

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

SUBJECT: 2014 ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS PROGRAM

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council receive this report for information.

REPORT

Council, at the 'Closed' Council meeting held on 2014 May 26, 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 2014 May 26 '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

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: 2014 May 1

FROM: CITIZEN REPRESENTATIVES
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

FILE: 33000 01
Reference: Environmental Awards

PAUL CIPYWNYK STANLEY JUNG
MARY LUMBY GLEN PORTER

SUBJECT: 2014 ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS PROGRAM

PURPOSE: To recommend recipients of the 2014 City of Burnaby Environmental Awards Program.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** the Environment Committee recommend the following 2014 Environmental Awards to Council for consideration at Council's open meeting of 2014 May 26:
 - a. A 2014 Environmental Award in the category of Business Stewardship be presented to the Pear Tree Restaurant for implementing significant energy efficiency and conservation measures in the operation of their restaurant.
 - b. A 2014 Environmental Award in the category of Business Stewardship be presented to Gateway Casinos & Entertainment Ltd. for environmental achievements in energy efficiency and conservation in the operation of Grand Villa Casino.
 - c. A 2014 Environmental Award in the category of Business Stewardship be presented to Pacific Blue Cross for implementing various sustainability measures in their Burnaby business operations to reduce their environmental and carbon footprints.
 - d. A 2014 Environmental Award in the category of Business Stewardship be presented to Alpha Technologies Ltd. for implementing various sustainability measures in their Burnaby business operations to reduce their environmental and carbon footprints.
 - e. A 2014 Environmental Award in the category of Business Stewardship be presented to Left Coast Naturals for incorporating various environmental sustainability initiatives into all aspects of their business operations.

Committee Meeting

To: Environment Committee

From: Citizen Representatives, Environment Committee

Re: 2014 Environmental Awards Program

2014 May 1 Page 2

- f. A 2014 Environmental Award in the category of Green Choices be presented to Common Ground Farm for the operation of a local farm based on sustainability principles and following the model of 'community supported agriculture'.
 - g. A 2014 Environmental Award in the category of Green Choices be presented to Forest Grove Elementary School for the creation of a school garden and related programs that educate the students and the nearby community about environmental sustainability and food security.
 - h. A 2014 Environmental Award in the category of Planning and Development be presented to Ledingham McAllister for restoring and enhancing a previously enclosed segment of Byrne Creek as part of a multi-family redevelopment.
 - i. A 2014 Environmental Award in the category of Youth be presented to Byrne Creek Secondary School Fine Arts Department for incorporating Byrne Creek ravine ecology into the curriculum for over three hundred art students in the 2012 / 2013 school year and guiding the students to produce art inspired by their experiences.
2. **THAT** the Environment Committee recommend the following 2014 Environmental Stars to Council for consideration at Council's meeting of 2014 May 26:
- a. A 2014 Environmental Star in the category of Business Stewardship be presented to Burnaby School District 41 for implementing sustainability, energy efficiency and conservation measures as part of the operation of their facilities.
 - b. A 2014 Environmental Star for Communications be presented to Simon Fraser University (SFU) Facility Services for developing a targeted communications campaign that encouraged individuals to adopt behaviours that save energy in the operation of SFU buildings.
 - c. A 2014 Environmental Star for Community Stewardship be presented to Pablo Vimos for his ongoing work with the Stoney Creek Environment Committee and other community organizations at UniverCity.
 - d. A 2014 Environmental Star for Youth be presented to Carissa Konesky, a student at Burnaby North Secondary, for her leadership and involvement in many environmental sustainability initiatives at her school and in the community.
 - e. A 2014 Environmental Star for Youth be presented to the Burnaby South Secondary School Green Team for demonstrating leadership on environmental issues and creating an outdoor garden at their school.
3. **THAT** the 2014 Environmental Awards and Environmental Stars be presented at an event at the Burnaby Lake Rowing Pavilion on 2014 June 8.

Committee Meeting

To: Environment Committee

From: Citizen Representatives, Environment Committee

Re: 2014 Environmental Awards Program

2014 May 1 Page 3

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

Burnaby's Environmental Awards Program is an annual City initiative that acknowledges significant environmental accomplishments achieved in our community. The program was established in 1996 based on direction provided in the State of the Environment Report (SOER) for Burnaby (1993). Awards may be issued in six categories: Business Stewardship, Communications, Community Stewardship, Green Choices, Planning and Development, and Youth, as described in *Appendix A (attached)*. As established in 2000, two designations are possible within 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.
- 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.

Each year, Environmental Awards and Environmental Stars are considered in relation to the merits of the other applications submitted. Annually, the City receives a varying number of nominations depending on the response from the community.

