

2015 GREEN AWARDS

RESIDENT

Wei-Tai Kwok. *For educating local residents on the climate crisis and inspiring the community to reduce its environmental footprint.* Wei-Tai was trained by the Climate Reality Project in the summer of 2013 and has been working with Sustainable Lafayette to set a goal of presenting to 1000 people in 2014 and 2000 in 2015. He has now given over 40 climate talks including at the Lafayette Library, City of Lafayette, rotary clubs, Acalanes High School, St. Mary's College, and various Lafayette churches. This past fall, as part of Sustainable Lafayette he worked to organize a series of climate events leading up to the COP 21 Paris Conference. Wei-Tai's numerous outreach efforts have educated residents on the importance of reducing emissions helping the community contribute toward the core goals of the City's Environmental Strategy. Wei-Tai has inspired hundreds of people in Lamorinda and makes it hard to resist following his lead to become part of the solution.

Kim Overaa. *For extensive involvement in many of Lafayette's environmental activities and organizations.* Kim has undertaken a whole portfolio of activities aimed at helping Lafayette become more green and sustainable. She has participated as a board member for the Community Garden, participated as a board member of Sustainable Lafayette, organized the Summer Film series, and promoted sustainable landscaping through the Contra Costa Master Gardeners. Furthermore she has actively fundraised for the Community Garden, Sustainable Lafayette, and Lafayette Open Space. Kim has been directly involved in promoting Lafayette's environmental goals and helping the community reduce its footprint by participating in educational efforts regarding waste diversion and supporting Lafayette's open space goals. Kim's passion for all things green is contagious and has had a tangible and positive impact on the community.

Janet Thomas. *For inspiring and educating the Lafayette community about environmental sustainability.* Janet is an outstanding environmental leader in our community, from her stewardship of the Lafayette Community Garden to her instrumental role in shaping the City's culture of environmental leadership by serving on the City's Environmental Task Force for over ten years. Janet's role has been critical in leading the City's efforts to reduce its environmental footprint through the Plastic Bag Ban, Community Choice, PACE programs, and the Environmental Action Plan. She has continued to lead the Lafayette Community Garden she helped create by expanding their educational classes, camps, and outreach events. Janet has generously shared her knowledge and insight and continues to promote the success of the Community Garden, which as inspired many to follow her example in living more sustainably.

LOCAL BUSINESSES

Douglah Designs. *For recycling, repurposing, donating, and implementing "best practices" in green business.* Douglah Designs is responsible for green design and building practices that lead to a better and richer community. With over 30 current projects, Douglah Designs goes above and beyond when renovating kitchens and bathrooms in Lafayette. Beyond encouraging the use of sustainable materials, they also promote energy and water efficient fixtures in their projects. When displays are changed in their showroom, almost all of the materials are donated, recycled, or repurposed. In addition to their commitment to green building practices, they also recycle, use post-consumer products, take public transportation to work, and have supported city-wide environmental initiatives such as the "Plastic Bag Ban". Douglah Designs sets a positive example for other businesses in their resource conservation and community involvement.

Republic Services. *For working with the City to reach its goal of diverting 75-percent of all waste from the landfill.* From community outreach to expansion of services, Republic Services has encouraged residents and business owners to downsize their landfill carts, save money, and reduce waste. Outreach efforts in 2015 included conducting free waste audits for local businesses, providing new signage, initiating clean-up days, and contributing to Sustainable Lafayette's efforts. To assist local businesses, Republic Services provided new

receptacles for recycling, organics, and landfill, donated and recycled old bins, and provided containers for special events in the City. Republic Services increased recycling and organics collection by reaching out to commercial and apartment buildings and local schools. They also expanded their program by offering recycling for batteries, CFLs, motor oil, and pharmaceutical waste. Republic Services efforts have significantly contributed to reducing the City's environmental footprint.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

Rising Sun Energy Center. *For their outstanding work in energy and water outreach, assessments, and improvements in the City.* The Rising Sun Energy Center (RSEC) runs the California Youth Energy Services program which employs young adults to conduct energy and water use assessments in private residences, in addition to installing energy and water conservation devices to improve home efficiency. Last summer, RSEC served 260 homes in Lamorinda which amounted to an annual reduction of 51,381 kWh, 467 therms, and 166,851 gallons of water. RSEC's effort prevented 37.9 metric tons of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere, which is equivalent to the total electricity use of five homes for one year. Additionally, they provide community education at various events and have created a framework which can be adopted by other businesses and organizations to promote living more sustainably.

Town Hall Theatre. *For lighting the way to a greener future.* Town Hall Theatre, with special recognition to Michael Gilson, has reduced the carbon footprint of the Town Hall Theatre. In addition to replacing all of the exterior lights with LEDs, the lighting board and stage fixtures have been upgraded which has led to a reduction in electricity use. The Town Hall's power consumption in lighting was lowered from 18,576 kWh/year to 2,029 kWh/year. They inspire other businesses to install similar energy efficiency improvements. Aside from upgrading their facilities, they are also working with Republic Services by contributing to their food recycling programs.

Lafayette Community Center. *For taking steps toward a greener community.* While they have always had green fields, green plants, and even green finger paint, now the Community Center is going green. Beyond their native garden with drought tolerant plants, green practices are implemented into everyday activities, camps, and classes. They have programmable thermostats and timed exterior lighting, energy efficient fixtures and bulbs in all rooms, and have upgraded the HVAC system to be more energy efficient. In addition, they use green and biodegradable cleaning products with reusable cloths and they have reduced their waste by 20-percent since eliminating paper cleaning products and incorporating a food waste program. The Lafayette Community Center is proud to be a part of the green movement and hopes to be an example for anyone wanting to "green" their business, home, or office.

YOUTH

Sue Park's 3rd Grade Class. *For developing a gardening program at Lafayette Elementary and inspiring other classmates to think green.* Out of the entire elementary school student body, Mrs. Park's class contains the highest number of student Green Team members. The Team focuses on assisting the school to reduce its landfill waste by helping other students sort their recyclables and compost during lunch resulting in the school meeting their goal of a 75-percent recycling rate. The third grade class aims to remove a manicured lawn at the school and replace it with a school garden that will reduce water usage in addition to absorbing atmospheric carbon while providing a space for the students to learn. The students are excited to create a space to teach students about drought tolerant plants, make recycled art projects, compost, and contribute fresh food to local underserved families. Sue Park's third grade class is an inspiration to the rest of the school and the community. Sue Park's third grade class will be the first recipient of the Lafayette Environmental Action Fellowship (LEAF) and will be awarded \$1,000 to execute the Lafayette Elementary School garden.