



# CENTRAL SAN

CONGRATULATES THIS YEAR'S  
WINNERS OF THE CONTRA  
COSTA LEADERSHIP IN  
SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS



An environmental  
leader since 1946,  
Central San is  
proud to be a  
Visionary Partner  
of Sustainable  
Contra Costa

## Leadership in Sustainability Awards 2024

Greetings Friends and Partners,

Welcome to the 16th Annual Leadership in Sustainability Awards Celebration! As we gather once again, we're filled with immense gratitude for the collective efforts of our community in making sustainability a reality in Contra Costa County. Your dedication, whether you've been with us for one year or since the beginning, is driving the momentum needed to create a healthier planet for future generations.

This year, we celebrate not just the continuation but the expansion of our efforts. We continue to have success getting households to take sustainable actions through our core program, the Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge. We now have over 5,600 households who have joined and collectively saved 1,600 tons of CO2, over 4 million gallons of water, almost 445,000 kwh of energy and over \$720,000! Our SLIA program continues empowering youth cohorts to develop professional and leadership skills. This year we have expanded into communities most affected by poor air quality, delivering 100 induction cooktops, hosting cooking workshops, and educating residents on reducing gas emissions at home. Through the Clean Air Coalition in Pittsburg, Bay Point, and Antioch, we also built strong partnerships to empower locals to advocate for cleaner air and reduced pollution.

We extend our deepest thanks to our Partners—Central Contra Costa Sanitary District, Contra Costa County Green Business Program, and all of you who support Sustainable Contra Costa. Your collaboration has empowered thousands of residents to take meaningful steps toward sustainability, creating ripples of positive change throughout our community.

As we honor this year's nominees and award recipients, we're reminded of the power of collective action. The journey to a sustainable future is ongoing, and it's one that requires courage, perseverance, and a belief in the possibility of a better world. Together, we are proving that this world is not just possible—it's already on its way, taking shape through our actions and our determination to live in harmony with nature and each other.

Thank you for being part of this vital movement. Let's continue to push forward, united in our vision for a sustainable, connected, and thriving community.

Together in Action,  
Tina and the SCOCO Team



## Proud Sponsor of Sustainable Contra Costa & the Leadership in Sustainability Awards



## Your Sustainability Partner

We're committed to delivering responsible recycling and waste disposal, with a workforce representing the communities where we live and work. We are your trusted provider.

[RepublicServices.com/sustainability](https://RepublicServices.com/sustainability)



Sustainability in Action



# 2024 Contra Costa Leadership in Sustainability Awards

September 18, 6:00 - 9:00 pm  
Pleasant Hill Community Center

## EVENT SCHEDULE

6:00

Reception, Silent Auction and Wine Pull

7:10

Seating for Awards Presentation

7:15

Opening Remarks by Contra Costa Supervisor John Gioia  
& Tina Neuhausel, SCOCO President

7:25

SCOCO update & SLIA fund-a-need  
by Laura Wehrley, Outreach Director

7:40

Central Contra Costa Sanitary District Pollution Prevention Awards

8:00

Contra Costa Green Business Program presentations

8:15

Leadership In Sustainability Awards presented by  
SLIA Youth Leaders

8:45

Closing Remarks, Auction Winners

9:00

Return Name Tags & Good Night Everyone!

*The physical Sustainability Awards that each winner receives are Plates With Purpose™, with a handcrafted design by Riverside Design Group. The business operates out of an energy-efficient, LEED certified building, using recyclable and sustainable materials that include glass with recycled content and lightweight, recycled shipping materials to keep our carbon footprint low. 15% of the proceeds from Plates With Purpose™ benefit nonprofit organizations.*

## Contra Costa Green Business Program

We are dedicated to providing healthier and cleaner workplaces for our customers, workers, communities, and you!



Find or Become a Green Business Today!

[www.greenbusinessca.org/ContraCostaCounty](http://www.greenbusinessca.org/ContraCostaCounty)



## Who We Are

Sustainable Contra Costa (SCOCO) is a community of citizens, organizers, leaders and educators working together to inspire healthy, connected and regenerative communities for all since 2008.

