

Environmental Quality Awards Presentation to City Council 10/28/08

Good evening Mayor Cohen and members of the City Council.
I'm John Nash, Commissioner on the Menlo Park Environmental Quality Commission and coordinator of the 2008 Environmental Quality Awards. Tonight we are presenting seven Environmental Quality Awards for 2008.

The purpose of the Awards program is to acknowledge those in the community who have excelled in one of the award categories. They help raise awareness and educate our community about the connections between how we do business and live our lives, and the effects of these practices on the environment and our quality of life. They serve as examples of how each of us can do things every day at work, school or home to protect and improve our environment.

Each year the Commission solicits nominations from businesses and residents for awards that recognize outstanding resource conservation efforts, sustainable building practices, conservation in landscaping design, and exceptional heritage trees.

And now I will present this year's awards, which are in no particular order.

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The first award is being presented to Maddie Napel for her campaign to save heritage trees at Oak Knoll Elementary School. In the opinion of the commission, her eloquent "guest opinion", published on April 23, 2008 in the Almanac, was the catalyst for saving at least two of the majestic oaks at the school, both of which are legacies of the Lathrop Farm.

We admire Maddie for expressing her opinions publicly and commend her for her courage to take a stand on issues related to environmental quality in Menlo Park.

Here to accept the award is:

Maddie Napel

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The next award goes to Mitchel Slomiak, Linda Herreshoff, Jordan Gruber, and Gail Slocum for the environmentally conscious remodel of their home at 205 Pope St.

To use the word “comprehensive” would be an understatement to describe the manner in which sustainable and green practices were used in this project. Time doesn’t permit us to cover every aspect of this thoughtful project, but some of the highlights include:

- The house was carefully “de-constructed”, allowing many materials to be reused on-site, with all remaining materials donated to The ReUse People, an Oakland-based nonprofit, for salvage and reuse. Very little went to the landfill.
- Use of sustainable and renewable materials (recycled glass countertops, eco-friendly tile, etc.)
- Recycled decking materials, renewable flooring—cork, bamboo, high energy efficiency on demand water heating, solar power, safe interior paints
- House and foundation designed to preserve and protect all heritage trees, which were protected during construction with monitoring by a certified arborist.
- Remodeled home is largely within existing footprint, and retains neighborhood cottage feel

Here to accept the award are Mitch Slomiak, Gail Slocum, and the architect Michelle Belden

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The next award goes to Bill and Carol Mince of 1300 Middle for their thoughtful landscaping and home remodel.

This project is a remodel of a home originally built in 1926. Wanting to incorporate many of the original Spanish features, the project incorporated existing architectural features into an expansion, including iron gates, stucco arches and reproducing original tiles that were embedded in the plaster of the original home.

In addition, there are many California native plants and many drought tolerant plantings that provide habitats for birds and beneficial insects. Water conservation occurs through low flow drip irrigation and soil conservation through use of wood chip mulch.

Here to accept the award is Carol Mince



The next award goes to Pollock Financial Group for their commercial renovation at 321 Middlefield. The features of this project that caught the Commission's attention include:

- Permeable asphalt paving in the parking lot and building drainage designed on natural drainage concepts, allowing rainwater to seep into the ground rather than being piped directly into the creek.
- The building owner made extra effort to preserve the existing trees as much as possible, including a costly transplant of a specimen Magnolia to the front corner and protection procedures during construction.
- 16 trees were removed; 91 were planted
- Adhesives and paints were very low toxicity – “Zero VOC”,
- Reused concrete and steel existing in/around building as much as possible



The next award goes to John Mooney for his apartment building at 1157 Willow Road.

Mr. Mooney has worked hard to reduce the carbon footprint of the building in the following ways:

- All windows have been replaced with double panes.
- Insulation has been blown into the exterior walls and ceiling.
- Low energy, high efficiency fluorescent lights have been installed throughout entire building
- 40 solar panels, each producing 175 watts.

Reduction in electricity use has also reduced the PG&E bill !

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The final two awards go to **Tyco Electronics**.

One award is for their re-lamping project.

The other award is for their water conservation project.

I'll say a bit first about the lighting project.

Tyco upgraded buildings in Menlo Park with new T8 bulbs and installed occupancy sensors in all offices and conference rooms. The manufacturing areas were upgraded from Low Pressure Sodium to T8 lamps with aisle sensors.

Benefits:

- Bright light vs. dim yellow
- Smart fixtures (only on when needed)
- Energy reduction
- Modern clean appearance

According to the firm "Right Lights" Tyco is estimated to be saving 1,400 metric tons of carbon per year with the new installations.

Here to accept the award is Spencer Leslie

Now, to the water conservation project:

Tyco manufactures heat-shrinkable tubing via a process that involves the use of recirculated and city water to rinse and cool the tubing.

Tyco saw a conservation opportunity. After installing water flow meters, flow restrictors were installed on utility water lines. Then all utility water lines were converted to recirculating water and drains were restricted to limit drain flow. The readings from the meters were put on display and conservation awareness was promoted at the plant.

Bottom line: in 11 months water usage was reduced from 2.1 million gallons per month to 750 thousand per month: 64% reduction.

Here to accept the award is Spencer Leslie

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The Environmental Quality Commission thanks to all involved in these exemplary environmental efforts. We appreciate the time tonight to recognize the awardees' accomplishments. There will be details and a news release posted on Menlo Park's website, www.menlopark.org, or anyone can call the City Environmental Program for more information.