

Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards

2015 Event Program



Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Co-sponsored by

State of New Jersey

Department of Environmental Protection

New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust

New Jersey Corporation for Advanced Technology



Special Thanks

Co-sponsors:

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust
New Jersey Corporation for Advanced Technology

Partners:

New Jersey State League of Municipalities
Environmental Stewardship Initiative

Agencies and Companies:

New Jersey State Museum,
New Jersey Department of State

Leonardo II Catering
Lawrenceville, New Jersey

Final Cut, Inc.
Ocean, New Jersey

About the Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards Program

Established in 2000 by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, the Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards Program recognizes outstanding environmental performance, programs and projects in the state.

Since the program's inception, 147 awards have been presented to representatives of businesses and corporations, municipalities, educational institutions, organizations and individuals.

This afternoon we are presenting awards to 10 winners in the following categories:

Clean Air
Water Resources
Healthy Ecosystems
Innovative Technology
Land Conservation
Healthy & Sustainable Businesses
Healthy & Sustainable Communities
Environmental Education (Educator-led)
Environmental Education (Student-led)
Environmentalist of the Year

The Department is proud to co-sponsor this awards program for the 16th year along with the New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust and the New Jersey Corporation for Advanced Technology.

Our partners, the New Jersey State League of Municipalities and the Department's Environmental Stewardship Initiative, provided promotional support.

The Department's Office of Press and Communications provided administrative support.

More than 60 applications were received. Thirty department professionals reviewed and scored the applications.

To view photos and information about this afternoon's award recipients or to review information about past winners or the program itself, visit the program's website.

The Department will begin promoting the 2016 Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards Program application in the spring.

The Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards Program
www.nj.gov/dep/eeawards

About the Co-sponsors and Partners

Co-sponsor: New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is committed to providing a high quality of life for the residents of New Jersey. It is our mission to preserve, sustain, protect and enhance the environment to ensure the integration of high environmental quality, public health and economic vitality. We will accomplish our mission in partnership with the general public, business, environmental community and all levels of government. For more information about the Department, visit: www.nj.gov/dep

Co-sponsor: New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust

The New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust (NJEIT) is an independent State Financing Authority responsible for providing and administering low interest rate loans to qualified municipalities, counties, regional authorities, and water purveyors in New Jersey. These loans finance water quality infrastructure projects that enhance ground and surface water resources, ensure the safety of drinking water supplies, protect the public health and make possible responsible and sustainable economic development. For more information about NJEIT, visit: www.njeit.org

Co-sponsor: New Jersey Corporation for Advanced Technology

The New Jersey Corporation for Advanced Technology (NJCAT) is a private/public partnership that pools the best talents and diverse resources of business and industry, entrepreneurs, university research centers, utilities and government to promote the development and commercialization of exciting new energy and environmental technologies. For more information about NJCAT, visit: www.njcat.org

Partner: New Jersey State League of Municipalities

The New Jersey State League of Municipalities is a voluntary association created to help communities do a better job of self-government through pooling information resources and brain power. It is authorized by State Statute and since 1915 has been serving local officials throughout the Garden State. All 565 municipalities are members of the League. More than 560 mayors and 13,000 elected and appointed officials of member municipalities are entitled to all League services and privileges. To learn more about the association, visit: www.njslom.org

Partner: Environmental Stewardship Initiative

The Environmental Stewardship Initiative is a recognition program developed by DEP's Division of Compliance & Enforcement for use by Department programs that conduct compliance assurance inspections. The goal of this initiative is to encourage regulated entities to improve their environmental performance beyond the minimum requirements of existing rules and regulations, recognize environmentally proactive businesses for their efforts, showcase their achievements to others in the regulated community, and provide guidance and encouragement for others to follow. To learn more about the Department's Environmental Stewardship Initiative, visit: www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement/stewardship

Winners of the 2015 Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards

Category: Clean Air

Winner: Salem Community College

Accepting the award: Dan Schneider, Account Executive, Schneider Electric
Ryan Danner, Manager of Campus Operations, Salem Community College

This award is presented to a nominee that demonstrates a commitment to, and experience in, one or more of the following areas and activities:

- *Reducing air pollution emissions and/or reducing outdoor exposure to toxic air contaminants;*
- *Reducing greenhouse gas emissions or equivalents through energy efficiency projects or green power purchases; and*
- *Reducing air deposition loading to land and water.*

