



2013 Sustainable Saint Paul Award Winners

1. Green Practices - honoring organizations that have developed innovative products or practices that reduce toxicity, prevent pollution and lower environmental impact overall.

Health Systems Cooperative Laundries



HSCL production floor with automatic gas dryers using energy-efficient venting systems to capture and transfer exhausting heat to incoming fresh air.

The Health Systems Cooperative Laundries (HSCL) is a non-profit cooperative association servicing the laundry of Twin Cities healthcare facilities. Today it is owned by its member hospitals and launders more than 32 million pounds of linen for 19 hospitals and over 150 clinics.

In 2004, a 72,000 square foot facility was renovated and state-of-the-art laundry equipment was installed on the former Stroh Brewery site. The Cooperative's size enables it to process linen efficiently utilizing large-state of the art machinery that individual hospitals often cannot afford to operate.

Since moving to the new location in St. Paul, HSCL has made significant operational and equipment upgrade that have resulted in impressive reduction to their environmental footprint including:

- Reducing water use by 56% or 41 million gallons per year or reducing from 2.26 gallons to 1 gallon per 1 pound of linen.
- Converting lighting to high efficiency fluorescent technology saving an estimated \$25,000-\$30,000 annually.
- Using detergent and fabric softeners that are biodegradable and compatible with the Environmental Protection Agency's Design for the Environment program.

Additionally, HSCL's wastewater heat recovery system saves approximately 1 million therms annually. Since opening in its new location, HSCL has exceeded growth and cost efficiency projections.

2. Natural Resources Conservation Award – honoring community groups and residents who replant, restore, and reclaim the urban environment into opportunities for the social and physical renewal.

Kinnell Tackett



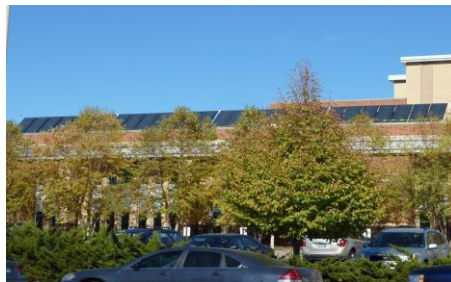
Kinnell providing interpretation to Mounds Park Academy students

Through his volunteer work for the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Department, the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, the National Park Service, and the Mississippi River Fund, Kinnell Tackett has demonstrated a strong commitment toward natural resource conservation and volunteerism within Saint Paul. Over the past 2.5 years, Kinnell has dedicated a combined 360 volunteer hours while also maintaining a full time job and family responsibilities.

Kinnell has served as a volunteer crew leader with both Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Department and the National Park Service. He also has a talent for getting others to share their passion for the environment through volunteering. Kinnell's many contributions to various environmental organizations demonstrate the impact he has had in conservation of our natural resources.

3. Renewable Energy Award – this award acknowledges efforts to reduce energy consumption, energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions by focusing on advancing renewable energy sources.

Ramsey County & District Energy St. Paul – Law Enforcement Center Solar Thermal Project



A new solar thermal system installation was completed in September 2012 at the Ramsey County Law Enforcement Center (LEC). The new solar installation now heats 40% of the LEC's domestic hot water using completely renewable energy which not only reduces its demand for

non-renewable energy and contributes to better public health. Using solar energy means cleaner air, fewer carbon emissions and a lower overall negative impact on the environment.

Four key outcomes of this project include:

- Solar thermal panels generate the energy equivalent of approximately 320 million BTUs per year, keeping over 54,000 pounds of carbon and other air pollutants out of the air annually.
- First solar thermal installation of this size in District Energy St. Paul's network.
- This project helps the Ramsey County and District Energy diversify their energy supply and increase Ramsey County's energy security.
- This project features a local manufacturer who is growing a clean, renewable energy manufacturing business.

Project partners included the City of Saint Paul, Ramsey County, the Minnesota Department of Commerce, the US Department of Energy and District Energy St. Paul.

4. Energy Efficiency & Conservation Award – honoring efforts to reduce energy consumption, energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions.

Pier Foundry & Pattern Shop



Owners of Pier Foundry & Pattern Shop: Randy, Matt and Nick Grilz

Installing a new energy-efficient furnace is a task Pier Foundry & Pattern Shop, a 124-year old Saint Paul iron metal-casting firm in Saint Paul, embraced as a method to reducing its energy cost and carbon footprint. The new furnace reduces energy cost by \$250,000 annually and will save 13,250 MMBTUs. Utilizing the Saint Paul Port Authority's Trillion BTU Energy Efficiency Loan to help finance the furnace, the company also received a \$250,000 rebate from Xcel Energy for its installation.

Beyond the furnace, the company has also upgraded to high-efficiency lighting systems and stresses "lean principles" for staff. Pier Foundry has also reduced its landfilled materials by 65 percent. These investments have made the company more competitive in its market niche and the company has more than doubled its revenues in the past year. Pier Foundry has also added 80 new employees to keep pace with its business growth.

