

For immediate release
April 28, 2009

Office of Mayor Chris Coleman

Mayor Chris Coleman Announces 2010 Sustainable Saint Paul Awards

SAINT PAUL – Acknowledging groups and organizations that have demonstrated a commitment to environmental conservation, Mayor Chris Coleman presented the 2010 Sustainable Saint Paul awards today.

“These ten recipients represent the best in sustainable initiatives for this past year,” Mayor Coleman said. “Their dedication to making our environment better every day is an attitude I greatly admire. I am happy to be giving these awards to people and efforts that continue to make Saint Paul a national leader on environmental policy.”

The awards pay tribute to individuals and organizations that have demonstrated a commitment to environmental stewardship through leadership in their respective categories. By sponsoring these awards, Mayor Coleman encourages 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.

Here are the 2010 Sustainable Saint Paul Award Winners:

1. Green Spaces Award – honoring community groups and residents who replant, restore, and reclaim the urban environment into opportunities for the social and physical renewal

Como Woodlands Outdoor Classroom Advisory Committee

The Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom (CWOC) Advisory Committee is committed to transform nearly eighteen acres of degraded parkland within Como Regional Park into the Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom. As advisory committee members worked tirelessly to clean up the Como Woodlands, they recognized the ever-decreasing rate of environmental literacy among Saint Paul schoolchildren, and realized that the addition of an outdoor classroom in Saint Paul could play a significant role in reversing this trend. The Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom Advisory Committee works with Saint Paul students to restore parkland and to provide recreational and educational opportunities for local residents.

2. Clean-up and Beautification Award – honoring groups or individuals demonstrating commitment to the improvement of the Saint Paul community environment and beautification of our surroundings
Skidmore Garden Group

The Skidmore Park Community Garden Group has reclaimed one of the oldest (and perhaps least known)

Saint Paul parks and is in the process of creating a space where community gardeners can plant flowers and vegetables, neighbors can enjoy open space in the shade of old cottonwood trees, and the community can come together to celebrate the neighborhood.

3. Green Building- Residential Design Award – honoring the design, development, and construction of new green residential buildings or renovations
Habitat for Humanity

Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity recognizes that sustainable communities and sustainable development are intrinsically linked and that true sustainable development incorporates economic, health, social and environmental benefits.

To that end, Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity seeks to integrate building practices that reduce detrimental impacts on the natural environment, promote healthy indoor air quality for occupants, and reduce energy costs while increasing the long-term affordability of housing.

4. Green Building- Commercial Design Award– honoring the design, development, and construction of new green commercial buildings or renovations
Securian

On Earth Day in 2009, Securian received the prestigious US Green Building Council (USGBC) LEED for Existing Building Certification for its 401 building, the LEED EB certification is the most rigorous and difficult standard of achievement, given only to the world's greenest, most efficient buildings. The 401 Building incorporates cost-effective, sustainable cleaning and maintenance programs, conservation and recycling efforts, site management, green information technology initiatives, and high efficiency building system upgrades. In addition, Securian has formed a Sustainable Workplace committee to help guide the company's efforts to maintain a healthy facility, reduce waste and increase energy efficiency.

5. Energy Efficiency & Conservation Award honoring efforts to reduce energy consumption, energy costs and green house gas emissions
ReDirect Program

The purpose of the ReDirect Program was to find a way to measure baseline energy use and implement efficiencies at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's (MPCA) office and share the savings equally between the building owner, building manager and tenant. The ReDirect Program team conducted a building walk-through with E.A. Scales, Inc. in April 2009 and solicited suggestions from employees. Based on this feedback – low or no-cost energy efficiency opportunities were identified and implemented by Meritex and MPCA spearheaded by the ARROW green team.

This reduction of energy use that lead to the building moving from an 81 Energy Star rating to an 84 Energy Star rating. This demonstrates that even though the building was already highly efficient, low to no cost operational and behavior changes could accomplish additional energy efficiency and cost savings.

6. Waste Reduction and Recycling Award– honoring programs or projects that contribute to the development of waste prevention, reduction, recycling and related infrastructure
RiverCentre/Xcel Energy Center

The RiverCentre/Xcel Energy Center benchmarked its waste stream and developed goals to reduce its trash (non-recycled waste) by 50% and increase its annual recycling rate to 50% in two years. To reach these goals, RiverCentre/Xcel Energy Center completely redesigned its waste infrastructure including increasing public collection bins, modifying waste transport and restructuring the holding areas in the loading docks beneath the building. In addition to providing better recycling options for cardboard, paper, and cans and bottles, the new design also included collection of organic waste for composting.

7. Green Product Award– for organizations which have developed innovative products or services of low environmental impact

Creative Water Solutions

Conserving water and reducing chemical pollution in public pools were among the many goals during The City of Saint Paul Public Pool Initiative during the 2009 swimming season at the Highland Park Aquatic Center (HPAC) in Saint Paul. That was accomplished using an all-natural water treatment system comprised of a species of Sphagnum Moss, implemented by the City along with partners such as Creative Water Solutions (CWS) and others, the first use of moss in a public pool anywhere in the world.

8. Public/Private Initiative Award- This year, the selection committee decided to recognize the amazing collaboration of the public and private sector for spending two years tackling the City's challenging environmental policy and created a new category of Public/Private Initiative Award.

City of Saint Paul Green Building Policy

This nomination recognizes the efforts of the City of Saint Paul and a collaboration of Public and private interests including local architecture, engineering and construction firms, environmental organizations, commercial, industrial and residential real estate, as well as state and local governmental units that crafted the City of Saint Paul Sustainable Building Policy passed by the City Council on December 16, 2009. The policy was enacted to support cost efficient sustainable energy "Green Building" guidelines to be included in projects where City investment are made. The City's both the collaborative effort and the new Sustainable Building Policy are models for other communities.

9. Environmental Education and Awareness Award – recognizing programs and concepts which develop skills and attitudes necessary to understand the inter-relatedness among humans, culture and environment
City Academy

City Academy promotes the understanding that green living is not a luxury; it is a necessity for the health of our community. City Academy believes the students of today will be the inventors, engineers, and entrepreneurs of tomorrow. With this future in sight, City Academy is committed to making students aware of the challenges that they are destined to face, as well as, to providing them with the tools they need to be part of solution to our current climate crisis.
City Academy has developed an on-going curriculum program based on the need to develop sustainable communities.

10. Youth Leadership Award – recognizing the accomplishments of an individual student, school group or youth club
Eco Ranger

In 2009, the EcoRanger Academy hired five youth that had successfully completed a semester with the Youth Outdoors program and were recommended by the Conservation Corp of Minnesota to the Academy. The EcoRanger Academy and the Youth Outdoors program greatly help each other achieve the goals of completing natural resources restoration and conservation in Saint Paul while educating Saint Paul youth about the natural environment and green industries. EcoRanger Academy crew leaders and youth worked for ten weeks and a total of 8,180 hours on natural resource restoration and conservation tasks in Saint Paul parkland and natural areas.