

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

SUBJECT: 2013 ENVIRONMENT AWARDS PROGRAM

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council receive this report for information.

REPORT

Council, at the 'Closed' Council meeting held on 2013 May 27, received and adopted the *attached* report containing this years recipients of Burnaby's Environment Awards and Environmental Stars.

A copy of this report is being forwarded to the 2013 May 27 'Open' Council meeting for information.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Dan Johnston
Chair

Councillor Anne Kang
Vice Chair

Councillor Nick Volkow
Member

Copy: City Manager Deputy City Managers (2) Director Parks, Recr. & Cult. Services Director Engineering Director Planning & Building
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TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: 2013 May 7

FROM: CITIZEN REPRESENTATIVES
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

FILE: 33000 01
Reference: Environment Awards

PAUL CIPYWNYK STANLEY JUNG
MARY LUMBY GLEN PORTER

SUBJECT: 2013 ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS PROGRAM

PURPOSE: To recommend recipients of the 2013 City of Burnaby Environmental Awards Program.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** the Environment Committee recommend the following 2013 Environment Awards to Council for consideration at Council's meeting of 2013 May 27:
 - a. The 2013 Environment Award for Business Stewardship be presented to the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT) Green Team for their implementation of various sustainability programs since 2007.
 - b. The 2013 Environment Award for Youth be presented to the Burnaby Youth Sustainability Network (BYSN) for their ongoing commitment to environmental sustainability and related programs targeting Burnaby's youth.
2. **THAT** the Environment Committee recommend the following 2013 Environmental Stars to Council for consideration at Council's meeting of 2013 May 27:
 - a. The 2013 Environmental Star for Business Stewardship be presented to Lougheed Town Centre Mall for their record of achievement in sustainability and energy conservation.
 - b. The 2013 Environmental Star for Business Stewardship be presented to the Burnaby Board of Trade for developing and implementing the Pledge for a Sustainable Community Program.
 - c. The 2013 Environmental Star for Community Stewardship be presented to Gail Blatchford for her environmental contributions with the Stoney Creek Environment Committee (SCEC).

Committee Meeting

To: Environment Committee

From: Citizen Representatives, Environment Committee

Re: 2013 Environmental Awards Program

2013 May 7..... Page 2

- d. The 2013 Environmental Star for Community Stewardship be presented to the Burnaby Team of the Tzu Chi Foundation for their record of achievement in community environmental programs.
 - e. The 2013 Environmental Star for Green Choices be presented to the Simon Fraser University (SFU) Green Labs Program for their dedication to reducing the energy footprint in SFU science buildings.
 - f. The 2013 Environmental Star for Green Choices be presented to Tomas Lang, grade 9 student at Ecole Alpha Secondary School, for developing and implementing the Green Events Program, which aims to reduce waste by providing reusable plates and cutlery for events at his school.
 - g. The 2013 Environmental Star for Youth be presented to the 2011-12 and 2012-13 Grade 3 classes of John Knox Christian School for their ongoing involvement in the school's food scraps program and participation in an electronic toy recycling pilot program.
 - h. The 2013 Environmental Star for Youth be presented to Jacqueline Shen, grade 11 student at Burnaby South Secondary School, for her individual record and distinguished achievements with many environmental organizations.
3. **THAT** the 2013 Environment Awards and Environmental Stars be presented at an event at the Burnaby Lake Rowing Pavilion on 2013 June 9.

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

Burnaby's Environmental Awards Program is an annual City initiative that provides acknowledgement of the significant environmental accomplishments achieved in the community. The program was first established in 1996, based on direction provided in the 1993 State of the Environment Report, and in 2000, it was expanded to include an Environmental Star category. Six categories are included in the program: Business Stewardship, Communications, Community Stewardship, Green Choices, Planning and Development and Youth, as described in **Appendix A, attached**. Two designations are possible within each category:

- Environment 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.

Committee Meeting

To: Environment Committee

From: Citizen Representatives, Environment Committee

Re: 2013 Environmental Awards Program

2013 May 7..... Page 3

- 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.

In any given year, Environment Awards and Environmental Stars are considered in relation to the merit of the applications submitted, and the City may receive a varying number of nominations depending on response from the community.

