



RALEIGH ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS

2016



CITY OF OAKS
foundation



SOLID WASTE SERVICES



HAZEN AND SAWYER
Environmental Engineers & Scientists



PUBLIC WORKS
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT



Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina • Dewberry
Dunklee & Dunham • HDR • S&ME • SEPI Engineering & Construction
Sonoco Recycling • WRAL • Yes Solar Solutions • York Properties

Friends of the Program

Chris Heagarty • Law Offices of F. Bryan Brice, Jr. • Morningstar Law Group
obs landscape architects • Laurel Passera • Rosemary & Smedes York
Trophy Brewing Co. • Waters Edge Environmental



SPONSORS



COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

CUCC has a long-standing tradition of working for social justice. In 2007 it created a task force to address global climate change, developing programs to mitigate negative effects on nature and humanity — especially the most vulnerable poor — from an atmosphere overheated by excessive fossil fuel use. CUCC audited its own facilities to save energy, organized study groups to promote personal energy education and invited other area churches to join the efforts; 14 participated.

A 10kW solar array cuts the church's electric bill in half, removing 14,000 pounds of CO2 annually;

excess funds raised helped seed three other non-profits to install solar as well.

CUCC also works to improve public transportation, safe and effective materials recycling, and growing and consuming local foods, including those from a children's garden on site. It employed volunteers to remove debris and make repairs before work could begin through the federal Resources for Seniors program to weatherize and repair HVAC systems for needy elderly Raleigh citizens. CUCC continues to encourage people and non-profits outside its congregation to invest time and money for socially valuable projects.

JUSTICE IN A CHANGING CLIMATE TASK FORCE



WAKE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

From its beginnings in 1939 as a response to the devastating Dust Bowl era, the Wake Soil and Water Conservation District's mission to prevent erosion of precious topsoil and conserve Wake County's natural resources remains unchanged.

It provides technical and cost-share assistance to landowners, creating conservation plans based on the best scientific research and most effective measures to protect water quality and enhance overall productivity on thousands of acres of farm and forest lands.

Non-regulatory, voluntary, non-partisan and locally led, the District's staff of six also oversees a robust environmental education program helping grow the next generation of environmental stewards.

In 2015 the District protected 2,205 acres of farmland through Conservation Management Plans and developed a new cover crops initiative, enrolling 6,800 cropland acres. Over the past 10 years its Wake County Big Sweep program engaged 12,676 volunteers of all ages who donated 30,760 hours to clean nearly 800 shoreline and roadway miles and 732 park acres.





HALLIE TURNER

Hallie Turner is a voice for youth on climate change, inspiring others her age to get involved for the sake of future generations. Spreading the word that we all have a right to clean water and clean air, Turner, 13, believes it's time to move away from fossil fuels and on to 100% clean renewable energy.

After reading a children's adaptation of Al Gore's An Inconvenient Truth, Turner was scared and angry that the government wasn't taking the critical action necessary. She searched the web for ways to get involved, and found iMatter, an outlet connecting kids passionate about varying topics.

Writing blog posts for the site, she connected with youth concerned about climate change around the world, speaking at the Climate Convergence conference in April 2013, meeting with Raleigh Mayor Nancy McFarlane and organizing a Raleigh iMatter march in September 2013.

Currently, Turner is working with three lawyers — Gayle Tuch, a private attorney from Winston-Salem, and Ryke Longest and Shannon Arata of Duke University Environmental Law Clinic — in a lawsuit to persuade state leaders to adopt rules that would reduce greenhouse gasses.



MIMS DISTRIBUTING COMPANY

Mims Distributing Company, a Raleigh family-owned beer and wine distributor servicing all of North Carolina, continually seeks ways to be as ecologically friendly as possible, striving to improve its overall performance and effectiveness as part of the process.

Relocating its headquarters to a central geographic location and GPS route software optimizes its fuel usage, reducing its carbon footprint. Rather than building new, the company chose to renovate an existing space. This sustainable

and cost-effective decision allowed it to install a 320kW solar rooftop system, one of the largest private installations in Wake County. Energy-saving measures include high-performance insulation, cooling and lighting systems. A bar made from recycled glass and recycling bins, instead of trash bins, in every office set an example, encouraging employees to think twice about their waste habits.

A smart stormwater retention strategy features a bioretention pond; low-flow plumbing fixtures and landscaping with drought-tolerant plants enhance responsible water use.





NC STATE STEWARDS

NC State Stewards are sustainability student leaders, promoting sustainable practices among peers and the campus community through workshops and events. Role models, they inspire others to consider the impact that personal decisions have on the environment, community and the future.