We are so grateful for the many individuals and organizations that participate and team-up with SCOCO to carry out our work. We are especially thankful for the dedication and contributions of the following individuals who have made our programs possible this year: Molly Anderson, Zachary Baises, Beth Bannerman, Amanda & Dave Casey, Francesca Cervantes, Alison Clary, Jaime D'Urso, Gary Farber, Charlotte Fisher, Louis Flores, Cam Foley, Avery Freer, Allison Gannon, Pam Giarizzo, Jim Gunshinan, Devin Jackson, Will Jorgensen, Rachel King, Kim MacKaye, Emily Malton, John Matthesen, Isabella Montecillo, Julianna Morgan, Viktoria Nagel-Molnar, Sarah Nep, Tatum Neuhausel, Laura Riggs, Laurine Grege Osborne, Ingrid Owen, Pat Schultz, Rachel Smith, Daniel Tarala, Jaime Thomas, Lori Warren, Illana Weisman, Mark Westwind, Stann Whipple, Marian Woodard, Martin Wragg, and SLIA Interns Hritika Trivedi, Rohan Tyagi, Emily Au, Calder Aziz-Mahoney, Carmen Corona, Saoirse Hansen, Grace Liao, Miki Masui, and ALL the SLIA members.

## Volunteer of the Year

We are excited and grateful to recognize Grace Benzler as Volunteer of the Year for her tremendous work supporting SCOCO's programs this year.

## Board of Directors

Tina Neuhausel, President & Co-Founder

Lisa Paine, Vice President

Charlie Chen, Treasurer

Carrie King

Kimberly Lam

## Staff & Consultants

Eliana Batrez, Language & Program Specialist

Doug Bleakly, Director of Operations

Cecily Knepprath, Consultant

Chelsea Hite, Education Coordinator

Bob Miller, Instructor

Jan Roberston, Consultant

Sarah Romano, Consultant

Tyler Snortum-Phelps, Program Administrator

Laura Wehrley, Outreach Director

[www.sustainablecoco.org](http://www.sustainablecoco.org)



## Accomplishments

Updated August 2024

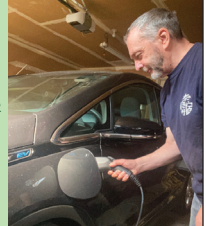
Inspiring Healthy, Connected, and Regenerative Communities for All Since 2008



Nicknamed "Fritbit for Sustainability," this online platform empowers both individuals and groups to track their progress in reducing energy, water, gas and money through household actions that reduce our community's carbon footprint.

**SINCE APRIL 2019, 5,642 PARTICIPANTS HAVE JOINED & SAVED**

**\$715,010**    **3,924,704** GALLONS OF WATER  
**53,429** PEOPLE POWERED    **55,133** GALLONS OF GAS  
**ACTIONS SINCE 2012**    **1,602** TONS OF CO2



### Leadership in Sustainability Awards

These annual awards showcase the "solutionaries" who demonstrate outstanding commitment & innovation in sustainability.

**113** HONORED INDIVIDUALS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND BUSINESSES SINCE 2009

### Clean Energy Outreach

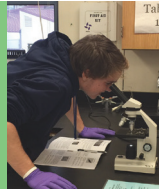
Sharing practical solutions to help people reduce their energy usage, transition to clean energy, and save money.

**100** INDUCTION COOKTOPS DONATED IN IMPACTED COMMUNITIES  
**11,703** PEOPLE EDUCATED SINCE 2021

### Water Awareness for Youth

Teaching grade school and high school students on behalf of Central San about the systems that process wastewater back into the environment in a safe and sustainable way.

**7,972** STUDENTS REACHED IN 2023 & 2024



### SCOCO Network

A growing community of residents, businesses, and organizations that connect with each other to post events, start groups, and share ideas for creating a healthy and resilient Contra Costa. Join us at: [www.SustainableCoCo.org](http://www.SustainableCoCo.org)

**994** MEMBERS



### Workshops

Hands-on learning workshops to help our cities and engage community members.

**87** ITEMS REPAIRED AT A REPAIR CAFE  
**30** BROKEN BICYCLES RESTORED  
**600 sq ft** LAWN CONVERTED TO NATIVE LANDSCAPE



Our youth leadership team, cultivating a network of next-generation activists and providing Contra Costa youth with opportunities for professional development and camaraderie.



**185+** STUDENTS SINCE INCEPTION

We are organizers, conveners, leaders, innovators, and educators, passionate about sustainability, and guided by the One Planet Living Principles.



For more information please visit: [sustainablecoco.org](http://sustainablecoco.org)



There are many ways you can help us create a more sustainable Contra Costa. Whether you have an hour, a day, or some dedicated time throughout the year, we welcome your participation!