Salem Community College began working with Schneider Electric in 2012 regarding how the State Energy Savings Improvement Program (ESIP) could achieve goals in energy conservation and reduced use. The college began the required energy audit to develop the ESIP program and embarked on the first ESIP project of any college in New Jersey. This program will reduce the college's energy costs by more than 40% - nearly \$300,000 per year - through lighting upgrades, water conservation, building improvements, IT power management measures and a solar power purchase agreement. This program will transition the college to almost 100% on-site, renewable energy. It is also providing facility improvements that include upgraded HVAC systems and continuous power, funded entirely through energy savings.

Category: Water Resources

Winner: Raritan Headwaters Association

Accepting the award: Cindy Ehrenclou, Executive Director, Raritan Headwaters Association
Bill Kibler, Policy Director, Raritan Headwaters Association

This award is presented to a nominee that demonstrates a positive influence in one or more of the following areas and activities:

- *Improving surface or ground water quality;*
- *Ensuring sufficient quantities of water through reuse and conservation techniques; and*
- *Promoting or developing progressive land use policies and watershed management approaches to improve the protection of surface and groundwater resources.*

The largest watershed organization in New Jersey, the Raritan Headwaters Association protects, preserves and improves water quality throughout the Raritan River headwaters region. The association's water protection program monitors stream water quality and cleans streams; partners with municipalities to help residents conduct essential annual tests of well water safety; educates children, adults, educators and decision makers about watershed science; advocates for water policies and practices at the state and local levels; and preserves and stewards lands critical to protecting New Jersey's water resources. Their efforts engage more than 3,200 citizen scientists and volunteers in efforts to protect land, water and natural habitat. Together with association staff these volunteers play a critical role in testing community wells, cleaning up stream corridors, and monitoring water quality at more than 65 locations along waterways in the region.

Category: Healthy Ecosystems
Winner: American Littoral Society

Accepting the award: Tim Dillingham, Executive Director, American Littoral Society
Alek Modjeski, Habitat Restoration Program Director, American Littoral Society

This award is presented to a nominee that demonstrates experience in programs or techniques that have resulted in the restoration, protection and enhancement of the State's ecological resources. These resources include wetlands, estuaries and coastal areas, as well as non-game and/or threatened and endangered species.

The American Littoral Society is a non-profit coastal conservation group located at Gateway National Recreation Area (Sandy Hook) in Highlands. With funding provided by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), the Society and its core partners, including the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey, L.J. Niles Associates, LLC, and Stockton University, began restoring critical habitat in 2013 (Post-Hurricane Sandy) in Delaware Bay for horseshoe crabs and shorebirds, and the federally-listed red knot. Further funding provided by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NFWF in 2014 allowed for continued science-based research. To date, the scope of this Delaware Bay project has involved the restoration of seven beaches along New Jersey's Bayshore, created an experimental oyster reef, employed five construction companies and numerous businesses, created a military veteran paid intern program, provided educational outreach to more than 23,000 people, and designed and implemented numerous monitoring studies to better understand project results and how to adaptively manage the project.

Category: Innovative Technology
Winner: Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association

Accepting the award: Jim Waltman, Executive Director, Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association
Jeff Hoagland, Education Director, Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association

This award is presented to a nominee that demonstrates the use or deployment of a new or alternative method, procedure, process, system or facility, which results in greater environmental protection than other technologies in current practice or comparable results at lower costs in terms of energy, natural resources or environmental impacts.

The Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association opened a new Watershed Center that actively demonstrates ways to improve the management of energy and water. The new facility received LEED Platinum Certification with high scores awarded for water efficiency, optimized energy performance and on-site renewable energy generation. Special features include efficient lighting, cooling, heating and ventilation systems; solar panel array; green roof; low-flow fixtures and sensor faucets; recycled or sustainably-produced building materials; onsite wetlands-based wastewater treatment; reduced pavement and lawn; and, the use of bioswales and rain gardens. The Watershed Center features new classrooms, a science laboratory, GIS computer training room, interactive exhibits, community meeting spaces and staff offices. Staff host tours of the center to showcase its sustainable features and attendees calculate the energy produced and used by the building, examine the green roof and rain gardens, and visit the wastewater wetlands. Staff also created a mobile device activated, audio-assisted Sustainability Trail on campus. More than 20 stations along this trail explain various features of the building and their environmental benefits.