Representing a diverse set of majors and career goals, the Stewards self-select into impact groups in areas such as energy, waste reduction, outreach education and campus nature. Within that focus area, each group develops projects that improve campus, build partnerships and have a facet of peer-to-peer education.

The Stewards program also ambitiously tackles issues on a university level.

One goal of the Waste Reduction Committee is to eliminate the use of single-use plastic bags on campus, a vision that began in 2013 but quickly received negative feedback. Strategizing a plan to gain support and overcome anticipated criticism, the committee is working toward its goal through education and partnering with University Dining to plan a gradual movement away from single-use bags. Six convenience stores on campus host a bag recycling program, diverting more than 6,000 since its inception. More than 1,100 students, faculty and staff have pledged their support for removing single-use plastics on campus, and a large campus food court has stopped using them thanks to Stewards' efforts.



DHIC'S WATER GARDEN COMMUNITY

DHIC's Water Garden community exemplifies the important connection between affordable housing, environmental stewardship and social justice. The 100% smoke-free project, an intergenerational community on a 13-acre tract in North Raleigh, features 148 affordable apartments for seniors and families in the City of Raleigh's highest priority area for affordable housing. LEED Gold and Energy Star certified, the complex opened in January 2014.

DHIC believes that everyone in its communities deserves to benefit from energy-saving, healthy and environmentally friendly technologies.

As a pioneering green developer, DHIC chooses the highest-impact, most affordable green options to keep development costs down yet also to get measurable results:

- Energy efficiencies that reduce building operating costs
- Energy and water saving features that keep monthly bills low for residents
- Quality design and construction, reducing maintenance needs
- Diversion of 91.5% construction waste from the landfill
- Landscaping with native and drought-resistant plants to respect the local ecosystem and reduce the need for watering and chemical treatments.





VERNON MALONE COLLEGE AND CAREER ACADEMY

This 92,000 SF adaptive re-use of an old Coca-Cola Bottling Plant building transformed a vacant space into a state-of-the-art facility for career and technology programs, offering a new model of education to area high school students.

An innovative collaboration between Wake County Public Schools and Wake Technical Community College, the school system uses the facility by day and Wake Tech by night. This new academic program, the first of its kind in Wake County, offers students the opportunity to gain valuable real-world skills which apply directly to college or career development in programs such as culinary arts, electrical systems engineering, biopharmaceutical technology, health sciences,

cosmetology, and business information technology.

The dynamic transformation has brought new purpose to the under-used building, saving resources and injecting activity and life into a quiet industrial area while generating lessons learned to benefit both the designers and other entities interested in reclaiming similar forgotten spaces for educational uses.

The design included a number of sustainability strategies in order to reduce energy costs, minimize construction impacts, and provide a healthier learning environment for students. A few include spray foam insulation, LED lights, daylighting and materials to reduce solar heat gain and glare.



AWARDS CELEBRATION

Welcome

Megan Anderson
Office of Sustainability,
City of Raleigh

Anya Gordon
The Glenwood Club &
Environmental Advisory Board
Council Member
David Cox

Keynote

Jennifer Zuckerman
Blue Cross Blue Shield
of North Carolina Foundation

Remarks

Larry Larson
Larry's Coffee,
Environmental Advisory Board

**Trashion Design
Competition**

Fred Battle
Solid Waste Services,
City of Raleigh

Dr. Kate Annett-Hitchcock
College of Textiles,
NC State University

AWARDS PRESENTATION

Built Environment: New
DHIC's Water Garden
Community

**Built Environment:
Adaptive Reuse**
Vernone Malone College and
Career Academy

Business

Mims Distributing

Education

NC State Agroecology Farm

Individual

Parnell Bell
Charly Kerr
Erin White

Legacy

Wake Soil and Water
Conservation District

Organization

NC State Stewards

Youth

Hallie Turner

M/I Homes Regional

Triangle Transportation
Demand Management
Program

**US Foods Raleigh
Environmental Stewardship
Award (RESA)**

Community United
Church of Christ

**City of Oaks Foundation
Urban Agriculture Awards**

Anya Gordon

Stormwater Video PSAs

Blair Hinkle
Stormwater Management,
City of Raleigh

Compost Drawing

Larry Larson

Closing Remarks

David Cox



CITY OF OAKS FOUNDATION

The City of Oaks Foundation believes in a great outdoors for a great Raleigh! The Foundation believes that lives are made richer by nature and wants to keep nature nearby for all to enjoy. We are physically and mentally healthier when we are outside and active, and outdoor nature-play helps children build confidence and develop social skills. But Raleigh's natural open spaces and local wilderness lands are in danger of disappearing in our rapidly growing community.