- **Nominate a business**, individual, government program, school, or nonprofit for the Leadership in Sustainability Awards or Green Building Awards.
- **Donate to support** SCOCO's programs at SustainableCoCo.org, or approach your employer about doing so. It is your support that makes our work possible.
- **Volunteer on a committee** and contribute to the development and execution of our projects! For a full description of our volunteer opportunities, visit [sustainablecoco.org/get-involved](http://sustainablecoco.org/get-involved).
- **Help plan**, produce and publicize events.
- **Assist with fundraising**, graphic design, website development, writing, research, editing, data entry, or outreach to the public about ways to live a more sustainable lifestyle.
- **Participate in** our hands-on workshops, attend an online program, or join the Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge and pledge your actions.
- **Connect and share** on the SCOCO Network at [SustainableCoCo.ning.com](http://SustainableCoCo.ning.com).

Have questions or an interest in supporting our work? Please contact us at [info@sustainablecoco.org](mailto:info@sustainablecoco.org). We look forward to hearing from you!

<p><a href="http://www.billsacehardware.com">www.billsacehardware.com</a></p>	<p><a href="http://www.acetruckbox.com">www.acetruckbox.com</a></p>								
<p><b>TWO LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU, WHEN MINUTES COUNT &amp; SERVICE MATTERS!</b></p> <p><b>Proudly serving our community since 1948!</b></p> <table> <tr> <td> <p><b>Concord</b> 4451 Clayton Rd (925) 825-4100</p> </td> <td> <p><b>Martinez</b> 3610 Pacheco Blvd (925) 228-6135</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p><b>Concord</b> 4451 Clayton Rd (925) 825-4100</p>	<p><b>Martinez</b> 3610 Pacheco Blvd (925) 228-6135</p>	<table> <tr> <td> <p><b>TRUCK BOXES, RACKS, &amp; BED STORAGE</b></p> </td> <td> <p><b>VAN STORAGE SOLUTIONS</b></p> </td> <td> <p><b>JOBSITE STORAGE &amp; SAFETY</b></p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> <p><b>HITCHES, TOWING &amp; TIEDOWNS</b></p> </td> <td> <p><b>BUMPERS, WINCHES &amp; STEPS</b></p> </td> <td> <p><b>FUEL PUMPS &amp; TRANSFER TANKS</b></p> </td> </tr> </table> <p><b>&amp; SO MUCH MORE!</b></p> <p><b>Martinez</b> 3550 Pacheco Blvd (925) 228-6136</p>	<p><b>TRUCK BOXES, RACKS, &amp; BED STORAGE</b></p>	<p><b>VAN STORAGE SOLUTIONS</b></p>	<p><b>JOBSITE STORAGE &amp; SAFETY</b></p>	<p><b>HITCHES, TOWING &amp; TIEDOWNS</b></p>	<p><b>BUMPERS, WINCHES &amp; STEPS</b></p>	<p><b>FUEL PUMPS &amp; TRANSFER TANKS</b></p>
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# 2024 POLLUTION PREVENTION AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to our Pollution Prevention Award Winners and Recycled Water Champions! Central San is proud to commend these businesses, organizations, and individuals who are helping keep our community healthy, beautiful, clean, and resilient.

## POLLUTION PREVENTION PARTNER

**Kimberly Taugher**  
Professor of Biology &  
Environmental Science  
DIABLO VALLEY COLLEGE,  
PLEASANT HILL



**Kimberly Taugher** has single-handedly introduced hundreds of Diablo Valley College (DVC) students to the work of wastewater treatment and pollution prevention, inspiring students' career paths and stewardship of our local environment. As a teacher-participant in Central San's treatment plant tours, she has personally toured Central San's facilities more times than most of our customers—and perhaps even some of our employees!

## RECYCLED WATER BUSINESS CHAMPION

Contra Costa Topsoil, Inc.  
MARTINEZ



Contra Costa Topsoil is an over 20-year, large-scale user of Central San's recycled water. In the past five years alone, they have used almost 5 million gallons of recycled water for dust control and to add moisture to their product. We thank Contra Costa Topsoil for their decades of helping to conserve precious drinking water supplies!

## RECYCLED WATER CITIZEN CHAMPION

Harry Young  
MARTINEZ



Harry Young has been a customer of Central San's residential recycled water fill station since 2015. This past year, from July 2023 to June 2024, he visited 138 times. In total, he collected 29,025 gallons of recycled water for irrigating his garden, proving one person can make a huge impact when it comes to saving water. Thank you, Harry, for being a frequent and dedicated recycled water customer!

## POLLUTION PREVENTION AWARD WINNER

**Kinja Sushi**

CONCORD & SAN RAMON



**Kinja Sushi** takes conservation and protection of the environment seriously. Each facility triple filters wastewater discharges at their sinks to prevent solids from entering the sewer system. They further protect the sewer system from fats, oils, and grease by dry wiping their dish- and cookware and maintaining their grease removal device. By properly storing used cooking oil, they prevent any spills into the stormwater system. They eliminated plastic water bottles by exclusively serving tap water, while also conserving water whenever possible. Additionally, the San Ramon facility has all energy-efficient lighting. We applaud Kinja Sushi for operating environmentally friendly food service facilities!



