



# ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

# News Release

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## **COUNCILMEMBER DONNA FRYE HELPS CITY OF SAN DIEGO HONOR LOCAL BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS' ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENTS**

**SAN DIEGO, CA**—Councilmember Donna Frye helped honor local businesses and organizations at the City of San Diego's 2006 Waste Reduction & Diversion Awards Program during the Annual San Diego Earth Works VIP (Very Important Planet) Reception on Thursday, May 11, 2006 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the City's Ridgehaven Green Building. Sponsored by the City's Environmental Services Department (ESD), approximately 40 companies and organizations located in the City of San Diego received awards for their innovative waste reduction programs that contribute to diverting waste from landfills and conserving natural resources.

"Approximately 500,000 tons of commercial business waste is buried in the Miramar Landfill each year that could have been recycled," 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 *2006 Waste Reduction & Diversion Award* applicants are eligible for various award levels including *Recycler of the Year*, *Director's Recycling Award* and *Honorable Mention*. 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*. ESD reserves *Partner Awards* for those businesses and organizations that worked closely with the Environmental Services Department (ESD) during the award year, contributing to the City's 50 percent waste reduction goal, and served as leaders within the community for others to emulate.

The Environmental Services Department presented the 2006 *Environmental Champion Award* to **Tom Fudge**, host of KPBS' public affairs radio program "These Days." The Environmental Champion Award pays tribute to an exemplary individual whose commitment to the environment has positively impacted San Diego communities.

With more than a dozen years of experience in commercial and public broadcasting, Mr. Fudge's dedication to the environment is evident in his numerous reports on our local environment. Each episode of "These Days" that discusses complex environmental topics brings a balanced, informative conversation to thousands of listeners who otherwise might not be exposed to the intricacies of solid waste disposal, recycling, energy conservation and sustainable living. During the last year, Mr. Fudge

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interviewed ESD staff to discuss universal waste, construction and demolition recycling, and the 1919 Peoples' Ordinance regulating refuse collection. Bringing these topics to radio inspires countless San Diegans to view the world differently and to take a fresh look at solid waste and recycling in our community. Tom Fudge represents the admirable qualities present in those worthy of being called Environmental Champions.

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

- **Clark Realty Builders, LLC** —Clark Realty Builders, LLC implemented a comprehensive construction and demolition waste management program for the three military housing projects they are building in San Diego for the U.S. Navy. The program includes crushing and onsite reuse of concrete and asphalt; recycling of drywall, cardboard, scrap metal, clean wood and landscaping materials; and salvaging old building components. In addition, aluminum, plastic and glass containers are collected from crew lunches at the jobsite and white paper is collected from the offices.
- **CNRSW Integrated Solid Waste Management Program** — The Command Navy Region Southwest (CNRSW) Integrated Solid Waste Management Program services 13 Navy installations in California, Nevada and Arizona. The program utilizes: an environmental management system; advanced mapping tools to optimize collection; and a state-of-the-art scrap metal collection and processing facility. In 2005, the program achieved 75 percent diversion by recycling and reusing over 193,000 tons of materials including metals, fibers, plastic, wood, glass, appliances, oil, antifreeze, and construction and demolition debris.
- **Del Sur**— Del Sur is a master planned community being developed in line with U.S. Green Building Council guidelines by four builders with a commitment to recycling and waste reduction. The project incorporates reclaimed materials, reused landscaping, and sustainable building products. Disposal costs were cut in half by processing wood, drywall, and concrete to reuse onsite as mulch, soil amendment, and road base. Other sustainable features used in this project are photovoltaic tiles, energy efficient appliances, runoff filtration devices, and reclaimed water for irrigation.
- **Horizons-Marina District Condominium Community**— Recycling was planned for from the start of Horizon's first occupancy in 2001, thanks to the combined efforts of the developer, management, homeowners association, and collection company. The volunteer recycling committee coordinates the community's recycling efforts. In 2005, residents of the 211-unit complex recycled more than 20 tons of recyclables including plastic, cans, glass, cardboard and newspapers, which saved approximately \$8,300 on disposal costs.
- **La Jolla Country Day School Environmental Recycling Club** — The Environmental Recycling Club is a student initiated and student run club funded by the proceeds that are earned from redeeming collected recyclables. The club began in the Upper School (9-12) and was expanded in 2005 to the Middle (5-8) and Lower (K-4) schools. The club volunteers placed bins and put up posters throughout the campus, and visited each classroom to educate students about the program. In addition, the club also routinely collects recyclables from the bins and waste paper from teachers.
- **City of San Diego Metropolitan Wastewater Department, Operations and Maintenance Division** — The Metropolitan Wastewater Department (MWWD) Operations and Maintenance Division was the first publicly-owned wastewater treatment operation in the nation to receive ISO 14001 certification for its environmental management system, which ensures MWWD's

