



2016 SUSTAINABLE SAINT PAUL AWARDS



CITY OF SAINT PAUL

The Sustainable Saint Paul Awards pay tribute to individuals, businesses and organizations that have demonstrated a commitment to environmental stewardship through leadership in their respective categories. By sponsoring these awards, Mayor Chris Coleman and the Saint Paul City Council encourage all residents, businesses, community groups and non-profits in Saint Paul to implement similar projects. These efforts further enhance the City's quality of life and make Saint Paul the Most Livable City in America.

The 2016 Sustainable Saint Paul Award Winners

Environmental Education Award - *Honoring programs that effectively teach children and young adults how to learn about and investigate their environment and to make intelligent, informed decisions about how to take care of it.*

Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District's WaterFest



Children trying activities at WaterFest. Photo courtesy of Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District.

Each year Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District host WaterFest, a free family celebration of our clean lakes, offering fun and an opportunity for outdoor hands-on learning about clean water, wildlife, and land and water conservation. Activities on and around Lake Phalen include water games, a water arcade, geocaching, native plant giveaway, passport odyssey, live animals, music, landscaping, watershed and art exhibits, Voyageur canoe and solar pontoon boat rides, fishing lessons and a fishing contest. At WaterFest families make the connection between activities in our neighborhoods and the health of local lakes, streams and wetlands.

Youth Leadership Award – *Honoring an individual student, school group, community youth group or school-wide activity that demonstrated excellence in sustainability efforts.*

Community School of Excellence's Asian Penguins



The Asian Penguins. Photo courtesy of the Community School of Excellence.

The Community School of Excellence's Asian Penguins install and configure the Linux operating system and apps on school computers for other students to use, increasing the level and quality of technology integration in their classrooms. They also use Linux

to recycle computers which are then donated to needy families in our community, both limiting e-waste and helping to close Saint Paul's Digital Divide. When a family receives a computer from the Asian Penguins, a group of the students will actually deliver the computer to the family's home, set it up, and show them how to use it. These 46 middle school students have taken on the challenge of using open source technology to impact the skills and change their world.

Green Practices Award – *Honoring individuals, businesses, and organizations that develop or use innovative practices that reduce toxicity, prevent pollution, and lower environmental impact overall.*

Regions Hospital



Ozzi containers, reusable replacements to to-go containers. Photos courtesy of Regions Hospital.

Regions Hospital has a comprehensive sustainability program that began in 2009 with the implementation of a formal energy management program. In October of 2011, they established a Green Team and expanded their efforts to additional focus areas including waste minimization, materials and resource conservation, and stakeholder engagement. A few of their results include:

- Saving over \$1.3 million in energy costs and receiving over \$450,000 in rebates since 2011.
- Reducing their 2015 paper usage by 14%, saving over \$13,000 in avoided paper purchasing and an additional \$169,000 from indirect costs like storage and disposal costs.

- Purchasing two OZZI machines and 2,500 containers to implement a reusable meal to-go container program. This is a voluntary program that gives employees the option to help the hospital reduce waste by utilizing a reusable container instead of a disposable one.

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Award – *Honoring individuals, businesses and organizations that undertake efforts to reduce energy consumption and/or utilize clean and renewable energy.*

Chris Duffrin – Individual Award



Photo courtesy of the Center for Energy and the Environment.

Chris Duffrin was the Executive Director of the Neighborhood Energy Connection (NEC), a community-focus energy efficient nonprofit, for nearly 8 years. At the NEC, Chris expanded the NEC's programs to include residential energy audits, Energy Smart Home loans, and the award-winning HOURCAR car sharing program. The Energy Smart home loans have helped hundreds of Saint Paul residents complete energy efficiency upgrades on their homes. Through the Inspiring Communities program, NEC has facilitated energy efficiency project incorporation into over 20 single family rehab projects in low-income neighborhoods in Saint Paul. Before NEC, Chris was the assistant director of the Energy CENTS coalition, where he was an advocate for low-income customers at the Public Utilities Commission and legislature.

Landmark Center – Building Award



Photo courtesy of the Landmark Center.

Between 2013 and 2015, the Landmark Center – a historic landmark – converted the building's interior lighting to light-emitting diode (LED lights), and were able to keep the “warm” effect that are a feature of lights in historic buildings. The conversion included retrofitting hundreds of office and hallway lights and nearly 20 chandeliers with 40 bulbs each. The Landmark Center was able to save over \$10,000 within one year's time on energy costs.

Water Conservation Award – *Honoring individuals, businesses, and organizations that demonstrated outstanding commitment to responsible water management and conservation of water resources.*

CHS Field Rainwater Reuse Team



CHS field cistern. Photo courtesy of City of Saint Paul staff.

Water conservation and water resource education were primary sustainability goals for CHS Field and achieved through multiple strategies. These strategies allowed the project to exceed regulatory standards. There are tree grates, a rain garden, and a playing field filtration system each of which capture and filter stormwater, however, perhaps most notable and unique is the 27,000 gallon cistern beneath the center field concourse. This cistern captures, filters, and stores rainwater from a 30,000 square foot area of the adjacent Metropolitan Council operations and maintenance facility for the green line light rail trains. This collected and filtered rainwater is used for fixture flushing and playing field irrigation in the ballpark, significantly reducing the ballpark's domestic water use.

Partners in this project include the Metropolitan Council, Saint Paul Saints, Capitol Region Watershed District, and the City of Saint Paul.