# WATER QUALITY COMMUNITY PARTNERS



(AS OF JUNE 30, 2024)

The following community partners are recognized for maintaining full compliance with their Central Contra Costa Sanitary District sewer discharge permit, preventing pollution, and protecting water quality.

## 24 YEARS

- Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District  
Concord

## 16 YEARS

- Acalanes Union High School District Maintenance Facility  
Moraga

## 15 YEARS

- Aquarius Pool & Spa  
Walnut Creek

## 14 YEARS

- Del Monte Foods-Research Center  
Walnut Creek
- The CONCO Companies  
Martinez

## 13 YEARS

- Gold Coin Car Wash  
Concord
- Gold Coin Car Wash  
San Ramon
- John Muir Medical Center  
Walnut Creek Campus

## 11 YEARS

- San Ramon Valley Unified School District Maintenance Facility  
San Ramon

## 10 YEARS

- Central Contra Costa Transit Authority  
Concord
- SFPP, L.P.  
Concord

## 9 YEARS

- 7 Flags Car Wash  
Martinez
- PG&E San Ramon Technology Center  
San Ramon

## 8 YEARS

- Copart, Inc.  
Martinez
- Independent Construction  
Concord
- Kwik-N-Easy Car Wash  
Concord

## 6 YEARS

- Herc Rentals  
Pacheco
- TransMontaigne Operating Company, L.P.  
Martinez

## 5 YEARS

- Cerus Corp.  
Concord
- Contra Costa County Detention Facility  
Martinez
- SEG Trucking  
Concord
- St. Mary's College  
Moraga
- Walnut Creek Ford  
Walnut Creek

## 4 YEARS

- Geronimo's Professional Auto Detailing  
Walnut Creek
- Military Ocean Terminal  
Concord

## 3 YEARS

- Contra Costa Regional Medical Center  
Martinez
- Contra Costa Water District Alum Drying Pond  
Concord
- Mercer Owners Association  
Walnut Creek
- Valent USA  
San Ramon

## 2 YEARS

- Eagle Bay Enterprises, Inc. dba Procan Labs  
Concord
- Kaiser Permanente  
Walnut Creek
- SFIC Corporation  
Concord
- Six Flags Hurricane Harbor  
Concord
- The Luxury Collection  
Walnut Creek

## 1 YEAR

- Contra Costa Newspapers  
Concord
- Sierra Pacific Tours  
Pacheco
- SFPP, L.P. - Area IV Ground Water Extraction Treatment System  
Concord
- So Kwik Car Wash  
Concord
- BMW Concord  
Concord
- Republic Services, Inc.  
Pacheco
- Bay Cities Paving & Grading  
Concord

## CONTRA COSTA GREEN BUSINESS PROGRAM RECOGNITION

2024



We would like to honor all new and recertified businesses for their environmental stewardship and contributions to a cleaner and healthier community. Together with our Program Partners, our program assists and certifies businesses that comply with environmental regulations and meet program standards for saving water, conserving energy, preventing pollution and minimizing waste.

## Congratulations!



<https://greenbusinessca.org/contracostacounty>



## New Certified Businesses



7 Stars Holistic Healing Center	Magic Hands Eco Cleaning
Be Home	MLT Resolutions
DBA Utku Kids	Seawoof
Family Matters	Simplera Benefits & Insurance Solutions
First Carbon Solutions	Solar Harmonics
Huey Health Consulting	The Cleaning Fairy

## Re-Certified Businesses



Mt Diablo Resource Recovery Office, 4 years
Save Mount Diablo, 7 years
State Farm Insurance - Matthew Rinn, 11 years
Engineering/ Remediation Resources Group, Inn, 11 years
vCom Solutions, 12 years
Acclaro Wealth Management, 13 years
City of Martinez City Hall & Police Department, 14 years
Interactive Resources, 14 years
Nan Phelps Photography, 15 years
Payless Painting, Inc., 15 years
Shred Defense, 15 years
Toot-A-Lou Family Daycare, 15 years
Lafayette Tree & Landscapes, 16 years
Walnut Creek Ford, 16 years
Metro Dog, 17 years
City of Concord City Hall, 17 years
Daily Digital Imaging, 18 years
Innersense Organic Beauty, 18 years
Independent Volvo Service, 19 years
EBMUD Lafayette Water Treatment Plant, 19 years
Mt View Sanitary District, 21 years
Tree, Bugs, Dirt, 21 years
Central Costa Costa Sanitary District Vehicle and Maintenance Facility, 22 years