Category: Land Conservation
Winner: Bloomfield Township

Accepting the award: Michael Venezia, Mayor, Bloomfield Township
Matt Watkins, Township Administrator, Bloomfield Township

This award is presented to a nominee that demonstrates a commitment to, and experience in, the preservation of open space that protects land from future development.

The Third River Urban Park and Floodplain Wetlands Creation Project combines public park use with urban habitat and storm resiliency. The Third River project involved acquisition of multiple lots comprising an urbanized, flood-prone, industrial site and conversion of this area into an 18.5-acre public park containing acreage for wetlands creation, biota, riverfront habitat and stormwater storage. Key land conservation outcomes include creation of urban open space, creation and enhancement of freshwater wetlands through removal of historic fill material, and expansion of urban habitat and flood resiliency. Secondary outcomes include mitigation of downstream flooding which regularly impairs public safety and property use. Additional outcomes include the development of educational programs focused on environmental monitoring, restoration methods, and use of a scientific field station by local teachers, students and volunteers.

Category: Healthy and Sustainable Businesses
Winner: Wyndham Worldwide

Accepting the award: Bill Paterson, Senior Facilities Operation Manager, Wyndham Worldwide
Jeff Esquillo, Sustainability Specialist, Wyndham Worldwide

This award is presented to a nominee that demonstrates a commitment to, and experience in, any of the following activities:

- *An activity that addresses pollution/waste reduction, recycling, land use, local purchasing, sustainability, resource conservation or product stewardship;*
- *Innovative practices or technologies that have resulted in the private or public sector cleanup and redevelopment of contaminated/brownfields sites; and*
- *Creation of community-based initiatives that foster involvement, action and effective solutions to the adverse effects of industrial pollution in overburdened and low-income communities.*

Wyndham Worldwide's Wyndham Green program focuses on sustainability across the company as well as at its corporate campus in Parsippany. Campus buildings have earned LEED certifications for building interiors and/or operations and maintain an Energy Star score of 98. The buildings demonstrate reductions of energy and water use as well as increased volume of recycled waste, and feature vehicle charging stations. The Town Square Café on campus is the only 4-star green certified restaurant in New Jersey and Wyndham Worldwide partnered with the Arbor Day Foundation to serve sustainable Arbor Day Coffee in break rooms on campus. The company also established the Giving Garden and grows organic produce to donate to local food banks. Wyndham Worldwide also utilizes its Wyndham Green Toolbox, which is a proprietary, online environmental management system that manages energy, air emissions, water and waste activities company-wide. The Toolbox is scalable and customizable and allows owned and managed properties, as well as independently owned franchises, to track, measure and report on global assets in which Wyndham Worldwide has direct operational control. The Toolbox is available in multiple languages and currencies, and provides normalization for weather and room nights to all, for comparison among regions.

Category: Healthy and Sustainable Communities

Winner: Long Beach Township

Accepting the award: Angela Andersen, Sustainability Coordinator, Long Beach Township
Susan Levance, Administrative Assistant, Long Beach Township

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- *An activity that addresses pollution/waste reduction, recycling, land use, local purchasing, sustainability, resource conservation or product stewardship;*
- *Innovative practices or technologies that have resulted in the private or public sector cleanup and redevelopment of contaminated/brownfields sites; and*
- *Creation of community-based initiatives that foster involvement, action and effective solutions to the adverse effects of industrial pollution in overburdened and low-income communities.*

Long Beach Township, located on the barrier island known as Long Beach Island, is an active partner in the Barnegat Bay Partnership and aligns its activities with Governor Christie's 10-point action plan for Barnegat Bay. It is a certified Sustainable Jersey community, being the only one on Long Beach Island and one of only a few in Ocean County. The township's post-Sandy activities include replacement of over 50 miles of water and sewer lines, four pump stations and 50 storm water basins; active leadership in Getting to Resiliency planning efforts; and, revegetation of dunes and open space areas with native coastal flora, not just in the township but in neighboring townships as well. Additional sustainability activities include installation of six hydration stations in the township; educating residents about migratory coastal species through Pollinator Potluck and Honey Harvest events; hosting rain barrel building workshops and featuring barrels throughout the township; and conducting storm water education programs.

