

TO: CITY MANAGER **DATE:** 2020 Sept 23
FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING **FILE:** 33000 01
Reference: Environmental Awards
SUBJECT: 2020 ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS PROGRAM

PURPOSE: To recommend recipients of the 2020 City of Burnaby Environmental Awards Program for Council approval and to approve the terms of reference, call for nominations and a \$2,500 expenditure for promoting and advertising the 2021 program.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** Council receive this report for information.
2. **THAT** Council approve the proposed Terms of Reference and call for nominations for the 2021 Environmental Awards Program and an expenditure of \$2,500 from the Boards, Committees and Commissions' operating budget for promotion and advertising.
3. **THAT** a copy of this report be forwarded to the Environment Committee for information.

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

The City of Burnaby's Environmental Awards Program recognizes the outstanding contributions made by individuals, groups, organizations, institutions, and businesses to environmental stewardship and sustainability in our community. These contributions support the ten goals of Burnaby's Environmental Sustainability Strategy (2016).

There are six categories of environmental awards: Business Stewardship, Communications, Community Stewardship, Green Choices, Planning and Development, and Youth. There are two designations in each category:

- **Environmental Awards**, for recognition of environmental achievements of a larger scale, such as long-term commitments to an organization or cause, leadership of numerous other individuals, and projects of a significant size and relatively complex scope; and

- **Environmental Stars**, for recognition of environmental achievements of a smaller or more individual scale that may nevertheless serve to catalyze larger initiatives and inspire others.

At the direction of Council, in a given year, one (1) Environmental Award and a maximum of two (2) Environmental Stars may be awarded in each category.

This report recommends two (2) Environmental Awards and two (2) Environmental Stars for Council's approval. It is proposed that this year's recipients be announced to the public at the Regular Meeting of Council on 2020 September 28.

2.0 CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN

The Environmental Awards Program aligns with the *Corporate Strategic Plan* by supporting the following goals and sub-goals of the plan:

- **A Connected Community**
 - Social connection – Enhance social connections throughout Burnaby
 - Partnership – Work collaboratively with businesses, educational institutions, associations, other communities and governments
- **A Healthy Community**
 - Healthy environment – Enhance our environmental health, resilience and sustainability
 - Lifelong learning – Improve upon and develop programs and services that enable ongoing learning
 - Community involvement – Encourage residents and businesses to give back to and invest in the community

3.0 NOMINATION REVIEW AND 2021 AWARDS PROGRAM

The 2020 nomination period opened in January and closed on April 3. It was promoted at civic facilities and to Burnaby's environmental community, published on the City's website, promoted on the City's social media channels, and advertised in local newspapers. The City received six (6) nominations in four award categories.

As indicated to the Environment Committee at the meeting of 2020 June 9, the lower number of nominations was expected because of the declaration of a public health emergency for COVID-19, which also resulted in changes to the nomination review process and the timeline and approach for issuing awards. We are hopeful the regular program and schedule can resume in 2021 with the call for award nominations proposed for the first quarter of the year, followed by review of nominations by the Environment Committee and announcement of award recipients coinciding with Environment Week in June. *Enclosed* with this report is a copy of the 2021 Terms of Reference for the awards program (see *Attachment 1*) and requested is an expenditure of \$2,500 from the Boards, Committees and Commissions operating budget to promote and advertise the program in 2021.

4.0 2020 ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS AND STARS

At the Closed Council meeting of 2020 September 14, the following nominees for Environmental Awards and Environmental Stars was approved.

4.1 Environmental Awards

In the category of Community Stewardship: Elmer Rudolph

Elmer Rudolph has shown outstanding commitment to community stewardship, conservation and environmental protection with efforts that have rehabilitated Burnaby’s natural environment.

Since recognition with an environmental award in 1996, in the very first year of Burnaby’s awards program, Mr. Rudolph undertook an additional 24 years of volunteer service in the protection of Burnaby’s diverse ecosystems. Mr. Rudolph is a former member and president of the Sapperton Fish & Game Club where he has volunteered his time since 1984 leading conservation initiatives and rehabilitation programs in the Brunette watershed. He has consistently demonstrated his commitment to community stewardship through his actions and by advocating for the ecological health of Brunette River and Burnaby Lake. Over the years, he has advocated for pollution prevention and improving water quality. He has worked on rehabilitation projects that include the installation of large woody debris and instream weirs, and the cleaning out of spawning beds to provide opportunities for successful salmon reproduction.

In 1997, Mr. Rudolph played a key role in starting a community fish hatchery in Burnaby, which has enhanced salmon populations in the Brunette River watershed, including significant salmon-bearing streams in Burnaby such as Eagle Creek, Still Creek, Beecher Creek, Guichon Creek, and Deer Lake Brook. The community hatchery operates through the Salmonid Enhancement Program of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, which works to conserve fish stocks, rebuild the salmon population and improve fish habitats. Each year Mr. Rudolph volunteers his time to work on salmon rehabilitation projects, to coordinate and manage volunteers, and to advocate for the protection and conservation of salmon. He also spends time with the younger generation to involve them in initiatives and provide education on the importance of species conservation.

Mr. Rudolph has played an exemplary role in community stewardship for the Brunette River and has inspired those who have worked alongside him as well as his community. His dedication, leadership and commitment to community stewardship initiatives to protect Burnaby’s diverse ecosystem has made a positive impact on species conservation while demonstrating the importance of community action for environmental protection.

In the category of Green Choices: HUB Cycling Burnaby Committee

In 1998, **HUB Cycling** was established in an effort to improve cycling conditions around the Metro Vancouver area. Their mission is to educate people through action by hosting events to discuss the benefits of cycling for healthier, happier and more connected communities. The HUB cycling network currently has 3,000 members and over 40,000 direct supporters, with 10 volunteer committees spread across Metro Vancouver.