<https://greenbusinessca.org/contracostacounty>



## About the Sustainability Awards

The Contra Costa Leadership in Sustainability Awards honor those who demonstrate outstanding commitment, leadership and contributions to practicing and promoting sustainability. Nominations are accepted throughout the year at SustainableCoCo.org. Nominees are evaluated on how well their actions reflect these basic areas of sustainability: Environmental Health, Social Health and Well-being, and Economic Prosperity. They are also evaluated on their: uniqueness, scope of involvement and impact in the community, level of organization-wide involvement, ability to serve as a model for others, and partnerships and collaborations. Winners are announced at the annual Awards Gala.

**One Planet Living: Sustainable Contra Costa has committed to aligning all of our programs with the One Planet Living Principles. One Planet Living is an initiative of Bioregional ([www.bioregional.org](http://www.bioregional.org)) that holds a vision of a world in which people enjoy happy, healthy lives within their fair share of the earth’s resources, leaving space for wildlife and wilderness. The Ten Principles provide an easy-to-use framework that can help anyone, anywhere, to plan, deliver and communicate sustainability.**

**In the description of each award winner you will see icons that represent the One Planet Living principles that align most closely with their work.**

	<b>Health and happiness</b>	Encouraging active, social, meaningful lives to promote good health and wellbeing
	<b>Equity and local economy</b>	Creating safe, equitable places to live and work which support local prosperity and international fair trade
	<b>Culture and community</b>	Nurturing local identity and heritage, empowering communities and promoting a culture of sustainable living
	<b>Land and nature</b>	Protecting and restoring land for the benefit of people and wildlife
	<b>Sustainable water</b>	Using water efficiently, protecting local water resources and reducing flooding and drought
	<b>Local and sustainable food</b>	Promoting sustainable humane farming and healthy diets high in local, seasonal organic food and vegetable protein
	<b>Travel and transport</b>	Reducing the need to travel, encouraging walking, cycling and low carbon transport
	<b>Materials and products</b>	Using materials from sustainable sources and promoting products which help people reduce consumption.
	<b>Zero waste</b>	Reducing consumption, re-using and recycling to achieve zero waste and zero pollution
	<b>Zero carbon energy</b>	Making buildings and manufacturing energy efficient and supplying all energy with renewables



## Congratulations to all the 2024 Leadership in Sustainability Award Nominees

Kathy & Reg Barret  
Kristin Bowman  
Phillip Cao  
Contra Costa Fruit Rescue  
Food Ware To-Go  
Amy Golan  
Nadine Hammer  
Rev. Steve Harms  
Nancy Hu  
Lafayette Community Garden and Outdoor Learning Center  
Mark Lewis, Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary  
Mighty Market  
Rebecca Newburn  
Mathew Pentney  
Roof and Realm  
Sustainable Move Out - St. Mary's College  
Sustainable Walnut Creek

## Sustainability Awards Judges

Thank you to the 2024 Sustainability Awards judges for their time, diligence and integrity throughout the awards selection process: Barry Brian, Adrian Byram, Kiara Donato, Gary Farber, Julie Haas-Wajdowicz, Nanette Heffernan, Ashley Louisiana, Kevin Mulcahey, Lee Sigourney, Amy Starr, Illana Weisman



The Awards Gala event has neutralized 2 tons of CO2 emissions through Carbon Offsets To Alleviate Poverty (COTAP.org).

## AWARD WINNER



### Amy Golan

Amy Golan is the proud owner of Planet Renu in Walnut Creek. This zero-waste refillery is a vibrant hub for sustainable living practices and eco-friendly products and also serves as a community gathering space where individuals can learn, engage, and collaborate in environmental initiatives. Amy also operates a mobile store that travels to various community spaces, ensuring convenient access to refillable and eco-friendly products. This innovative approach eliminates the need for shipping and promotes sustainable consumption habits across diverse settings, including farmers' markets, schools, churches, and office spaces. Amy actively engages with the community, inspiring the next generation of sustainability leaders to drive positive change. She regularly hosts educational workshops that provide practical, actionable steps that empower individuals to reduce their carbon footprint. She is deeply committed to fostering sustainability leadership among local youth through green teams and mentoring programs. Currently, Amy is spearheading an innovative initiative to introduce refilling stations in major retail stores, with two regional stores already committed to piloting this idea. This groundbreaking initiative has the potential to revolutionize the way we consume and reduce plastic waste on a significant scale. Amy exemplifies the qualities of a true sustainability leader – passion, dedication, and innovation. Her outstanding contributions and unwavering commitment to creating a better world along with her relentless pursuit of a more sustainable future has had a profound impact on our community and beyond.

