



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

News Release

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MEDIA CONTACT:
Nicole Hall, Supervising Public Information Officer,
Phone: (858) 492-5009 / Cell phone: (858) 518-7774

MAYOR DICK MURPHY HELPS CITY OF SAN DIEGO HONOR LOCAL BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS' ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENTS

SAN DIEGO, CA—City of San Diego Mayor Dick Murphy helped honor local businesses and organizations at the City of San Diego's 2005 Waste Reduction & Diversion Awards Program during the Annual San Diego Earth Works VIP (Very Important Planet) Reception on Thursday, May 19, 2005 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the City's Ridgehaven Green Building. Sponsored by the City's Environmental Services Department (ESD), a total of 32 companies and organizations located in the City of San Diego will receive awards for their innovative waste reduction programs that contribute to diverting waste from landfills and conserving natural resources.

"Currently more than 21 percent of all the waste that enters the Miramar Landfill is paper that could have been recycled and half of that is generated by San Diego businesses," said Elmer L. Heap Jr., director of ESD. "While it's our job to keep the landfill open for as long as we can by conserving space, we can't do it alone. Companies who take the initiative—such as our Recyclers of the Year—to develop waste reduction and recycling programs really help make a difference in the quality of our city's environment today and in the future."

The *2005 Waste Reduction & Diversion Award* applicants are eligible for two different award levels including *Recycler of the Year* and *Director's Recycling Award*. Those applicants with the most comprehensive, innovative and/or improved recycling programs will receive the highest honor, which is the *Recycler of the Year Award*.

The awards program also recognizes companies with *Partner Awards* and the *Climate Wise Energy Star Partner of the Year*. The *Partner Awards* are reserved for those businesses and organizations that have worked closely with the Environmental Services Department (ESD) during the award year, contributing to the City's 50 percent waste reduction goal, and serving as leaders within the community for others to emulate. The company selected as the *Climate Wise Energy Star Partner of the Year* is noted for its achievements in energy efficiency, community involvement, commitment to the environment and sustainable practices.

This year's *Recycler of the Year* award winners are the following 12 companies:

- **City Farmers Nursery & Nate's Deli**—City Farmers Nursery is an environmentally friendly company that includes a nursery, a deli, and a soil blending operation sandwiched behind a strip-mall in urban San Diego. Food waste from the deli is composted or used for animal feed. Wood, cardboard, metal and plastic are recycled. Other salvageable items are collected and put to various uses on the nursery property, or used in planter boxes and worm bins.

(MORE)

*ADD page 2 – 2005 Waste Reduction and Diversion Awards
May 20, 2005*

- **Kung Food**—As a certified Green Restaurant, Kung Food is committed to the environment. Their philosophy mirrors the ancient Chinese practice of Kung Fu, which illustrates the equal importance of body, mind, and spirit in attaining overall health. Kung Food uses primarily organic ingredients, recycled content products, natural cleaning products, low-flow water devices, solar water heating and 100 percent biodegradable plates, cups, bowls and utensils. Food scraps are composted, and bottles and cans are recycled.
- **Kyocera Wireless Corp.** —Kyocera Wireless Corp. (KWC) believes, and has demonstrated, that minimizing the environmental impacts from business operations by recycling and reducing waste can be both good for the environment and good for business. In 2004, KWC's programs and exceptional efforts resulted in more than two million pounds of materials being recycled, increasing the company's recycling rate to 69 percent and contributing more than \$112,000 to KWC's bottom line.
- **National Steel and Ship Building Company**—At NASSCO, care for the environment is an integral factor in the way they plan and conduct business. The processes and materials they use are intended to avoid, reduce, or control pollution. In 2004, NASSCO implemented processes that eliminated two waste streams, realized a waste reduction goal by incorporating recycling of select by-products, and increased the amount of recyclables via their dumpster segregation program.
- **Northrop Grumman**—In 2004, Northrop Grumman, Continental Maritime division, successfully implemented a comprehensive waste reduction and recycling program. The program has been so successful that it yielded better returns in its first month than in the prior year. In addition to buying a baler for cardboard and paper, many recycling receptacles were placed throughout the shipyard, vendors were approached to help with recycling, an incentive program was developed for the employees, and "Rapid Improvement Workshops" were created to address the needs of the recycling program.
- **Point Loma Library**—At the Point Loma Library, recycling has proven to be very successful. The library implemented revenue generating ink cartridge and cell phone recycling programs. The revenues are used to purchase new materials for the library and to sponsor cultural events. These programs have motivated the library staff to take a more active role in recycling and have resulted in strong community participation from adults and children alike.
- **QUALCOMM, Inc.** —QUALCOMM is committed to being a positive and creative force in the protection and enhancement of the local and global environment. The fundamental principle of QUALCOMM's environmental policy is to minimize negative impacts to the environment while conserving natural resources. This is evident through their continuous effort to reduce, reuse and recycle all material in the manufacturing process, and to reduce the consumption of natural resources. In 2004, QUALCOMM increased their recycling efforts by 132,960 pounds.
- **San Diego Padres**—In keeping with the philosophy of maintaining PETCO Park as a world-class facility, the San Diego Padres have implemented a ballpark recycling program. This program makes it possible for the Padres to achieve their goal of making PETCO Park the cleanest and most environmentally friendly facility in professional sports. In 2004, their efforts resulted in recycling more than 149 tons of material and reducing waste disposal costs by more than \$13,500.