The Foundation works with Raleigh landowners to acquire and conserve natural areas that can be enjoyed, in perpetuity,

by everyone and raises funds so that more children can participate in nature programs and outdoor summer camps. The Foundation also partners with the City of Raleigh to sponsor programs such as the Raleigh Environmental Awards to showcase innovative ideas and responsible environmental stewardship in our community.

The City of Oaks Foundation thanks you for your support of this event and your help to keep Raleigh green in 2016. For more information about the Foundation, please visit cityfoaksfoundation.org.





PARNELL BELL

Parnell Bell has volunteered his time to numerous Raleigh organizations such as the Stormwater Management Advisory Commission, Adopt-a-Stream/Water Quality Monitoring Programs and the Wake County Big Sweep. A continuing student of environmental science and education since 1980, Bell has participated in the City of Raleigh Leadership Institute, Project WET 2010 Facilitator Training and BPI/HERS and Solar Thermal Training.

His priority is to encourage more inner city youths and their families to volunteer and spend more

time outdoors, working with numerous organizations to be able to teach people in all communities to enjoy the satisfaction of doing "good works."

Bell has been working to purchase a small piece of land near the Hill Street Park where he performs Big Sweep activities. He performs water quality monitoring near the Walnut Creek Wetland Center in partnership with NC State Natural Resource students and professors, and helped with ideas for the Hill Street Park. He continually works to refine conservation practices, including using plants to control and prevent streambank erosion, and to promote urban agriculture in the Raleigh area.





CHARLY KERR

Charly Kerr, owner of the Chick-fil-A at 8861 Six Forks Road in Raleigh, set out to prove that vast improvements in sustainability are possible even in the fast food industry. Kerr's inspiration to reduce his restaurant's carbon footprint was sparked by his church, supporters of NC Interfaith Power & Light, a non-profit organization educating faith communities on the causes and consequences of climate change.

Starting in 2009, Kerr analyzed every aspect of his operations to find ways to lower his environmental impacts, now composting four tons of organic waste and paper products each month and recycling metals and plastics.

He believes businesses "have a moral responsibility to become better stewards of the earth."

Special efforts to keep Styrofoam out of the landfill included hiring a company to pick up and recycle the cups, leading the Chick-fil-A corporation to mandate all other NC locations do the same in 2013. Kerr also collects used vegetable oil and donates it to Green Circle NC as part of the Biodiesel 4 Schools program, and energy efficiency is a priority. As a vocal advocate for change, Kerr was instrumental in supporting industry efforts to stop sourcing chickens that are fed antibiotics.





ERIN WHITE

Erin White is a designer, entrepreneur and teacher working for healthy food systems. Characteristic of his collaborative nature and belief that diverse ideas lead to resilient solutions, White built Community Food Lab (CFL) as a hybrid model intersecting design, consulting, and social entrepreneurship. A Raleigh-based social enterprise, CFL is working on a mix of impactful self-initiated volunteer projects and client-driven projects designed to accelerate healthy food system development throughout Raleigh. In addition to leading CFL, White is a founding member and interim Chair of the Capital Area Food Network, board member of Advocates for Health in Action, and

a visionary leader of the Raleigh Food Corridor, a community-sourced project along two miles of Blount and Person Streets and their Second Saturday monthly celebrations of local food and community.

White coordinated an edible tree planting project, City Fruit, targeting two neighborhoods of Southeast Raleigh classified as food deserts, where poverty is high, access to healthy food is difficult and tree cover was impacted during 2011 storms.

He has urged revising Raleigh planning and zoning language to allow greater opportunities for urban agriculture due to its demonstrated ability to build resilience and awareness of natural systems, as well as the ability to sustain healthy human lives.





NC STATE AGROECOLOGY EDUCATION FARM

Providing locally grown food to NC State Dining Services and educational opportunities to the surrounding community, the NC State Agroecology Education Farm follows its land-grant mission to provide hands-on lessons in sustainable agriculture.

Long ago, Dr. Michelle Schroeder-Moreno possessed the foresight to know conventional agriculture would not suffice to maintain the health of our planet. With her tireless work and the assistance of her small staff, the farm has developed rapidly since 2005 into an educational facility utilized by many, and NC State now offers an Agroecology major,

combining farm practice with horticulture.

Initially the soil at the farm was not very good but it has vastly improved as a result of proper soil management. Absolutely no pesticides, fungicide, herbicides, or rodenticides are used; for weed control, the farm uses organic coffee bean bags from Larry's Coffee and hand-weeds. Other sustainable practices include buffer strips, natural mechanisms to protect all riparian zones, integrated pest management and honey-bee hives.