Beautification Award – *Honoring individuals, businesses, and organizations that demonstrate a commitment to the improvement of the Saint Paul community environment and beautification of our surroundings.*

East Side Neighborhood Development Company



Volunteers at a Sprucing Up Payne and Arcade event. Photo courtesy of East Side Neighborhood Development Company.

The East Side Neighborhood Development Company has helped run Sprucing up Payne and Arcade, a cleanup, planting, and education initiative, for the past 6 years. Sprucing Up Payne & Arcade helps generate positive impact on local commercial corridors and inspire future generations to become community stewards.

The event has been intentionally designed to educate participants and engage them in separating recyclables, and also yard waste from garbage. The East Side Neighborhood Development Company partners with the Payne Arcade Business Association and Washington Technology High School's Junior Navy ROTC Program to conduct the event.

Local Healthy, Food Award – *Honoring individuals, businesses, and organizations that demonstrate outstanding commitment to promoting local, healthy food.*

Growing West Side – Community Award



West Side Farmers Market. Photo courtesy of Growing West Side.

Growing West Side is a grassroots effort that develops opportunities to learn, to access locally grown food and to build authentic connections with neighbors to create a vibrant, thriving West Side community. They believe everyone in the community is a valuable contributor and that our projects are platforms for community members to gain confidence, and to share their skills and their voice in improving our neighborhood. Working together enables the community and Growing West Side to build a capacity to identify more needs, solve more problems, and expand our resources. Some of their projects include Beans on the Boulevard, the West Side Farmers Market, and a seed library.

Mississippi Market Natural Foods Co-op – Business Award



East 7th store interior. Photo courtesy of Mississippi Market Natural Foods Co-op.

In 2015, Mississippi Market expanded to Saint Paul's East Side, broadening their ability to bring fresh, local food from farmer to customer. Because food access can hinge on how affordably the food is priced, they created the LIME Program in 2014 as a way to offer a reduced membership payment and a 10% discount to shoppers who qualify as low income. Mississippi Market partnered with East Side Enterprise Center, Comunidades Latinas Unidas en Servicio (CLUES), and the Dayton's Bluff Community Council to host a hiring fair for their East Side location, where over 35 living wage jobs were issued that day to local job seekers.

Green Building Design – *Honoring the design, development, construction, or renovation of green buildings that set an example and/or exceed standard energy efficiency, healthy indoor conditions, and more.*

SPERO Properties



A SPERO built home. Photo courtesy of SPERO Properties.

SPERO is building highly energy efficient single family homes for the City of Saint Paul's Inspiring Communities program. The homes are built following ENERGY STAR Version 3 criteria, but projected to use much less energy than the ENERGY STAR certifications require.

SPERO uses structural wall panels instead of traditional 2"x6" wood construction and also use the panels for flooring. This method uses less material than traditionally built homes. SPERO's homes will use about half as much energy to heat the house as a standard home and have 75% fewer air leaks than allowed in a standard home.

Sustainable Partnership Award – *Honoring individuals, businesses, and organizations that work together to create and promote a more sustainable Saint Paul through collaboration and partnerships*

Saint Paul EcoDistrict



Students touring the EcoDistrict. Photo courtesy of District Energy.

The Saint Paul EcoDistrict is a sustainability education platform that highlights a cluster of environmental innovations within a four block area of downtown Saint Paul, through both organized and self-guided tours. The area includes the Science Museum of Minnesota, District Energy Saint Paul, the Saint Paul River Centre and Xcel Energy Center, and George Latimer Central Library. The EcoDistrict is the only destination of its kind in the United States in terms of density of sustainable technologies and this approach to sustainability education. Within the EcoDistrict, there are seven solar installations, district heating and cooling, biomass-fired CHP, and organizations setting the bar for energy conservation and waste reduction. The Eco District attracts students of all ages, science enthusiasts, conference and training attendees, and Science Museum of Minnesota guests.

Partners in the EcoDistrict include the Science Museum of Minnesota, District Energy St. Paul, the Saint Paul RiverCentre and the City of Saint Paul.

Natural Resources Conservation – *Honoring individuals, businesses, and organizations that replant, restore, and reclaim the urban environment into opportunities for social and physical renewal.*

Frogtown Park and Farm



Grand opening of Frogtown Park and Farm. Photo courtesy of the Trust for Public Land.

Frogtown Park and Farm is the culmination of a multi-year, multi-partner effort that started with a neighborhood dream to create an urban farm. The result is a 13-acre neighborhood park with a play area, nature sanctuary, and urban demonstration farm in Saint Paul's most park poor neighborhood. The Frogtown community now has a park with a farm situated on top of a hill, which will serve as a hub for health, recreation, local food, and a connection to nature. The final component of this project is the construction of a nature-based play area, with anticipated completion in Fall 2016.

Sustainable Living Award - Honoring individuals, businesses, and organizations that work to create and promote a more sustainable way of life in Saint Paul.

Transition Town All St. Anthony Park



Photo courtesy of Transition Town All St. Anthony Park.

Transition Town All St. Anthony Park works to help mitigate climate change and adapt to its effects. Eight action groups, guided by a central planning committee, work on a variety of issues, including: community solar, home energy curtailment, housing options, reflection, schools, sustainable food and land, transportation, and zero waste. Transition Town All St. Anthony Park has built a community in St. Paul dedicated to sustainable living and combating climate change at the local level.



To learn more about Sustainable Saint Paul, please visit:
<http://www.stpaul.gov/sustainability>