(MORE)

*ADD page 3 – 2005 Waste Reduction and Diversion Awards
May 20, 2005*

- **San Diego Unified Port District**—The Port of San Diego is dedicated to protecting the San Diego Bay and Port Tidelands and implements a wide range of programs to protect these natural resources. The recycling program, which was formally established in 2002, recycles glass, plastic, aluminum cans, cardboard, and paper. Since the inception, the recycling program has been very successful. In 2004, the recycling program achieved a 49% increase in diverted tonnage over the previous year.
- **Thrusters Lounge & Art Galleria**—Thrusters Lounge is the first bar to become a Certified Green Restaurant and they are constantly striving to create a more ecological atmosphere. Thrusters Lounge offers educational brochures to patrons; recycles cardboard, paper, glass and plastic; uses energy efficient lighting including monitor sensors and low watt signs; and avoids using Styrofoam in any of its operations. In addition, Thrusters Lounge hosts monthly "Green Drink" gatherings of environmentally minded professionals.
- **Whole Foods Market**—Whole Foods Market believes in being a steward of the environment. They are constantly looking for ways to improve their recycling and reuse, and to reduce waste whenever they can. Their green waste program is a good example of how their efforts have enabled them to cut their trash by more than half or approximately 10 tons per week, and close the recycling loop by allowing customers to buy compost that is produced from the diverted materials.
- **Zoological Society of San Diego**—The Zoological Society of San Diego (ZSSD) continues to improve an already strong recycling program. In 2004, the ZSSD recycled approximately 80% of the total animal waste and green material generated at the San Diego Zoo and Wild Animal Park totaling four tons per day or 1,460 tons annually. In addition, the ZSSD reduced by 50% the amount of waste generated in the kitchen operations, initiated five vermicomposting bins, and recycled approximately 33 tons of glass bottles, 167 tons of cardboard and 52 tons of commingled materials.

The *Director's Recycling Award* is the second highest recycling award given to companies for their waste reduction and diversion efforts. The following 16 companies were recognized in this category: *Biosite Incorporated, CNRSW Integrated Solid Waste Management Program; Hamilton Sundstrand Power Systems; Hewlett-Packard Company; La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club, Inc.; La Jolla/Riford Library Center and Jacobs Annex; Nanogen, Inc.; Ocean Beach People's Organic Food Co-Op; Point Loma Nazarene University; SAIC; San Diego City Schools; San Diego County Regional Airport Authority; SBC Yellow Pages; Sony Technology Center - San Diego; UNISYS Corporation; and Vons A Safeway Company.*

The *2005 Environmental Partners* are all honored for their leadership in the industry, efforts to develop and expand the local recycling markets, commitment to the environment, and strong participation in Construction and Demolition recycling within the City of San Diego. The City recognized three companies as their Environmental Partners this year:

- **Carter Reese & Associates**—a land developer with projects like the Renaissance at North Park, has demonstrated their commitment to waste diversion and recycling efforts in their redevelopment projects, and has repeatedly shown successful sustainable development solutions, including the re-use of construction materials on-site.

(MORE)

*ADD page 4 – 2005 Waste Reduction and Diversion Awards
May 20, 2005*

- **Hanson Aggregates**—a major supplier of construction materials and a concrete and asphalt recycler, is committed to improving the environment. Hanson Aggregates is continually looking for new ways to improve waste minimization, make productive use of excess material, reduce the load on San Diego's landfills, and conserve natural resources.
- **Ledcor Petty Construction**—a general contractor and design builder, demonstrates through its projects their strong commitment to the community, recycling and waste diversion. Ledcor Petty Construction has built several buildings in San Diego including biopharmaceutical facilities and an apartment building in the heart of the Little Italy district.

QUALCOMM, Inc. was selected as this year's *Climate Wise Energy Star Partner of the Year*. QUALCOMM annually saves 12,000,000 kilowatt-hours and \$1,464,000 through energy efficient equipment, practices and employee education. In addition, the company plans to install a 100 kilowatt photovoltaic system and has begun to convert its internal fleet to hybrid vehicles. QUALCOMM supports a variety of organizations through an employee matching grant program and the "QUALCOMM Cares" volunteerism program, and is a member of the California Climate Action Registry, City Of San Diego Sustainable Energy Committee, and the Industrial Environment Association.

For more information about the City's Waste Reduction & Diversion Awards or establishing business recycling programs, please contact ESD's Customer Service at (858) 694-7000. For more information on Environmental Services, visit its website at <http://www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/index.shtml>.

The City of San Diego's Environmental Services Department is charged with refuse collection and disposal, recycling and environmentally sound landfill management to meet the City's long-term disposal needs. The Department also oversees the City's management of energy use and explores innovative options for energy independence.

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