



2015 SUSTAINABLE SAINT PAUL AWARDS

CITY OF SAINT PAUL



The Sustainable Saint Paul Awards pay tribute to individuals, businesses and organizations that have demonstrated a commitment to environmental stewardship through leadership in their respective categories. By sponsoring these awards, Mayor Chris Coleman and the Saint Paul City Council encourage all residents, businesses, community groups and non-profits in Saint Paul to implement similar projects. These efforts further enhance the City's quality of life and make Saint Paul the Most Livable City in America.

The 2015 Sustainable Saint Paul Award Winners

Environmental Education Award - *Honoring programs that effectively teach children and young adults how to learn about and investigate their environment and to make intelligent, informed decisions about how to take care of it.*

Environmental Inquiry Immersion



Students collecting rain garden data. Photo courtesy of the Environmental Inquiry Immersion.

The Environmental Inquiry Immersion program at Murray Middle School goes above and beyond to provide students with hands-on, real-world experiences learning about and investigating their environment. The Environmental Inquiry Immersion program, also known as “E2”, is out to bridge the achievement gap in science through environmental learning. E2 provides an “on ramp” for students to regain access to advanced, college preparatory science classes.

Furthermore, the E2 program extends beyond the school day and the school year. E2 students spend two weekends at Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center during the school year, and another two weeks over the summer. During this time students do a research project and present their projects to Wolf Ridge staff, community members, and researchers in the area. The projects are later submitted to the Twin Cities Regional Science Fair.

The E2 program also extends beyond the school building. E2 graduates matriculating to Como Park Senior High School return to Como Woodland as mentors helping new E2 students complete fieldwork at their forest plots. This program well engages students in learning about their environments in a variety of ways.

Face to Face



A camping trip with the Wilderness and Outdoor Program. Photo courtesy of Face to Face.

Face to Face is being honored for their creation of the school's Wilderness and Outdoor Program, which helps increase exposure to the outdoors for at-risk, urban youth. Face to Face students participate in multiple three to seven day trips, including canoeing trips down the Namekagon River, hiking trips to the Porcupine Mountains, and camping trips in the Boundary Waters area. Day activities include teaching students about wilderness survival and canoe paddling skills, downhill and cross-country skiing, rock-climbing, and off-road biking. Furthermore, standards and curriculum for the students are linked to environmental education and help fulfill graduation requirements. Results show that students who are regular participants in the program have shown greater academic gains in credit accumulation and math and reading test scores; their attendance improves, and their likelihood for graduation significantly increases.

Green Products Award - *Honoring individuals, businesses, and organizations that develop or use innovative products that reduce toxicity, prevent pollution, and lower environmental impact overall.*

Bang Brewing



The Bang Brewery. Photo courtesy of Geoff Warner.

Bang Brewing is located in the Raymond Creative Enterprise Zone. The brewing center is a uniquely purpose built facility with an emphasis on green design and environmental stewardship. The entirety of the highly efficient operation is housed in a 1,300 square foot partial pre-fab grain bin designed in concert with STP's Alchemy Architects. The US build brew system was custom designed to minimize water use. Its electricity is provided through Windsorce®. Bang Brewing partners with a local farmer in a spent grain program and champions composting, reuse and recycling. The majority of the 1/6 acre lot where Bang Brewing is located consists of permeable surfaces to mitigate stormwater runoff, in addition to being landscaped with barley and prairie. The Bang Brewing taproom also provides an opportunity to discuss and educate customers in organic farming, local sourcing and environmental awareness.

Youth Leadership Award – *Honoring an individual student, school group, community youth group or school-wide activity that demonstrated excellence in sustainability efforts.*

Frogtown Crew



The Frogtown Crew. Photo courtesy of Smart Trips.

The Frogtown Crew consists of twelve active youth members and is a partnership between St. Paul Smart Trips and the Kitty Andersen Youth Science Center at the Science Museum of Minnesota. In 2013, the Frogtown Crew held focus groups about biking and walking with residents in the Frogtown neighborhood. The crew learned from these focus groups that a primary reason why Frogtown community members were not walking or biking more was due to real and/or perceived safety concerns in their community. In order to change this perception, the Frogtown Crew hosted nine block parties, as a way to engage residents on the importance and value of biking and walking. Over 1,000 residents attended the block parties and in the summer of 2014, the crew continued to work on getting people to drive their car less and increase their walking and biking trips in the neighborhood through outreach, infrastructure changes, and education. These young leaders are inspirational.