As approved by the Citizen Representatives of the Environment Committee, this report recommends nine (9) Environmental Awards and five (5) Environmental Stars for Council's approval this year, which are proposed to be awarded on 2014 June 8 at the Burnaby Lake Rowing Pavilion to culminate Burnaby's Environment Week.

2.0 AWARD PROCESS

This year's call for award nominations was approved by Council at its 2014 February 17 meeting as recommended in the 2014 Environment Week and Environmental Awards Program Report. The call for nominations was promoted at civic facilities and to Burnaby's environmental community; published on the City's website; promoted by the City using social media; and advertised in local newspapers. By the 2014 April 14 deadline, twenty-seven (27) nominations were received. The applications were compiled by staff for review by the Citizen Representatives of the Environment Committee.

3.0 2014 ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS AND STARS

The Citizen Representatives of the Environment Committee recommend for Council's approval the following nominees for Environmental Awards and Stars, as presented by Award Category.

Committee Meeting

To: Environment Committee

From: Citizen Representatives, Environment Committee

Re: 2014 Environmental Awards Program

2014 May 1 Page 4

3.1 Business Stewardship (5 Environmental Awards and 1 Environmental Star)

In the category of Business Stewardship,

- **Pear Tree Restaurant** is recommended to receive an Environmental Award for implementing significant energy efficiency and conservation measures in the operation of their restaurant;
- **Gateway Casinos & Entertainment Ltd.** is recommended to receive an Environmental Award for implementing significant energy efficiency and conservation measures in their operation of Grand Villa Casino;
- **Pacific Blue Cross** is recommended to receive an Environmental Award for implementing various sustainability measures in their Burnaby business operations to reduce their environmental and carbon footprints;
- **Alpha Technologies Ltd.** is recommended to receive an Environmental Award for implementing various sustainability measures in their Burnaby business operations to reduce their environmental and carbon footprints;
- **Left Coast Naturals** is recommended to receive an Environmental Award for incorporating many environmental sustainability initiatives into all aspects of their business operations; and
- **Burnaby School District 41** is recommended to receive an Environmental Star for implementing sustainability, energy efficiencies, and conservation measures as part of the operation of their facilities.

Nominee Summaries

In 2013, the **Pear Tree Restaurant** was a competitor in and won BC Hydro's Small Business Energy Challenge. By undertaking technological upgrades, such as the installation of a variable speed drive range hood in their kitchen and upgrades to LED lighting and motion sensors, and by implementing a set of standard operating procedures for the kitchen and front area of the restaurant, Pear Tree was able to reduce its energy use by 18.5% as compared to the same months in 2012. The Pear Tree Restaurant's voluntary participation in the Small Business Energy Challenge is commendable and demonstrates great leadership for other small businesses in the City of Burnaby.

Gateway Casinos & Entertainment Ltd. (GCEL) operates Grand Villa Casino in Burnaby. Since 2010, GCEL has partnered with BC Hydro's Power Smart Program to make technology upgrades in a variety of areas at Grand Villa Casino, including energy efficient interior and exterior lighting and energy efficient ventilation and air conditioning systems. In addition to reducing operating costs, these technologies have resulted in significant energy savings and GHG emission reductions. GCEL's other environmental achievements include the implementation of single stream recycling and composting, the installation of 4 electric vehicle charging stations, ongoing energy studies to find further efficiencies, and promoting environmental sustainability awareness among staff and within the gaming industry.

In 2008, **Pacific Blue Cross** formed a corporate green team and began measuring their GHG emissions in order to establish a baseline and determine what actions might be taken to reduce their environmental footprint. From 2008 to 2012, they implemented a number of technological upgrades

Committee Meeting

To: Environment Committee

From: Citizen Representatives, Environment Committee

Re: 2014 Environmental Awards Program

2014 May 1 Page 5

and environmental sustainability initiatives in their Burnaby office building related to energy efficiency, water conservation, waste reduction, and recycling. Staff awareness of environmental sustainability increased as a result of these initiatives. In 2013, Pacific Blue Cross voluntarily joined the Climate Smart program in order to undertake a more detailed analysis of their GHG emissions. Their carbon footprint was reduced by an additional 10% or 155 tonnes of CO₂ by participating in this program.

Alpha Technologies Ltd., headquartered in the Big Bend area, designs, manufactures, installs, and services powering solutions for a variety of business sectors, including global telecom, cable television, and renewable energy. In 2013, they achieved an industry standard for environmental management systems that focuses on energy efficiency and reducing waste throughout their business operations, thereby reducing the company's impact on the environment. The implementation of new technologies achieved a 15% reduction in energy consumption last year. The company also implemented new systems for waste reduction and recycling and redesigned their product packaging to nearly eliminate the use of Styrofoam and other materials. From an employee and community perspective, Alpha Technologies has provided employee incentives to encourage transit, has constructed facilities to support those who ride bicycles to work, and donated the use of an exterior wall to an environmental mural project in the City of Burnaby.

