by the Sacramento Environmental Commission to recognize the accomplishments and leadership of those who have acted to protect our environmental resources while enabling economic progress. This year, entrants competed in 4 categories as follows:

1. Voluntarily Exceeding Environmental Regulatory Requirements
2. Providing Leadership Toward The Protection and Enhancement of the Environment in the Greater Sacramento Community
3. Demonstration of Using Tools, techniques, and Best Practices to Address Sustainability and Climate Change
4. Achievement of a Successful Education/Outreach Program Particularly Those Focused on Climate Change and Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions

WINNER IN CATEGORY 1:

The Environmental Health Specialist Network Drinking Water Program – This program is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and administered locally by Joyce Tuttle, a Registered Environmental health Specialists with the California Dept. of Public Health. The focus of this program is to assure the safety of drinking water systems that are not regulated by the Safe Drinking Water Act and to increase awareness of the danger of waterborne diseases.

WINNERS IN CATEGORY 2:

The River-Friendly Landscape Coalition – The coalition developed and published guidelines intended to aid landscape professionals, local governments and private citizens in creating and maintaining landscapes that conserve water and energy, protect Sacramento waterways, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, decrease waste to the landfills, reduce stormwater pollution, decrease pesticide use and improve air quality and public health.

The Natomas Unified School District – They are one of the first school districts in the nation to convert their fleet of school buses to biodiesel fuel and, by doing so, decreased their air toxin emissions by 20-40% and greenhouse gas emissions by 15-20%. They are the only k-12 school district in the state to be designated as a “Climate Action Leader” for participating in a national greenhouse gas emissions reporting program. They have converted all their playing fields to synthetic turf to eliminate the need for polluting lawn mowers.

WINNERS IN CATEGORY 3:

The California Franchise Tax Board – The Tax Board hosted a Green Fair in July of 2008 where 40 vendors exhibited green products and services for the Franchise Tax Board’s 4,000 employees. They formed a company Green Team and a web page to oversee and promote green ideas and developed an alternative transportation program which they have involved 40% of their employees in. They received the LEED-NC Silver certification for 1 million square feet of new construction at their headquarters.

The Federico Beauty Institute – Gary Federico, the owner of the Institute, collaborated with the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) to install an 82 kW photovoltaic carport system which reduced annual CO2 emissions by 208,755 lbs. Their solar panel application is projected to save 151,272 kilowatt hours per year.

WINNERS IN CATEGORY 4:

The Youth Energy Summit: Leadership in Action – This was put on by the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD). This was contest which local high school students could enter and win by writing a 500-word essay on their “carbon footprint”. It was a 2-day even where they learned about the energy future, renewable energy, green careers and climate change from experts in the field. They then returned to their schools to conduct an energy-related service project.

The Sacramento Sustainable Business Program – This is a regional partnership between the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District, the Sacramento Municipal Utilities District, the Regional Water Authority, the Water Forum and the Business Environmental Resource Center (BERC). It recognizes businesses that take voluntary actions to implement sustainable practices. To date, over 140 area business have been certified sustainable.

The Arden Middle School Science Olympiad Team – This is an after-school/weekend program which requires the participants to dedicate a great deal of their time to ready for science competitions. The mission of the Olympiad is to motivate students to seek careers in science, engineering and mathematics. This program has been in existence for 15 years and out that, they have taken 12 regional titles, 1st place in the state competition the last 6 out of 7 years and national placement each of those time as well.

The Sacramento Green Partnership – This is a collaboration between Sacramento County and the Sacramento Municipal Utilities District (SMUD) to promote education, share resources and develop coordinated strategies to reduced greenhouse gases and adapt to climate change impacts. The Partnership hosted four meetings over the last year each attended by over 30 representatives from counties and cities in the region thus educating other community leaders and encouraging leadership by example.