Waste Reduction and Recycling Award – *Honoring individuals, businesses, and organizations that contribute to waste reduction or increasing recycling and its related infrastructure.*

Express Bike Shop



Youth development at the Express Bike Shop. Photo courtesy of Express Bike Shop.

Express Bike Shop, a social enterprise and youth development initiative, takes bikes, previously sitting idle in garages or fated for the scrap yard, and returns them to productive service. For twenty years Express Bike Shop has had a unique impact on waste reduction: accepting bikes in any condition and converting donated bikes into resale products to support their youth apprentice program – helping develop the entrepreneurial, work, and leadership potential of young people in the East Metro. Since its beginning, Express Bike Shop has collected and refurbished, repurposed or recycled over 25,000 bicycles, and each year, Express Bike Shop sells between 500 - 600 refurbished bicycles. Additionally, 15 - 18 tons of metal are sent to be recycled and over three tons of tires/tubes are sent to rubber recycling.

Express Bike Shop's mission is two-fold: recycle and sell bikes and provide young people a quality first employment experience. Express relies on community partners and individuals to collect the 2,000 used bikes needed each year to sustain the operation and expand its apprenticeship opportunities. The sale of the refurbished bikes not only contributes to waste reduction directly, but also illustrates customers' thoughtful investment in reducing their own environmental footprint.

Green Practices Award – Honoring individuals, businesses, and organizations that develop or use innovative practices that reduce toxicity, prevent pollution, and lower environmental impact overall.

Saint Paul RiverCentre/Xcel Energy Center



Photo courtesy of the Saint Paul RiverCentre/Xcel Energy Center.

The Saint Paul RiverCentre, Xcel Energy Center, and the Legendary Roy Wilkins Auditorium have been working for almost six years to be leaders in sustainability. During that time, they have transformed their waste operations from 15 percent annual recycling to 60 percent, worked with the City of Saint Paul and other partners to install two solar energy arrays at the complex, upgraded over 2,000 lights to more efficient technology, and implemented a comprehensive green purchasing program for items like custodial products, office paper, and even capital purchases. In 2014, the Saint Paul RiverCentre/Xcel Energy Center complex took the next step in their journey by achieving three independent sustainability certifications: LEED-Existing Buildings, Green Globes, and APEX/ASTM, making them the first venue in the world to receive these three certifications.

The specific certifications, each requiring a stringent set of environmental standards, are:

- LEED Certified as an Existing Building for Operations and Maintenance (US Green Buildings Council)
- Green Globes Certified for Continuous Improvement of Existing Buildings (3 out of 4 globes)
- APEX/ASTM Certified as a Venue for Sustainable Events (Green Meeting Industry Council)

Energy Efficiency or Conservation Award – *Honoring individuals, businesses, and organizations that undertake efforts to reduce energy consumption and/or utilize clean and renewable energy.*

Science Museum of Minnesota – Project No Waste



The chiller system at the Science Museum of Minnesota. Photo courtesy of Science Museum of Minnesota.

The Science Museum of Minnesota - Project No Waste has achieved an ambitious sustainability milestone. In February 2015, the museum completed an advanced heat recovery retrofit that is projected to reduce its cooling and heating loads by 40 percent and 80 percent respectively and the museum's total annual energy consumption by 40 percent. Project No Waste's reduction in energy waste dramatically lowered the museum's environmental footprint while saving more than \$200,000 annually. The Museum regularly provides tours of its solid waste and energy waste reduction initiatives to those interested in replicating its results. The Science Museum of Minnesota demonstrates well the large impact that institutions can have on energy efficiency and conservation.

Water Quality Award – *Honoring individuals, businesses, and organizations that demonstrated outstanding commitment to responsible water management and conservation of water resources.*

Tri-Area Block Group



The Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary. Photo courtesy of City of Saint Paul staff.

This year's Water Quality Award goes to the Tri-Area Block Club for their role in advocating for the creation of the Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary. The Nature Sanctuary is a result of hard work and collaboration between community members, block club members, the City of Saint Paul and the Capitol Regional Watershed District. The Tri-Area Block Club members in particular, worked tirelessly for more than 20 years as advocates for the Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary, rallying state and local politicians, community members and environmental advocates to help secure funding for restoring the site to a portion of its pre-development state.

Excitingly, the 40-acre Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary will open this spring as a restored wilderness oasis intended for recreation and education. It brings nature to the city for Saint Paul residents and includes a section of the Trout Brook Regional Trail that runs through the sanctuary and connects to the Gateway Trail at Cayuga Street.

The Nature Sanctuary also includes recreated water features like wetlands and a new open stream channel.