## AWARD WINNER



### Contra Costa Fruit Rescue

Contra Costa Fruit Rescue (CCFR) is an all-volunteer gleaning program of Forestr.org, a non-profit based out of Castro Valley that rescues food that would otherwise go to waste. This food is mostly from homeowners as well as commercial orchards and is upcycled to local food distribution partners throughout Contra Costa County. CCFR has rescued over 110,000 lbs. of fruit, which is the equivalent of 91,667 meals recovered, 6.42 tons of CO2 kept out of the environment, and 886,820 gallons of water saved. Fruit Rescue is run by six harvest leaders who work with fruit donors and local food distribution partners in their area. They currently operate in fifteen cities within Contra Costa County and support twelve food distribution partners. Working with over 1,400 volunteers at more than 165 harvest events annually, they rescue approximately 5,000 lbs. of fruit every month of the year. Harvests range in size from a single person to one hundred people at a commercial orchard. This service is free to the fruit donor and supported through the generosity of individual donations and grants. CCFR raises awareness in the community during harvests, community events, and small group events. By connecting surplus with demand, CCFR contributes to food security and improved nutrition, reduces food waste and its negative effects on the environment, and fosters a stronger sense of community.

### Westwind Associates

**Professional and Technical Services for Business, Government & Nonprofits**

**Certified Salesforce.com Consultant and Developer**

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## RISING STAR



### Phillip Cao



Phillip Cao is 18 and a recent graduate of Northgate High School in Walnut Creek, where he has been an advocate, practitioner, and educator of sustainable practices through thrifting. While a freshman, he created Phil's Store to reduce new clothing purchases and increase accessible clothing for everyone. Phillip tapped into the teen community while also supporting more established Contra Costa County thrift stores. While a member of Northgate's Student Leadership program, Phillip started the Thrifting Club, which quickly became a hit among his classmates. For his Senior Project he researched the history, practices, culture and economics of reusing products. He investigated consumerism and sustainability and completed a hands-on experiential project in the community, where he donated clothing to thrift stores, volunteered his time, and spear headed reusable clothing collection drives, including one at Trinity Center in Walnut Creek. In Phillip's culmination presentation, he educated his high school peers on the need for conservation and reuse, and then repeated the presentation to a formal evaluation panel of teachers and community members. He shared that he grew up in a frugal household with immigrant parents where reusing items and wearing second-hand clothes was the norm. With ingenuity, resourcefulness, magnetism and kindness, Phillip created a campus culture that celebrated a mindset shift in creating a more sustainable and economic environment for all.

## AWARD WINNER



## Sustainable Move-Out

*Partnership between Saint Mary's College, Republic Services, Mt. Diablo Resource Recovery, and Recycle Smart*

Every May after final exams and graduations, thousands of college students move out of campus dormitories and off-campus housing in the Moraga area. They leave copious amounts of furniture, clothing, household goods and other items in parking lots, on sidewalks, and throughout the community. For the past two years, Saint Mary's College, Republic Services, Mt. Diablo Resource Recovery, and RecycleSmart have collaborated in a partnership that directs Saint Mary's Climate Action Corps Fellows, Sustainability Interns and their Sustainability Director in the following actions:

- Leave ten large donation bins near residence halls during Move-Out week for 1300 residents.
- Conduct marketing and outreach through flyers, live presentations, emails, and news articles and events on SMC website.
- Sort and organize donation bins.
- Manage campus "FreeStore".

Mt. Diablo Resource Recovery & Republic Services donates these services:

- Recycling for faculty and student papers, cardboard, and other recyclables.
- Graphic design for flyers, mailer outreach, and phone call blast reminders to property managers of off-campus apartments in student-dense areas.
- Collect reusable items, including furniture, clothing, kitchenware, and other household appliances.
- Supply large debris boxes for non-reusable items RecycleSmart also helped coordinate and monitor this annual program, which has been extremely successful and shows how different stake holders can come together to reduce waste and positively benefit the environment.

## AWARD WINNER



### Kristin Bowman

Kristin has spent the last eight years as a Water Conservation Representative at East Bay Municipal Utility District, where she leads the Landscape Advisory Committee (LAC), a key stakeholder group of landscaping professionals in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties that provides direction for outdoor water conservation programs. She has done a tremendous job keeping this unique group of volunteers engaged and up to date on the latest water conservation practices to spread in the community, organizing free forums, workshops, and webinars for the LAC to learn, share, and debate (spray vs drip irrigation!?). Most recently, she hosted a webinar about AB1572, the statewide irrigation ban on decorative turf, bringing representatives from the California Department of Water Resource and Southern California Water Districts to help local landscapers and municipal staff understand the bill and brainstorm ideas for working together.