The Burnaby Committee of HUB Cycling has supported Burnaby’s vision for active transportation by advocating for many cycling facility improvements, including a separated cycle path to connect the Sea to River Bikeway over the Gilmore Avenue overpass of Highway 1. Beginning in 2014, their support for this project helped raise awareness for the separated cycle path and identify safety issues with existing cycling infrastructure. Specific activities included building public support for this project through cycling campaigns, which included 250 postcards sent to City Council supporting the separated cycle path, along with letters from major employers and individual employees in support of the project. They also made recommendations that informed the final design of the project. Approved by City of Burnaby Council in February 2019, construction of improvements to the overpass are now underway.

The Burnaby Committee of HUB Cycling continues to play an important part in advocating for safe infrastructure, working towards community linkages and promoting active transportation in Burnaby.

4.2 Environmental Stars

In the category of Youth: Burnaby Youth Sustainability Network, Emily Ng and Azzam Hag

The **Burnaby Youth Sustainability Network (BYSN)** is a youth-led organization that strives to create networks among Burnaby high school students for education and awareness of environmental issues and sustainability. The BYSN is made of a new group of student leaders each year.

Emily Ng was actively involved in conservation initiatives that focused on protecting local species and helped secure a government grant so her school could lead a hydroponics study designed to protect local salmon species. Emily promoted sustainable consumption and awareness around reducing waste by organizing school events such as the Bring Your Own Cup hot chocolate sale, as well as the thrift store project for repurposing used items. Emily is passionate about sustainability issues and is always looking for innovative ways to minimize pollution to the environment from the clothing industry by exploring alternate methods for sustainable fabric dyes using food waste.

Azzam Hag led the Burnaby South Green Team in starting a school wide gardening program, managed the school’s greenhouse and promoted pollinator friendly gardens at his school. Each week, Azzam ran lunchtime meetings to raise awareness and discuss different environmental issues, such as plastic pollution and sustainable lifestyles that focus on waste reduction. Azam also took initiative to re-install the collection program for soft plastics in the school district to reduce waste and properly sort recyclable materials.

Although the public health emergency in BC disrupted the school year, the achievements of these two members of the BYSN are worthy of recognition.

To: City Manager
From: Director Planning and Building
Re: 2020 Environmental Awards Program
2020 September 23.....Page 5

5.0 CONCLUSION

The City of Burnaby Environmental Awards Program recognizes significant environmental achievements of individuals, community groups, organizations, institutions, and businesses in our community. These achievements support the ten goals of the City’s Environmental Sustainability Strategy, which challenges all of us to take action. For 2020, two (2) Environmental Awards and two (2) Environmental Stars are recommended for Council approval at the Closed Meeting on 2020 September 14, followed by public announcement at the Regular Council meeting on 2020 September 28. This report also requests Council approve the 2021 terms of reference and call for nominations.



E.W. Kozak, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

MS/sa
Attachment

Copied to: Director Corporate Services
Acting City Clerk

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS 2021

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The City of Burnaby's Environmental Awards Program recognizes the outstanding contributions of individuals, community groups, businesses and organizations to environmental sustainability in our community. Help us recognize Burnaby's environmental leaders by making a nomination today.

*Nomination
Deadline:
T.B.D.*

Award Categories

1 Business Stewardship

This category recognizes Burnaby-based businesses, whose business practices and stewardship activities promote environmental sustainability in the workplace or community. Businesses should demonstrate excellence in raising awareness of environmental issues with staff/clients, reducing their ecological footprint in areas such as energy or water use, waste reduction, purchasing and transportation and/or enhancing or rehabilitating the City of Burnaby's environment.

2 Communications

This category includes all forms of print and digital media, video, audio or multi-media presentations, and outreach or campaigns that help to increase the understanding of environmental issues or promote environmentally sustainable behaviors in our community. The nominated work should demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of an environmental issue or sustainability and its relationship to Burnaby's citizens.

3 Community Stewardship

This category recognizes individuals, community groups and organizations that have actively promoted environmental stewardship in the City of Burnaby for several years. Their efforts have increased public awareness of an environmental issue or notably enhanced or rehabilitated the City's environment.

4 Green Choices

This category recognizes residents of Burnaby, including individuals, community groups, organizations, strata councils, and institutions, that demonstrate an exemplary commitment to environmental sustainability in the home, garden and community through any of the following means: household energy conservation, waste reduction, green waste recycling, water efficiency, innovation in natural garden practices and native plant landscaping, local food production, active transportation and other sustainable lifestyle choices.

5 Planning & Development

This category highlights developments that demonstrate strategic planning, innovative environmental features and green building technologies that reduce energy use and emissions, reuse materials, use water efficiently, employ innovative approaches to stormwater and wastewater management, encourage active transportation, and protect and enhance aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. Developments may range in scale from large commercial, industrial, institutional or residential projects to individual new or renovated buildings.

6 Youth

This category recognizes the contributions that children or teenagers have made, either through their own initiatives or through school programs, which have enhanced public awareness of environmental sustainability issues or have notably enhanced or rehabilitated the City's environment.

Nomination Information

Visit burnaby.ca/environmentawards for an online nomination form.

Award Process

The program includes two award designations. Environmental Awards recognize individuals and groups for outstanding environmental achievements, Environmental Stars recognize accomplishments carried out on a smaller scale. Criteria is available on our website. Awards will be presented at a Council Meeting.

Questions?

City of Burnaby Planning Department:
Tel: 604-294-7400
Email: planning@burnaby.ca

**Nomination Deadline:
T.B.D.**