Beatification Award – *Honoring individuals, businesses, and organizations that demonstrate a commitment to the improvement of the Saint Paul community environment and beautification of our surroundings.*

Payne Phalen Pocket Parks



Jessamine Pocket Park. Photo courtesy of Payne Phalen Pocket Parks.

The Payne Phalen Pocket Parks were initiated by a small group of neighbors to creatively address the growing, challenging issues of vacancy and foreclosure in their community. “No-where-spaces” exist everywhere in a city. On the Eastside of Saint Paul, these no-where-spaces exist due to the prevalence of long lingering vacant lots, odd shaped parcels and economic stressors. Rather than seeing it as a liability, Payne Phalen Pocket Parks used these empty spaces as an opportunity for unparalleled beautification.

Drawing on the Eastside's unique mixture of talents, ethnicities and experience with community organizing, Payne Phalen Pocket Parks is re-envisioning these landscapes by creating gentle commons, verdant gems, urban respites, creative canvases and wildlife sanctuaries. The Payne Phalen Pocket Parks aim to inspire others to create dynamic and positive uses of outdoor spaces in their own communities.

Local Healthy, Food Award – *Honoring individuals, businesses, and organizations that demonstrate outstanding commitment to promoting local, healthy food.*

Urban Organics



The founders of Urban Organics. Photo courtesy of Urban Organics.

After two and a half years of development Urban Organics began its farming production of herbs and fish in July of 2014 in the old Hamm's warehouse. This farm relies on state-of-the-art aquaponics technology provided through a partnership with Pentair Aquatic Eco Systems.

Aquaponics, an indoor farming strategy, creates an ecosystem where plant production can be maximized using natural effluent produced by the fish. The effluent is rich in essential nutrients and production yields exceed those from typical farming practices. Plants are produced using 98 percent less water when compared to typical outdoor farms. The site is a certified organic and the greens and vegetables are currently sold in local stores including Lunds and Byerly's.

Sustainable City Staff Award – *Honoring City of Saint Paul employee(s) who continually go beyond their normal duties to incorporate sustainable practices into their everyday activities.*

Kurt Schultz



Kurt Schultz

Kurt Schultz is a program manager in the City of Saint Paul's Department of Planning and Economic Development, where his primary duty is to work collaboratively across department and with community members to ensure there's adherence to the City's Sustainable Building Policy. He is a quiet leader who boldly demonstrates leadership in sustainability initiatives citywide and is always among the first to volunteer for any event across the broad sustainability theme.

For several years, Kurt has been instrumental in gathering a small City team together to organize participants and promote the annual, worldwide Earth Hour event. Earth Hour is the single largest environmental event in the world, where millions of people raise awareness about climate change by turning off nonessential lights for one hour. His leadership helped organize the team to encourage community action and connect with downtown businesses to promote sound energy use and conservation practices year round in Saint Paul.

Beyond his career at the City of Saint Paul, Kurt further demonstrates his passion for sustainability through his involvement with North East Side Neighborhood Development Corporation and Minnesota Landmark. Additionally, he serves as a

board member of the Minnesota Chapter of the US Green Building Council. He is also actively promoting sustainability practices at his place of worship and truly walks the walk, and talks the talk in all areas of his life. This past summer, Kurt and his wife, installed solar PV panels on the roof of their garage and are now reaping solar rewards.

Exceptional Environmental Stewards – *Honoring individuals who demonstrate a commitment to the improvement of the Saint Paul community environment through special projects or long-term sustainable behaviors.*

Chuck and Hope Lea



Chuck and Hope Lea. Photo courtesy of Stacey Sigurdson.

Chuck and Hope Lea have volunteered over 10,000 hours over 23 years for Saint Paul Public Schools at Belwin Outdoor Science (BOS). Since 1992 they have directly helped nearly 40,000 Saint Paul Public School students with weekly, hands-on environmental education programs at Belwin.

Since 1993 Chuck and Hope have monitored over 40 bluebird nest boxes and are independently responsible for 738 bluebirds fledging from those boxes, in addition to 258 chickadees and 604 tree swallows.

For 20 years Chuck has monitored a weather station for the Science Museum of Minnesota and has spent countless hours creating and maintaining this database.

In 2004, Chuck and Hope began volunteering with Big River Journey, an educational riverboat program for students through the National Park Service. They have each spent over 107 hours assisting students with hands-on activities on the boat tours. Chuck and Hope are truly inspirational!



To learn more about Sustainable Saint Paul and sign-up for a monthly newsletter, please visit: <http://www.stpaul.gov/sustainability>