Kristin's work in the community includes supporting demonstration gardens, community gardens that save water, promoting biodiversity, and educating visitors about sustainable gardening best practices. She approaches these projects through the lens of "placemaking" which involves community engagement and partnerships, rather than a top-down approach. Placemaking centers neighborhood needs and participation to create spaces and demonstration gardens that help the community thrive. She works with many of EBMUD's large landscape customers and HOAs, including Rossmoor in Walnut Creek, helping with the transition from lawns to gardens and assisting with irrigation upgrades.

Kristin is an innovator and creative problem solver, always thinking about new ways to engage residents and businesses. It's her work with people that sets her apart, and her contagious enthusiasm that raises everyone up.

## AWARD WINNER



### Mighty Market

Mighty Market is a women and family owned business that, since its opening in downtown Martinez in 2020, offers locally sourced products, including pantry items, brushes, containers, skin care products, kitchen supplies, cleaning products, and much more.

Their focus on reusable and sustainable alternatives helps residents replace toxic products with environmentally friendly and safe alternatives.

By offering refillable options for everyday household products, they provide a practical solution to the growing plastic pollution problem. Customers can bring their own containers to refill items such as soaps, shampoos, household cleaners, laundry detergent, and even personal care products.

Mighty Market engages the community through workshops and the support of environmental nonprofits. Workshops such as candle making and bath bomb crafting, promotes hands-on sustainability practices. Partnering with 1% for the Planet, Mighty Market donates one percent of all sales to support sustainability initiatives worldwide. Customers are regularly to inform them of the money raised, and progress they have made. This initiative not only funds conservation efforts, but also engages the community in global environmental stewardship. By reducing plastic , supporting local business, and educating residents, Mighty Market creates a ripple effect of positive change in Martinez and beyond.

## AWARD WINNER



## Sustainable Walnut Creek

Since its founding in 2008, Sustainable Walnut Creek (SWC) has worked to foster city-wide sustainability through events, programs, and advocacy that promote environmental health. The all-volunteer group devoted many hours to producing Walnut Creek's 2024 Earth Day. This event filled Civic Park with festive and educational booths, giving high impact exposure to both nonprofits and local businesses. Other free public events sponsored by SWC include Sustainability Weeks, Earth Month, Eco-Fest and Parking Day. The group organized Walnut Creek's first Climate March as part of the Walnut Festival's Twilight parade. An example of the huge impact that SWC has had through collaboration with other groups is their promotion of the MCE model for sourcing electricity from solar, wind and other renewable sources. Subsequently, the City mandated the model for all Walnut Creek citizens. The group was influential in developing the community-wide Recycle Compost and Waste Ambassador program and contributed to the City's Sustainability Action Plan. SWC has worked on sustainability-promoting activities and actions with numerous groups throughout Contra Costa County, including the Contra Costa County Library, Ruth Bancroft Garden, Contra Costa MoveOn, Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church, and Third Act. Through their own events and programs, as well as through collaboration with other groups, Sustainable Walnut Creek has made a substantial contribution to the environmental health of our community.





# Composting Organics

is now the law for everyone in California

Visit [RecycleSmart.org](https://RecycleSmart.org) for composting resources and education materials for residents, businesses, and schools.

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Congratulations to the  
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**Thank you for leading the charge  
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**The City of Pleasant Hill  
congratulates the winners of this  
year's 2024 Sustainability Awards!**



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[www.cleanercontracosta.org/moraga](http://www.cleanercontracosta.org/moraga)



# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2024 LEADERSHIP IN SUSTAINABILITY AWARD WINNERS!

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[WALNUTCREEKCA.GOV/ECO](http://WALNUTCREEKCA.GOV/ECO)

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The City of Martinez is proud to be a Certified Green Business and is committed to environmental sustainability. Check out [www.greenmartinez.org](http://www.greenmartinez.org) to learn about the City's Climate Action Plan, sustainability programs, and for tips and resources for residents and businesses to go green, save money, and more.



**The City of Antioch presents Resource Recovery Ambassadors!**

Coming Soon: an exciting new training program for all who live, work or play in Antioch to become experts in sorting discards for resource recovery & educating the community about composting to combat climate change!