5. Commercial Waste Reduction, Recycling, or Composting – honoring programs or projects that contribute to the development of waste prevention, reduction, composting, or recycling and related infrastructure for commercial businesses.

For Recycling On Grand (F.R.O.G)



Since 2009, For Recycling on Grand (F.R.O.G) has been working to reduce waste, increase recycling, and educate business owners, residents, and visitors to Grand Avenue. F.R.O.G is comprised of representatives from the Summit Hill Association, the Grand Avenue Business Association, the Macalester Groveland Community Council, Saint Paul Public Works along with other public and private entities.

FROG's first initiative in October of 2011 resulted in placing ten recycling containers provided by Ramsey County along Grand Avenue at eight different intersections. Collection was a success with low contamination rates and at a total of 4.7 cubic yards of recyclable items collected. Three additional bins were added in 2012.

With assistance from Ramsey County, F.R.O.G was able to partner with Minnesota Waste Wise to provide free of charge consulting services on reducing waste and improving recycling to businesses along Grand Avenue. In 2012, the Grand Avenue Business Association also secured a Community POWER grant to further support recycling efforts during the 2013 Grand Old Day event. Today, a program established to recognize businesses for reducing wastes, recycling behind the scene or offering recycling opportunities to customers is ready to launch.

6. Residential Waste Reduction, Recycling, or Composting – honoring programs or projects that contribute to the development of waste prevention, reduction, composting, or recycling and related infrastructure for residents.



Macalester Groveland Community Council's Organics Recycling Program

The Macalester Groveland Community Council's Organics Recycling Program provides a drop-off site for participants to bring compostable materials that will be transported to a commercial composting facility and keeps these materials out of incinerators and landfills. The program also provides educational tools, workshops, and opportunities around sustainability for residents in the neighborhood.

Between June 2012 and January 31, 2013, 13.32 tons or 26,640 pounds of organic material has been diverted from the waste stream. Over 1,820 households have participated in composting workshops, and community volunteers and staff have led over 27 home visits to help residents reduce waste at home. This spring the program will bring finished compost material (valuable and nutrient soil amendment) back into the neighborhood to complete the recycling loop.

The Macalester Groveland Community Council's Organics Recycling Program is a great example of community leadership and collaboration in residential waste reduction, recycling and composting.

7. Institutional Green Building Design Award – honoring the design, development, construction or renovation of an institutional building.

University of St. Thomas – Anderson Student Center



In 2008 St. Thomas made a public declaration to commit to reducing its impact on the environment. The Anderson Student Center, which opened in January 2012, reflects that commitment by the University. The student center was awarded the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification by earning high points in the certification's six categories: sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, indoor environmental quality, and innovation and design.

A few highlights from this project include:

- Utilizing 18 % of materials that contain recycled content.
- Diverting 23,312.8 tons or 88.6% of on-site construction waste from landfill.
- Reducing energy costs and use by 17% beyond code requirement through the use of building insulation, high-performance windows and glazing, lighting and temperature controls, variable air volume controls, daylight sensors for lighting fixtures, high-efficiency pumps, motors, and fans, and other high-efficiency mechanisms
- Reducing potable water use by an estimated 253,331 gallons per year and allowing for a 42% reduction (640,000 gallons) of annual water usage per year.
- Ensuring 100% of the center's power is derived from wind sources. Today St. Thomas is the largest purchaser Xcel Energy's Wind Source program.

Anderson Student Center is a testament to the environmentally conscious steps the University of St. Thomas took in building the new student center and is a great model for institutional green building design.

8. Transportation Options - recognizing day-to-day or long-term efforts which are improving fleets, alternative fuels, car-sharing, transit, biking, etc.

Jukka Kukkonen



Jukka Kukkonen has been a tremendous advocate for electronic vehicles (EVs) and their benefits to the environment. In 2012, Jukka took the lead and organized a local event called Plug In 2012 as part of the National Plug in America Day. The event was an effort to promote improving air quality by promoting continued growth of electric vehicles. The event had over 150 attendees and consisted of 48 electronic vehicles owners who shared with attendees their experiences with switching to zero pollutant electronic vehicle.

Jukka has also initiated and coordinated an EV Experience Event as part of the Living Green Expo at the Minnesota State fairgrounds. He has also organized an EV Owners group that helps promote EVs through local events. As a former automotive engineer and trainer, he shares his knowledge generously with the community and his efforts to promote cleaner EV technology are important means of achieving sustainability in Saint Paul.

9. Sustainable City Staff – recognizing City employees who continually go beyond their normal duties to incorporate sustainable practices into their everyday activities.

Department of Public Works – Hamline Midway Pervious Alley Project



In 2012, the City's Department of Public Works completed the Hamline Midway Permeable Pavement Pilot Project. The project involved removing roughly 12,800 square feet of impervious surface and replacing it with permeable pavement. Alternative surfaces such as permeable pavement can reduce stormwater runoff volume as it allows stormwater to seep through the surface rather than being introduced into the storm sewer system.