As approved by the Citizen Representatives of the Environment Committee, this report recommends two 2013 Environment Awards and eight 2013 Environmental Stars for Council’s approval, which are proposed to be awarded on 2013 June 9 at the Burnaby Lake Rowing Pavilion, as part of Burnaby’s Environment Week programs.

2.0 AWARD PROCESS

This year’s call for award nominations was approved by Council at its 2013 February 18 meeting as recommended in the 2013 Environment Week and Environmental Awards Program Report. The call for nomination was promoted at civic facilities and by community members; published on the City’s website; promoted by the City using social media; and advertised in local newspapers. After the 2013 April 15 deadline, nominations received were reviewed by the citizen representatives of the Environment Committee.

The citizen representatives of the Environment Committee recommend for Council’s approval the following two Environment Awards and eight Environmental Stars:

3.0 2013 ENVIRONMENT AWARDS

Business Stewardship

The citizen representatives recommend that the 2013 Environment Award for Business Stewardship be presented to:

The British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT) Green Team for their implementation of various sustainability programs since 2007.

The BCIT Green Team was launched in 2007, growing from three dedicated employees to over seventy members across numerous departments and schools of the institute. With a mission to reduce the institute’s ecological footprint, the Green Team engages faculty and staff in sustainability practices and environmental stewardship. The Green Team shares sustainability issues and events with the BCIT community, organizes education campaigns regarding the environmental impact of the campus, and launches a new green campaign each year. Over the past three years, the BCIT Green Team has organized the *Light Savers*, *Heat Savers*, and the *Commute Smart* campaigns with great success.

Committee Meeting

To: Environment Committee

From: Citizen Representatives, Environment Committee

Re: 2013 Environmental Awards Program

2013 May 7..... Page 4

For their significant dedication to create awareness, participation and behaviour change across the BCIT community, the BCIT Green Team is recommended to receive the 2013 Environment Award in the category of Business Stewardship.

Youth

The citizen representatives recommend that the 2013 Environment Award for Youth be presented to:

The Burnaby Youth Sustainability Network (BYSN) for their ongoing commitment to environmental sustainability and related programs targeting Burnaby's youth.

The BYSN is a student-driven organization that unites youth from all across Burnaby to take action towards a more sustainable future. The BYSN has again demonstrated exceptional leadership in environmental sustainability, with three members of the 2013 core executive team receiving past individual Environmental Star awards, and four members this year being nominated as individuals, all for activities related to the BYSN. The BYSN has recently executed the 4th Annual 'Do It Green' environment conference, an annual sustainability conference open to all students and staff members of the Burnaby School District. The conference gives a platform to keynote speakers, facilitates participation in a variety of workshops and provides the opportunity for participants to learn what Burnaby high schools are doing to promote environmental sustainability.

For their outstanding contributions in raising environmental awareness in Burnaby's youth community for the last several years, including 2013, the Burnaby Youth Sustainability Network (BYSN) is recommended to receive a 2013 Environment Award in the category of Youth.

4.0 2013 ENVIRONMENTAL STARS

Business Stewardship

The citizen representatives recommend that the 2013 Environmental Star for Business Stewardship be presented to the following two nominees:

Lougheed Town Centre Mall for their record of achievement in sustainability and energy conservation.

The Lougheed Town Centre Mall has undertaken various sustainability initiatives over the past several years and has recently achieved the Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) Building Environmental Standards certification. With achievements including the upgrade of the Centre's central air conditioning plant, installation of occupancy sensors in storage areas, and finalizing plans on an interior and exterior lighting retrofit project, Lougheed Town Centre Mall will save almost 850,000 KWh of electricity annually. Lougheed Town Centre Mall also participates in the World Wildlife Fund's Earth Hour and Sweater Day

Committee Meeting

To: Environment Committee

From: Citizen Representatives, Environment Committee

Re: 2013 Environmental Awards Program

2013 May 7..... Page 5

programs, as well as energy audit initiatives, as part of BOMA's Behavioural/Education Program.

For their commitment to provide energy-efficiency initiatives and environmental sustainability programs, Lougheed Town Centre is recommended to receive the 2013 Environmental Star in the category of Business Stewardship.

