



City of Lafayette Staff Report City Council

For: City Council
By: Anna Tolle, Assistant Planner
Meeting Date: April 22, 2024
Subject: 2024 Lafayette Awards for Environmental Excellence

BACKGROUND

The annual Lafayette Awards for Environmental Excellence, more commonly known as the Lafayette Green Awards, recognize outstanding efforts that contribute to a more sustainable community and help the City achieve its environmental goals. This year, eight residents, businesses, organizations, students, or schools will receive this award. 2024 marks the fifteenth year of the Green Awards.

Winners were selected by Lafayette’s Environmental Task Force using the following criteria:

- How successfully do the candidate’s activities reduce their footprint (current and future)?
- How much has the candidate’s activities helped achieve the city’s environmental goals?
- How much has the candidate’s activities inspired others in the community? Can it be replicated?

2024 RECIPIENTS

White Pony Meher School. *For incorporating sustainability into the classroom through gardening, composting, cooking with seasonal food, and a green waste system.* The Meher School also hosts an annual e-waste recycling collection and used clothing, toy, and book swap events. Families participate in these programs in addition to the students.

Chuck Silva, Resident. *For designing and installing a graywater system to reuse water for irrigating his landscaping.* Chuck installed this system to capture all wastewater from the clothes washer, sinks, and showers and is working to develop a cost-effective design for others to implement as well.

Assistance League Thrift Shop, Community Organization. *For reusing and repurposing clothing, books, housewares, and other items to keep them out of the waste stream.* Assistance league also reuses packaging materials and offers an annual “Reuse, Repurpose Décor” where they demonstrate how slightly damaged items can be upcycled rather than thrown out.

Mighty Market, Business. *For providing reusable and refillable containers for everyday items, encouraging residents to reduce waste from disposable packaging.* Mighty Market offers sustainable products, many of which come from local ingredients or makers, and help people convert to a low-waste lifestyle by offering their goods in reusable or compostable containers.

Elizabeth Dietsch/Springhill Valley HOA, Community Organization. *For her advocacy with Springhill Valley residents and beyond during the organization’s annual picnic day, setting up recycling and*

compost containers and getting residents to bring their own reusable foodware to the event. Elizabeth's actions show how sustainability can be incorporated into special events and at home.

Mary Laska, Student. *For her environmental stewardship in high school and now at UC Berkeley. Mary organized community environmental seminars and spearheaded a program to ensure recyclables are sorted correctly, leading to an increase in recycling efficiency. She studies Environmental Economics and one of her recent projects to convert food waste into fish food has created a tangible impact as her business model attracted investors.*

Christina Goddard/Buy Nothing Group, Community Organization. *For being an administrator of the local Buy Nothing Group, which encourages residents to share or swap items with neighbors and reduce unnecessary purchases. Neighbors who participate in the Buy Nothing project help build strong community bonds and make sure less waste is sent to landfills.*

Pat Schultz/Contra Costa Fruit Rescue, Community Organization. *For harvesting or collecting fruit that would otherwise go to waste and donating it to feed those who need it. Fruit is harvested from local homeowners that own fruit trees and in 2023, they harvested 7,335 lbs. of fruit to distribute through the nonprofit White Pony Express.*

RECOMMENDATION

Present awards to the recipients listed above.