

2007 Green Awards

RESIDENTS

Joanne Tan. Joanne took on the project to make a significant improvement in the energy efficiency of her family's home. Some of the things that she did were installing a high efficiency furnace, creating multiple heating zones, and installing a tankless water heater and CFL lamps throughout. The largest project was the installation of a photovoltaic power system on the roof. Through these efforts, the Tan family will reduce their electrical use by about 35% per year and natural gas usage by 20%.

Jeff Kent. Jeff is another resident who lives green. He commutes to work by bike every day he can – he works in Pleasanton with a round trip of 42 miles! In 2007 he commuted between Lafayette and Pleasanton 110 times (4,620 miles). He sold his beloved Lexus and bought a gas efficient Toyota. He has installed solar panels on his roof and planted redwoods around his property. Jeff is an organic gardener, and uses a 50-gallon composter.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa. The Hotel has an environmental care program to reduce its impact on the environment. The program has five components. Showerheads were replaced with low-flow, high-pressure units and they have a linen reuse programs for guests for water conservation. For energy conservation, CFL lighting is used in all guest rooms and public spaces. HEPA air filters have been installed for improved indoor environmental quality. There is a food and trash recycling program and a recycling program for hazardous materials, such as batteries and light bulbs.

GREEN BUILDING

Christina & Brendan Morley and Swatt Architects. This project took a site occupied by a turn-of-the-century dilapidated farmhouse which had reached the end of its useful life and created a new home that provides energy savings, greater storm water retention on site, lowered water consumption, reduced maintenance through durable finishes, beautiful day lit and naturally ventilated spaces to increase the comfort of the occupants, and created architecture in beautiful harmony with natural landscape, all of which will enhance the longevity of this home. It was featured in the San Francisco Chronicle in May 2007.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

Our Savior's Lutheran Church and its Holy Planet Task Force. The Church has a program to reduce its environmental footprint. Some of the things they have undertaken are: lighting upgrades with CLF tubes and motion sensors; e-waste recycling event that gathered 15,000 pounds of electronics; congregation education program; selling reusable shopping bags; and eliminated the use of paper and Styrofoam for their events.

St. Anselm's Episcopal Church. To reduce its electric bill and carbon footprint, the Church installed solar panels on its Parish Hall roof and instituted an energy conservation program. They estimate that in the first six months of operation, the solar system reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 9,500 pounds or the equivalent of one car being driven 14,000 miles a year. St. Anselm's was the first East Bay church to install a solar system, and is the model for three other East Bay churches to consider solar power.

SCHOOLS

Tina Curiel. Tina has been an active environmentalist at Campolindo High School. She is President of the Environment Club, expanded the school's recycling program, and created a native plant garden on campus. She attends "Cool Schools" Berkeley which is a coalition of Bay Area high schools to share information about reducing schools' carbon footprints. She attended the Leaders for Environmental Activist Foundation Camp. Tina's current project is getting solar panels installed at Campolindo.

Tala Aghabeigi. And representing Acalanes, Tala is the President of its Environmental Club. She led the Club in getting the school cafeteria to stop using Styrofoam plates and switch to paper and cardboard containers. She conducted a trash audit, and will be starting a can recycling program. Due to Tala's initiative and leadership, other students have become involved in environmental programs at Acalanes.

Monette Meo. After Monette earned her Master Gardener certificate from Cal, she began a garden project at St. Perpetua School. The garden has been incorporated into many parts of the school's curriculum. Art, science, and religion classes have been enriched by the garden. There are now master student composters, and the garden products have been made into wonderful edibles that are part of the Friday morning Café Perpetua. Monette has inspired the St. Perpetua community to be responsible users of the earth's resources.

Kim Curiel. Kim's nomination summed up why Kim is getting a green award – teaching hundreds of kids about the natural world at the Burton Valley Garden Classroom. She hosts all of the school's 40 classes in the Garden Classroom 4-6 times a year, which adds up to over 3,000 student visits per year. Kim teaches about native plants, where our food comes from, and the importance of pollinators. Her lessons relate to sustainability, and she is helping our children to have a sustainable relationship with the environment.