Burnaby Board of Trade for developing and implementing the Pledge for a Sustainable Community Program.

Over the past two years, the Burnaby Board of Trade (BBOT) has worked to develop the *Pledge for a Sustainable Community Program*, a comprehensive online resource with the goal of helping businesses reduce their environmental footprint in areas such as energy, water, transportation, waste and purchasing. This initiative is a collaborative effort between BBOT staff, the BBOT Environmental Sustainability Committee, a specialized group of BCIT students, and an outside consultancy. The dedication of the BBOT has led to the Pledge being taken by over seventy organizations from Burnaby and across the Lower Mainland. Participants in the program have access to valuable resources and tips in five main eco categories which help them create a more sustainable workplace.

For their commitment to providing environmentally sustainable initiatives to businesses and organizations across the region, the Burnaby Board of Trade is recommended to receive the 2013 Environmental Star in the category of Business Stewardship.

Community Stewardship

The citizen representatives recommend that 2013 Environmental Stars for Community Stewardship be presented to the following two nominees:

Gail Blatchford, for her environmental contributions with the Stoney Creek Environment Committee (SCEC).

Gail Blatchford has been active in the SCEC since 2005. Beginning with counting salmon, her stewardship involvement has grown to include several invasive plant removal, replanting and restoration projects. For these projects, Gail is directly involved with project management and organization of volunteers from various environmental organizations. An example is a restoration project in 2012 involving forty-three volunteers from the Lower Mainland Green Team and the SCEC, which helped restore riparian areas as part of an instream enhancement project completed earlier in the year.

For her environmental contributions with the Stoney Creek Environmental Committee, Gail Blatchford is recommended to receive a 2013 Environmental Star in the category of Community Stewardship.

Committee Meeting

To: Environment Committee

From: Citizen Representatives, Environment Committee

Re: 2013 Environmental Awards Program

2013 May 7..... Page 6

The Burnaby Team of the Tzu Chi Foundation, for their record of achievement in community environmental programs.

The Burnaby Team of the Tzu Chi Foundation is an asset for several environmental initiatives in the City of Burnaby. Since 2007, the Tzu Chi Foundation Burnaby Team has been involved with a multi cultural festival in the Edmonds community at which they help educate the public about environment protection, waste reduction and recycling. Since 2009, they have participated in Windsor Elementary School's '100 bucket challenge/community cleanup', during which they work with school teachers and students to remove litter in surrounding neighbourhoods on a regular basis. And in March 2013, the Tzu Chi Foundation Burnaby Team began working with Burnaby's Engineering Department to undertake public outreach to the Chinese community for the City's Food Scraps Recycling Program.

For their dedication and involvement in several environmental initiatives throughout Burnaby, the Burnaby Team of the Tzu Chi Foundation is recommended to receive a 2013 Environmental Star in the category of Community Stewardship.

Green Choices

The citizen representatives recommend that the 2013 Environmental Star for Green Choices be presented to the following two nominees:

The Simon Fraser University (SFU) Green Labs Program, for their dedication to reducing the energy footprint in SFU science buildings.

The success of the Green Labs program has led to a significant reduction in the energy footprint of SFU science buildings since 2010, helping SFU reach its commitment to reduce its energy consumption by 2% annually. The program is organized by Facilities Services, the Sustainability Office, and occupants of the South Sciences Building (SSB) and Shrum Chemistry Centre. The Green Labs Program has many significant accomplishments since 2011, including reducing emissions from natural gas by 4.4%, reducing electricity consumption by 3.2%, and saving SFU approximately \$22,800 in direct costs to purchase energy.

For their energy conservation achievements and contribution to a sustainability culture on the SFU campus, the Green Labs Program is recommended to receive the 2013 Environmental Star in the category of Green Choices.

Tomas Lang, grade 9 student at Ecole Alpha Secondary School, for developing and implementing the Green Events Program, which reduces waste by providing reusable plates and cutlery for events at his school.