Left Coast Naturals (LCN) is a Burnaby based supplier, distributor and manufacturer of organic and natural food that has made environmental sustainability a core part of its corporate values and mission. Their commitment to sustainability is demonstrated by many technologies and programs used in the operation of their business, for example, use of energy efficient certified work stations and renewable energy from Bullfrog Power, adherence to a sustainable purchasing policy, and implementation of waste reduction and recycling programs. LCN recently analyzed their entire supply chain and discovered that the largest portion of the company's carbon footprint was from the way food is grown and transported. To this end, they are currently working with a sustainability specialist to create a sustainability scorecard which growers can use to reduce their ecological footprint. Lastly, LCN has recently achieved two external certifications (Climate Smart and B-Corp Certified™) to demonstrate their commitment and accountability to environmental sustainability.

Over the past several years, **Burnaby School District 41** has partnered with BC Hydro and Fortis BC to replace inefficient heating systems with new technologies at various facilities across the district, as well as upgrading to energy efficient lighting at all facilities. This has resulted in significant operation cost and energy savings, and a significant reduction in their GHG emissions.

3.2 Communications (1 Environmental Star)

In the category of Communications,

Simon Fraser University (SFU) Facility Services is recommended to receive an Environmental Star for developing a targeted communications campaign that encourages individuals to adopt behaviours that conserve energy in the operation of SFU buildings.

Committee Meeting

To: Environment Committee

From: Citizen Representatives, Environment Committee

Re: 2014 Environmental Awards Program

2014 May 1 Page 6

Nominee Summary

SFU Facility Services has traditionally focused on making technological upgrades to existing facilities to improve energy efficiency. However, recently their Energy Management Team has begun to focus on developing new communication tools that aim to change individual energy wasting behaviours, for example, leaving lights or computers on overnight or on weekends. Using principles of 'community-based social marketing', the Energy Management Team developed the 'Let's save energy together' campaign. The campaign specifically created several 'tongue in cheek' humorous videos for viewing on YouTube that identified energy wasting behaviours and energy saving tips. In 2014, the 'Let's save energy together' campaign was used as part of SFU's participation in National Sweater Day on February 6, during which thermostats are turned down two degrees. An 8% reduction in natural gas usage was achieved on this day. **SFU Facility Services** plans to continue using targeted communications campaigns to reduce energy wastage.

3.3 Community Stewardship (1 Environmental Star)

In the category of Community Stewardship,

Pablo Vimos is recommended to receive an Environmental Star for his outstanding community leadership as demonstrated by his ongoing work with the Stoney Creek Environment Committee and other community organizations at UniverCity.

Nominee Summary

With the Stoney Creek Environment Committee (SCEC), Mr. Vimos volunteers his professional expertise to build and maintain the SCEC's new website and compile and build a web-based mapping system. He has participated in several community projects for invasive species removal and riparian enhancement planting and also has represented the SCEC on various government working groups. Mr. Vimos is also a resident of UniverCity and member of the UniverCity Neighbours for Environmental Stewardship (UNES) for which he has organized community clean-ups and native plant salvages. Lastly, in partnership with University Highlands Elementary School, Mr. Vimos manages the mason bee program and authored a proposal and received approval to establish a school vegetable garden. The garden provides a place where students and the community can learn about environmental issues, sustainability and social responsibility.

3.4 Green Choices (2 Environmental Awards)

In the category of Green Choices,

- **Common Ground Farm** is recommended for an Environmental Award for the operation of a local farm based on sustainability principles and following the model of 'community supported agriculture'; and
- **Forest Grove Elementary School** is recommended for an Environmental Award for the creation of a school garden and related programs that educate the students and the nearby community about environmental sustainability.

Committee Meeting

To: Environment Committee

From: Citizen Representatives, Environment Committee

Re: 2014 Environmental Awards Program

2014 May 1 Page 7

Nominee Summaries

Common Ground Farm is a locally owned farm by Dave Carlson and Leila Trickey that has operated since 2011 under the model of ‘community supported agriculture’ (CSA). The CSA model contributes to environmental and social sustainability by supporting small-scale local farms that provide an important connection between the community and local food systems. Environmental achievements of Common Ground Farm include employing an integrated pest management system, as an alternative to pesticides, and use of cover crops and crop rotation, rather than herbicides. Mr. Carlson and Ms. Trickey host workshops and community groups throughout the summer so that others can learn about farming and local food systems. Common Ground Farm also produces vegetables for use in their catering business.