- **City of San Diego Metropolitan Wastewater Department, Operations and Maintenance Division (continued)** —commitment to regulatory compliance, pollution prevention and continual improvement. In 2005, the Division diverted 88 percent of the treatment plants' biosolids for beneficial use as a soil amendment in Arizona and as alternative daily cover at the Otay Landfill which reduces the need for imported soil.
- **Nolte Associates, Inc.** — Nolte Associates' mission is to deliver innovative and sustainable solutions for civil infrastructure projects. Nolte's commitment to sustainability is reflected in all aspects of their business including office recycling programs, environmentally friendly office supplies and practices, a hybrid vehicle fleet, energy-efficiency measures, and a monthly newsletter distributed to employees that highlights sustainable projects and the accomplishments of each office.
- **Point Loma Nazarene University** — In 2005, Point Loma Nazarene University expanded their already successful recycling and waste reduction program to include large-scale food waste composting, which diverts approximately two tons of food waste per week. The university saved over \$35,000 on disposal costs last year by diverting 766 tons of recyclable material from the landfill. The outstanding efforts of the campus won first place for waste minimization and third place in the grand champion category in this year's RecycleMania, a national college recycling competition.
- **San Diego City Schools** — San Diego City Schools conducts a comprehensive recycling and reuse program that continues to grow with education and awareness as the foundation of the program. To help schools track their progress toward their recycling goals, each month the recycling office of the school district posts information about each school's recycling rate and trash disposal costs. In addition, the district created a number of incentive programs to increase recycling along with water and energy conservation, and developed new specifications for construction projects that will reduce construction waste and encourage recycling.
- **SeaWorld San Diego** — SeaWorld's waste reduction program includes: recycling a wide variety of materials; donating used clothing and equipment to charity; and purchasing recycled content products. A full-time pollution prevention coordinator leads company-wide recycling efforts and the "Green Team" committee sponsors different environmental programs and activities throughout the year. In 2005, SeaWorld increased recycling of plastic flower pots, food scraps, green waste, demolition debris, plastic bags and shrink wrap, and realized almost \$260,000 in savings from recycling revenue and reduced disposal costs.
- **Toler Elementary School** — Toler Elementary School is committed to educating students about the importance of reducing, reusing and recycling. The school wide recycling program includes mixed paper, plastic, glass, aluminium and food waste. Student members of the ecology club collect the food waste for vermicomposting in worm bins. The harvested compost is used in the classroom's organic garden plots which are planted, cared for, and harvested by the students. The school also features a seven-week ecology academy that teaches students about natural resource conservation, recycling and community service.
- **Vons A Safeway Company** — Since the early 1960s, Vons has had a long-standing practice of recycling its waste. By 1995, the company reached a 50 percent diversion rate. Vons recycles plastic, paper, cardboard, metal, milk, wood, computers and has an award winning organics composting program. Without its waste diversion programs in place, the average store would have to increase its trash dumpsters from two to twenty. In 2005, Vons increased the tonnages of all materials recycled at its San Diego stores, except for paper which stayed the same.

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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: *22<sup>nd</sup> District Agricultural Association, Horse Park Facility; Allan Company; City of San Diego Water Department, Operations Division; Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf, Mission Hills; COX Communications; Hamilton Sundstrand Power Systems; Hewlett Packard San Diego; Kyocera Wireless Corporation; Metropolitan Wastewater Department, Collections Division; Neyenesch Printers; Nokia Mobile Phones; Oasis Naturals; Qualcomm Incorporated; San Diego Convention Center; Solar Turbines Incorporated, Harbor Drive Plant; and Stanley Steemer Carpet Cleaner.*

The following companies received *Honorable Mention* for their waste and reduction efforts: *Anadys Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; AT&T Yellow Pages; La Jolla Riford Library Center and Jacobs Annex Branch of the San Diego Public Library; National University; Pacific Beach/Taylor Branch of the San Diego Public Library; Rancho Bernardo Branch of the San Diego Public Library; SAIC; T-Systems International, Inc.; and Van Can Company.*

The *Environmental Partner Award* honors businesses and organizations that have worked closely with the Environmental Services Department during the 2005 award year to contribute to the City's 50 percent waste reduction goal.

- **City of San Diego Purchasing and Contracting Department, Procurement Division** — The Purchasing and Contracting Department, Procurement Division demonstrated its on-going commitment to recycling through a collaboration with the Environmental Services Department in developing an environmentally preferable purchasing policy. Procurement staff has been instrumental in the development of this policy in addition to a City administrative regulation draft that provides guidelines for policy implementation. Most notably, Procurement staff developed the means to identify and report on City-wide environmentally preferable purchases.
- **San Diego Padres** — The Padres have shown an exceptional commitment to waste reduction at PETCO Park since its opening in 2004. The Padres strive to operate PETCO Park in a world-class environmentally friendly manner and annually increase their diversion of the waste produced at the ballpark. To achieve this goal, the Padres implemented several unique recycling and waste recovery programs that contribute toward their diversion goal. These efforts include post-event recycling that separates trash from recycling in every row of the ballpark after every game; grass clipping and food waste composting; and in December when the playing surface was replaced, the Padres worked with ESD to donate salvageable turf to local parks for reuse.

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 about the Environmental Services Department, 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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