TRIANGLE TRANSPORTATION DEMAND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Through the combined leadership of Triangle J Council of Governments, GoTriangle (formerly Triangle Transit) and significant contributions of all of the regional partners, the Triangle Region 7-Year Long Range Travel Demand Management (TDM) Plan was adopted in 2007. The Plan's goal was to reduce regional growth in vehicle miles traveled (VMT) by 25% from 2007-2015 by implementing TDM strategies encouraging alternative commute mode use.

The GoSmart Partnerships provides a single source of information and continuity of programs across the region for transportation alternatives for employers, commuters and students. Through a collective effort,

a free, voluntary Employee Commuting Survey is offered biennially to all Triangle employers as a way of measuring progress over time.

In FY14, the combined travel impacts and air quality and energy savings due to the Triangle TDM Program were:

- Supported 23,818 alternative transportation users
- Avoided 4.2 million vehicle trips
- Reduced 51.1 million miles of commuter miles traveled on regional roadways
- Saved more than 2 million gallons of gasoline
- Eliminated more than 23 million kilograms of carbon dioxide (GHG) emissions, the equivalent to removing 4,000 passenger cars.





URBAN AGRICULTURE AWARDS

The presence of agriculture in the urban environment positively affects the natural environment, the local economy, social relations and household economic behavior, all of which contribute to the livability of the city. Acknowledging the challenges facing our food system, the Environmental Advisory Board seeks to promote the personal and societal benefits of urban agriculture. Toward that end, a new category of Environmental Awards was established in 2015 to encourage the development of urban agricultural efforts in the city of Raleigh.

**Alliance Medical Ministry
Community Garden** \$1,500

**Edible Plantings,
Advocates for Health in Action
NC State University Greenway** \$1,500

**Liberty Community Garden,
Cedar Point Apartments** \$1,500

Longview FFA Chapter \$1,500

The Food Ark: Broughton and Enloe \$1,000

Childcare Network #61 \$500

Country Day Montessori School Gardens \$500



STORMWATER VIDEO PSAs

Much of the pollution in our streams and lakes comes from chemicals and wastes carried by urban stormwater runoff, with no treatment. Both too much runoff from the ground and too little infiltration into the ground can harm streams. Adding pavements and buildings, impervious surfaces, dramatically increases amounts and rates of runoff, causing flooding, eroding streams, increasing sedimentation and impairing habitats for desirable animals and plants.

This award recognizes a 60-second video public service announcement created by a high school student raising awareness of stormwater issues.

1st Place:

Graham Lowder, Jessie Collier, Rachel Williams and Tobias the Guinea Pig \$500

2nd Place (tie):

Marideth Batchelor \$250

2nd Place (tie):

Elizabeth Durand and Sarah Volpert \$250



TRASHION DESIGN COMPETITION

The Trashion Design Competition encourages individuals ages 14 and older to repurpose materials destined for the landfill into a fashion statement. According to the EPA, in 2012 Americans generated about 251 million tons of trash and recycled or composted only 87 million tons of it, just under 35 percent overall.

This creative opportunity showcases inspiring unique and recycled garments created from items that would otherwise be tossed in the trash. The winner crafted inner tubes from bicycle tires, an item seldom recognized as a waste product, into a recycled garment that could easily be mistaken as a wearable piece of clothing.

1st Place:

Jessica Crabtree \$500

2nd Place (tie):

Amber Beasley and Jillian Brownell \$100

2nd Place (tie):

Ting-Yu Yeh \$100



The Environmental Advisory Board is thankful for its partnership with the City of Oaks Foundation, a local non-profit organization with a mission to keep nature nearby for all to enjoy, conserving land and connecting children with nature.

The City of Raleigh Environmental Awards is in its 9th year, made possible by the generous donations from our sponsors and the tireless efforts of staff from the Office of Sustainability; City Manager's Office; Information Technology; Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources; Public Affairs/RTN; Solid Waste Services and Stormwater, and the Environmental Advisory Board members: Beverley Clark, Rob Gelblum, Anya Gordon, Larry Larson, Aranzazu Lascurain, Laurel Passera, Justin Senkbeil, Brian Starkey and Dave Toms.

The awards are handcrafted from locally repurposed wood or fallen trees by Bill Wallace of New Light Wood Works in Wake Forest.

Thanks to CompostNow, Irregardless Cafe and YOU the Raleigh Environmental Awards are a zero waste event, with excess reception food donated to Inter-Faith Food Shuttle. Renewable energy credits were purchased from NC GreenPower to offset energy usage during the celebration.

*www.raleighnc.gov/sustainableraleigh
Printed on 100% recycled paper*