Category: Environmental Education (Educator-led)

Winner: Galloway Township Public Schools

Accepting the award: Debra Sommers, 7th Grade Science Teacher/Mr. B's Backyard Classroom Founder
Kathleen Warren, 5th Grade Teacher/Mr. B's Backyard Classroom Founder

This award is presented to a nominee that demonstrates implementation of a program or project that has measurable positive impacts in environmental protection and education. One award will be given to an adult educator(s).

Galloway Township Public Schools utilize a three-quarter acre study site known as "Mr. B's Backyard Classroom." This vegetated aquatic site, comprised of stormwater basins, is visited and studied by more than 800 elementary and middle school students from three schools. The outdoor classroom was dedicated in memory of Guy Buckelew, a sixth grade teacher who instilled environmental awareness in his classes. Students participate in science lessons, tours and demonstrations about watersheds, soils, pond studies, land use and water pollution. Visits are conducted by science teachers and guest speakers and have cross-curricular applications such as data analysis, nature-inspired writing and nature appreciation through art. Older students then select a research topic while younger students develop a lesson, make presentation boards, and create activities to be presented at the annual "Mr. B's Backyard Classroom Nature Fest" which is held in June for more than 1,200 students, faculty, parents and community members. At this event students share their knowledge with others. Several local, State and federal partners are involved with this program.

Category: Environmental Education (Student-led)

Winner: Connor Señor

Accepting the award: Connor Señor, Eagle Scout

This award is presented to a nominee that demonstrates implementation of a program or project that has measurable positive impacts in environmental protection and education. One award will be given to students/youth in grades K-12 (student involvement must be emphasized).

In 2011, Hurricane Irene damaged the section of Appalachian Trail known as the "Stairway to Heaven" that begins at Route 94 in Vernon Township. Stormwater runoff caused soil erosion and the cutting of new erosion channels. In 2012, Super Storm Sandy doubled erosion damage in addition to felling trees, dislodging boulders and disfiguring the trail even more. Boy Scout Connor Señor, 16 years old, completed his Eagle Scout Project by repairing damage done on the 'Stairway to Heaven' section of trail. His efforts included clearing vegetation, bringing in and removing soil and stone, and reconstructing effective trail features, such as deep erosion channels and swales. His project required almost 400 man-hours of work that moved 24 tons of fill and 12 tons of stone over 900 feet of trail. Because the damage was on the Appalachian Trail, the work was completed with manpower only, since no vehicles or mechanical equipment could be used. The risks included moving heavy materials over steep grades, constructing and using earthen ramps, and exposure to bears, snakes, ticks, poison ivy and hot weather. Connor Señor accomplished the project with high school friends and Boy Scout Troop 283. Baldwin Sand & Gravel donated earth materials and Wawayanda State Park provided equipment to complete the project.

Category: Environmentalist of the Year

Winner: Wall Township Environmental Advisory Committee

Accepting the award: Wilma Morrissey, Chairwoman, Wall Township Environmental Advisory Committee

Nominees in this category should demonstrate committed values toward the environment and appreciation of it, and their accomplishments should contribute to the conservation, restoration and protection of New Jersey's natural resources and environmental quality.

The Wall Township Environmental Advisory Committee is comprised of eight volunteer members with a liaison from the Township Committee and a liaison from the township's Land Use Department. The committee produced a unique pictorial book entitled, **Life in Wall Township: Past and Present**, which serves as the committee's 35th Year Commemorative Heritage book and represents the committee's existence by ordinance. It includes all of the icons of Wall Township, including more than 350 photographs and illustrations about local flora and fauna; water bodies and waterways; gardens; farms; historic, natural, aesthetic, recreational, business and tourism sites; fire and police facilities; schools; churches and cemeteries; and, historic maps and documents. The book is Wall Township's first comprehensive snapshot of daily life as well as unique community features, icons and assets. It also features Wall Township's environmental successes spearheaded by the Wall Township Environmental Advisory Committee, such as township signage; environmental summits and fairs; environmental contests for students; nesting platforms, rain gardens and flower gardens; a self-guided nature trail; open space acquisition; waterway cleanups; and, anti-idling and water pollution public campaigns.