The condition of the sub-surface soils and the large amount of stormwater runoff without treatment into the Mississippi River made the project area, a mixed-use neighborhood at the corner of Snelling

and Minnehaha Ave, ideal for the permeable pavement installation. The project was also coordinated with planned improvements to the Hamline Midway Library parking lot, minimizing disruptions to the neighborhood and improving cost efficiencies overall. It also enhanced the ability to capture and infiltrate library rooftop runoff.

Unique aspects of this project include the large amount of excavation needed to prepare the area for stormwater management, and the installation of underground pipes to monitor and record any potential runoff from the alley not infiltrated. It is expected that little to no runoff will be recorded. This innovative project was possible through the leadership and funding from the Public Works Department.

10. 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 and foster behavior change.

Great River School



Great River School became the first school in the city of Saint Paul to join the Department of Natural Resources School Forest Program, choosing the Saint Paul's Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom to be their school forest.

The school has shown exemplary commitment to improving sustainability by dedicating students and teachers' time assisting at Como with a variety of natural resource tasks such as planting, mulching, seed collection, brush hauling, and removing of invasive species. Students also engage in long-term investigative research topics that benefit the outdoor classroom and foster a sense of ownership.

Every year on Earth Day Great River School also has over 200 students participating in natural resource management and park maintenance at Como Park.

11. Water Quality or Conservation Award- this award recognizes citizens, groups or businesses which show outstanding commitment to responsible water management and conservation of our water resources.

Como Lake Neighbor Network



Recognizing that excessive phosphorus is a problem for small urban lakes, the Como Lake Neighbor Network organized the “[Como Curb Cleanup](#).” Each fall, neighbors across Como work together during a one-week period in mid-October to clean up leaves in the gutter in front of their home. By cleaning up this material “as it falls” neighbors can significantly reduce the amount of phosphorus that flows to Como Lake.

Fall 2012 was the largest and most successful Como Curb Cleanup to date. Nearly 200 Como households participated and removed 11,727 pounds of organics from street gutters. This translates to an estimated 12 pounds of phosphorus prevented from Como Lake and an estimated 6,000 pounds of algae prevented.

12. Youth Leadership Award – recognizing the accomplishments of an individual student, school group, organization or youth club to enhance and protect our air, water and natural environment.

Clara Stahlmann Roeder



Clara Stahlmann Roeder started in her role as a Como Park Zoo and Conservatory volunteer in 2010 as part of the Nature Walk program, a program that provides first-hand gateway learning to teens about the natural world. In 2012, Clara donated 112 volunteer hours to the Nature Walk program, educating Como visitors about the importance of biodiversity both here in Minnesota and across the globe.

In 2011, Clara was selected to serve as Como’s Arctic Ambassador through Polar Bears International’s (PBI) renowned Leadership Camp program. Upon return, Clara has participated in numerous speaking engagements, action programs, and scientific research to promote the need to reduce carbon emissions. Clara’s combined audience for 2012 reached over 1,000 participants. Clara’s enthusiasm for science and the living world is contagious.

13. Commercial Green Building Design Award – honoring the design, development, construction or renovation of a commercial building.

Kendall's Ace Hardware



On the northeast corner of Payne Avenue and Phalen Boulevard sits Kendall's Ace Hardware. This new hardware store is a reuse of an industrial site and helps retain the character of the historic commercial district using bricks for its exterior.

Beyond construction, Kendall's Ace Hardware encompasses several green elements including raingardens, native plantings, light cut-off site lighting fixtures, bicycle racks, high-efficiency heating, air conditioning and ventilation units and more. The store is also expected to reduce operating energy consumption by 60%; employ day lighting to enhance productivity; and contribute to revitalization of traditional-neighborhood commercial street. In addition, the store has also made a 10-year commitment to monitoring energy use.

Kendall's Ace Hardware is a great example of making green buildings a reality in a neighborhood-conscious manner.

14. Exceptional Environmental Steward Award – honors the extraordinary efforts of an individual who has helped lead Saint Paul's efforts to protect and enhance our air, water and natural landscape.

Peggy Lynch



Peggy Lynch has been acting to preserve and protect parkland and natural areas since the 1970s when she first got her start with the Pig's Eye Coalition. Thanks to the Coalitions work, the Pig's Eye area is now home to many bald eagles, egrets, great blue heron and other wildlife.

Peggy's leadership efforts were instrumental in the formation and success of the Friends of the Parks and Trails of Saint Paul and Ramsey County. Since its inception, Peggy has served as the Executive Director championing many of its causes including the City's 'no net loss' of parkland and parkland dedication policies; bicycle and pedestrian trails; and the annual Friends tree sale which has added over 6,000 trees to parks in Saint Paul and other areas of Ramsey County.

Her many years of activism and environmental stewardship is very much appreciated and will have a positive impact on our community for many years to come.