In 2011, **Forest Grove Elementary School** built a school garden, which has since become a focal point for community building and school programs focused on environmental sustainability, stewardship and food security. Examples of such programs include the Spuds N Tubs program and the After School Garden Club, which now has over 90 members. All of the students at Forest Grove Elementary are given the opportunity to be involved, contribute and benefit from the garden. The success of the school garden and it’s environmental and community building achievements is in part the result of the dedication and support of key staff and members within the community.

3.5 Planning and Development (1 Environmental Award)

In the category of Planning and Development,

Ledingham McAllister is recommended to receive an Environmental Award for restoring and enhancing a previously enclosed segment of Byrne Creek as part of the Storybrook multi-family development.

Nominee Summary

Storybrook is a recently completed multi-family development in the Edmonds area of Burnaby. Prior to redevelopment, there existed single family homes on several lots with an open stream segment of Byrne Creek to the west of the site and an enclosed segment of Byrne Creek flowing in a pipe beneath the site. From the City’s perspective, the site presented a significant opportunity to restore the enclosed segment of Byrne Creek to a more natural condition and increase the ecological productivity of the Byrne Creek watershed. Working with the City of Burnaby, Ledingham McAllister undertook a site planning and design process that created a viable multi-family development while retaining a significant portion of the site for a newly enhanced open watercourse. The Storybrook development provides an excellent example of how stakeholders with diverse interests can work together to create a project that results in a net benefit to the watershed.

Committee Meeting

To: Environment Committee

From: Citizen Representatives, Environment Committee

Re: 2014 Environmental Awards Program

2014 May 1 Page 8

3.6 Youth (1 Environmental Award and 2 Environmental Stars)

In the category of Youth,

- **Byrne Creek Secondary School Fine Arts Department** is recommended to receive an Environmental Award for incorporating Byrne Creek ravine ecology into the curriculum for over three hundred art students in the 2012/2013 school year and guiding the students to produce art inspired by their experiences;
- **Carissa Konesky** is recommended to receive an Environmental Star for her leadership and involvement in many environmental sustainability initiatives at her school and in the community; and
- **Burnaby South Secondary School Green Team** is recommended to receive an Environmental Star for their demonstrated leadership on environmental issues and creation of an organic outdoor garden at their school.

Nominee Summaries

Beginning in September 2012 and ending on World Water Day in June 2013, **Byrne Creek Secondary School's Fine Arts Department** participated in a Stream of Dreams year-long project. Teachers Judy McLeod and Laura Mathers devoted both semesters to the project and tailored the curriculum to include Byrne Creek ravine ecology. To learn about the ravine, students participated in several field trips and in-class presentations led by local ecologists and the Byrne Creek streamkeepers. City of Burnaby historical maps and 'lost stream' maps were used to highlight the connection between land development, communities and watersheds. For many students, this was the first time they had visited and learned about the Byrne Creek ravine.

The students were then guided by their teachers to produce art inspired by their experiences, with fourteen art pieces selected for public display at the Edmonds Skytrain bus shelter. This project has several legacies, including an increase in student awareness of the natural environment, greater awareness of the Byrne Creek ravine in the broader community as a result of the public art display, and a growing relationship between the Fine Arts Department and Byrne Creek streamkeepers.

Carissa Konesky is a student at Burnaby North Secondary School who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in environmental sustainability at her school and in her community. For example, at her school, Ms. Konesky is one of the leaders of the Environmental Club and in charge of managing the school's composting program. She also helped rejuvenate the school's vegetable garden, helped obtain a grant to purchase and install low flow taps for the school's washrooms, and manages some of the school's recycling and waste reduction programs. In her community, Ms. Konesky has helped organize different workshops for Girl Guides Canada focused on waste reduction and recycling and helped educate the public about the importance of saving water at a local community event. Her leadership and hard work has inspired many of her peers to take individual actions to be more environmentally sustainable.

Committee Meeting

To: Environment Committee

From: Citizen Representatives, Environment Committee

Re: 2014 Environmental Awards Program

2014 May 1 Page 9

The Burnaby South Secondary School Green Team has recently established an organic outdoor garden to grow flowers and produce. The garden will supply produce for its breakfast and lunch programs for disadvantaged students. The students on the Green Team are managing and using the school's compost system for operation of the garden.

4.0 CONCLUSION

The City of Burnaby Environmental Awards Program provides an annual opportunity to recognize the significant environmental achievements of individuals and organizations in the community. For 2014, nine (9) Environmental Awards and five (5) 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 open Council meeting on 2014 May 26, and the Environmental Awards and Environmental Stars are proposed to be presented at an event held at the Burnaby Lake Rowing Pavilion on 2014 June 8.

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

MS/sla

Attachment

cc: City Manager
Deputy City Clerk