Scan QR code



To fill out interest form

**PROUD PARTNER OF  
SUSTAINABLE  
CONTRA COSTA**

**DIABLO WATER DISTRICT**

**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO ALL THE 2024  
SUSTAINABILITY  
AWARD WINNERS**

Thank you for your continued leadership in advancing innovation and sustainable solutions for our future.

SCAN FOR INFORMATION

[www.diablowater.org](http://www.diablowater.org)

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John Muir Health is proud to support Sustainable Contra Costa and its many contributions to the well-being of our community.



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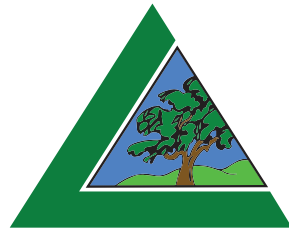
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## Become a SCOCO Member!

In the fall of 2023 we inaugurated a new membership program, and we are so grateful to those who stepped up and became monthly members, donating each month.

### Madrone Level

Ryan Buckley  
 Craig and Jennifer DeVinney  
 Carrie King and Chris Orme  
 Jurg Sommer

### Sage Level

Molly Anderson  
 Ford Andrews - Sideboard  
 Neighborhood Kitchen  
 Pam Giarrizzo  
 Erika Pantoja  
 Mardy Polo

### Poppy Level





Darren & Sunshine Deffner  
 Carol Lane  
 Shereen Motarjemi  
 Peg Schuetz  
 James Ware  
 Illana Weisman & Gary Farber

Show your commitment to a sustainable world by becoming a Member of Sustainable Contra Costa! You will be supporting our efforts to confidently plan for the future and ensuring that we can continue to help our community save energy, water, CO2 and reduce waste. Every dollar counts! We have a small, hardworking staff and we don't pay for office space. Almost all of your donation goes to operational costs, programs and projects.

SCAN HERE to start your membership



or visit [sustainablecoco.org/support](https://sustainablecoco.org/support)

 <p><b>Poppy</b></p>	 <p><b>Sage</b></p>	 <p><b>Madrone</b></p>	 <p><b>Redwood</b></p>
<p><b>\$10 per month</b></p>	<p><b>\$25 per month</b></p>	<p><b>\$50 per month</b></p>	<p><b>\$100 per month</b></p>
<p>A. Show support for our mission to "Connect our community to sustainable solutions".</p> <p>B. Free swag item (ie: reusable bag, bamboo utensil kit, metal straws, etc) when you visit us at a <b>tabling</b> event.</p> <p>C. Shout out on our social media pages.</p>	<p>A. Everything in Poppy (Support, Free Swag Item, social media recognition)</p> <p>B. Special recognition on our website and in our monthly e-Newsletter.</p> <p>C. 1 ticket to our annual awards gala (dinner + drinks included).</p>	<p>A. Everything in Sage (Support, Free Swag Item, social media &amp; Newsletter recognition)</p> <p>B. 2 tickets to our annual awards gala (dinner + drinks included).</p> <p>C. Invitations to Members Only events.</p>	<p>A. Everything in Madrone (Support, Free Swag Item, social media &amp; Newsletter recognition)</p> <p>B. 3 tickets to our annual awards gala (dinner + drinks included).</p> <p>C. Invitations to Members Only events.</p>



## Thank you to our 2024 partners

### Visionary

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Central Contra Costa Sanitary District  
Contra Costa County

### Benefactor

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Contra Costa Green Business Program

### Sustainers

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City of Antioch	Contra Costa Water District
City of El Cerrito	EBMUD
City of Pittsburg	MCE
City of Pleasant Hill	Mt. Diablo Resource Recovery
City of Martinez	Republic Services
City of Walnut Creek	

### Champions

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Diablo Water District	RecycleSmart
EcoMulch	Swinerton Builders
Town of Moraga	

### Advocates

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Bill's Ace Hardware	John Muir Health
Calicraft Brewing	Laura & Nick Neuhausel
Captain Vineyards	City of Orinda
City of Lafayette	Pacific Catch Westcoast Fish House
Diablo View Rotary Club	Pacific Coast Farmers Market Association
Enkasa Homes	Jurg Sommer
Farm Fresh to You	Viano Vineyards
Contra Costa Centre Transit Village	Westwind Associates

### Supporters

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Bay Area Redwood	John Muir Land Trust
Ryan Buckley	Ellyn Gelson & Bill Roulette
Dave & Amanda Casey	Headlands Brewing
Craig & Jennifer DeVinney	Carrie King & Chris Orme
Diablo Foods	Moraga Hardware & Lumber
F&M Bank	Sideboard Neighborhood Kitchen
Family Harvest Farm	Judy Taylor

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[www.SustainableCoCo.org](http://www.SustainableCoCo.org)