In an effort to reduce the amount of disposables being discarded into the garbage after school events at Ecole Alpha Secondary School, Tomas applied for grants and organized the Green Events Program, a plate and cutlery program to eliminate the use of disposable plates and plastic

Committee Meeting

To: Environment Committee

From: Citizen Representatives, Environment Committee

Re: 2013 Environmental Awards Program

2013 May 7..... Page 7

forks. Specifically, Tomas secured \$1,000 through ChangePilotz, an initiative of the Global Stewardship Program at Capilano University, and another \$1,000 from Ashoka Canada, an organization that supports social entrepreneurship. Tomas then purchased a set of two hundred plates and cutlery for use at Ecole Alpha Secondary School functions and a smaller set, which he donated to Ecole Sperling Elementary School, his former school, for their use. The Green Events Program also teaches organizers how to set up a waste management system to properly sort waste.

For developing the Green Events Program at Ecole Alpha Secondary School, Tomas Lang is recommended to receive the 2013 Environmental Star in the category of Green Choices.

Youth

The citizen representatives recommend that 2013 Environmental Stars for Youth be presented to the following two nominees:

The 2011-12 and 2012-13 Grade 3 classes of John Knox Christian School, for their ongoing involvement in their school's food scraps program and involvement in an electronic toy recycling pilot program.

As a participant in the City of Burnaby's Food Scraps Pilot Program, the 2011-12 Grade 3 class at John Knox Christian School, led by their teacher, Ms. Yvonne DeWith, developed an in-class food scraps collection system for the school, as well as a student outreach education program to inform their fellow students and teachers of what is acceptable for composting. The 2012-13 Grade 3 class has continued this work and the program is now permanently established at the school. Grade 3 classes in subsequent years will continue to lead the program at John Knox Christian School.

Building on their success with the Food Scraps Recycling Program, the 2012-13 grade 3 class participated in a pilot electronic toy recycling program focused on schools, which was the first of its kind in Canada. In the fall of 2012, the Grade 3 class toured Genesis Recycling to learn about how electronic toys are recycled, followed by the collection of electronic toys from all of their classmates at their school for recycling. Valuable feedback and suggestions were provided to staff at Genesis Recycling for how to improve the program and how to implement the program in other schools.

For their noteworthy achievements in a food scraps composting and participation in an electronic toy recycling pilot program, the 2011-12 and 2012-13 Grade 3 classes at John Knox Christian School are recommended to receive the 2013 Environmental Star in the category of Youth.

Jacqueline Shen, for her individual record and distinguished achievements with many environmental organizations.

Committee Meeting

To: Environment Committee

From: Citizen Representatives, Environment Committee

Re: 2013 Environmental Awards Program

2013 May 7..... Page 8

Currently serving as chair of the Burnaby Youth Sustainability Network (BYSN), Ms. Shen is directly involved in many environmental initiatives throughout the region, including the planning of the BYSN’s ‘Do It Green’ conference, working with Metro Vancouver Youth4Action to host a food leadership clinic, and organizing the Collision Conference, a youth led conference focused on sustainability and action. At her school, Burnaby South Secondary School, Ms. Shen co-leads the Green Team, which recently established a garden plot for their school and undertook a waste collection campaign that resulted in the collection of over 8,700 assorted food wrappers for recycling into new products.

For her dedication to environmental programs and initiatives across many platforms and organizations, Jacqueline Shen is recommended to receive the 2013 Environmental Star in the category of Youth.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The Burnaby Environmental Awards Program provides an annual opportunity to recognize the significant environmental achievements of individuals and organizations in the community. For 2013, two Environment Awards and eight Environmental Stars are recommended for Council approval by the Citizen Representatives, based on a review of their significant achievements. The recommendations for award recipients are proposed for consideration at the Council Meeting on 2013 May 27, and the Environment Awards and Environmental Stars are proposed to be presented at an event held at the Burnaby Lake Rowing Pavilion on 2013 June 9.

This report is respectfully submitted by the citizen representatives of the Environment Committee for consideration.

PAUL CYPYNYK, Citizen Member
Environment Committee

STANLEY JUNG, Citizen Member
Environment Committee

MARY LUMBY, Citizen Member
Environment Committee

GLEN PORTER, Citizen Member
Environment Committee

GT/MS:sla
Attachment

cc: City Manager
Acting City Clerk