

STAFF MEMO

DATE OF COUNCIL MEETING: MAY 10, 2021 / AGENDA ITEM NO. 4

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Jonathan Wachtel, Sustainability Manager, 303-987-7510

Subject: **2021 SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS CEREMONY**

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

At the May 10, 2021 City Council Study Session, the 2021 Sustainability Award Winners will be recognized. City Manager Kathy Hodgson will announce the awards and Mayor Paul will present the awards to the following nine award winners:

Community Sustainability Award

- Alison and Michel are Lakewood homeowners committed to creating sustainable, water, and energy efficient home. They have been involved in making sustainable changes to HOA and Design Guidelines Review Committee's guidelines. They also teach others in the community about sustainable changes they can make to their homes.
- Emily Post has lived a zero waste lifestyle for 5 years. Due to her hard work, Emily's family of five produces approximately 4 to 6 lbs of trash a month. Emily also holds Zero Waste Club meetings for the community and teaches community members composting and zero waste educational classes.

Business Innovation Sustainability Award

- Ballmer Peak Distillery is a Lakewood business that emphasizes zero waste and water conservation in their core production procedures. During the Covid-19 pandemic they converted their business operations to produce hand sanitizer at no cost to the community. They now experiment in converting waste alcohol into new alcoholic beverages for consumption.
- In addition to providing a weekly compost collection service for Lakewood residents, Compost Colorado expanded its operations in 2020 to include an online delivery service stocked with local, sustainable, and zero-waste products. Compost Colorado provides curbside organic waste collection and sustainable products to nearly 400 Lakewood customers.

Defender of the Planet Award

- The Green Mountain Area Homeschoolers dedicated their annual service learning project to demonstrating the importance of pollinators like butterflies, bees, bats, birds, and bugs. Covid-19 restrictions required the students to think of creative ways and to use multiple mediums to achieve the project's goals.

Bruce Peoples Eco-Employee Award

- Community Resources staff were proactive in transitioning in-person activities to virtual programming to serve the needs of Lakewood residents during the Covid-19 pandemic. Their hard work and efforts

allowed Lakewood community members to safely attend art classes, experience online events, and stay healthy with virtual exercise classes.

Legacy Sustainability Award

- Ken May (*deceased*) dedicated his 41-year career as a solar energy pioneer and innovator in Lakewood and around the world. He was an active member advocating for sustainability in the community through Sustainable Applewood, City Council meetings, and conversations with State Representatives.

The ceremony will be conducted using Zoom. Any questions may be directed to Jonathan Wachtel, Sustainability Manager at jonwac@lakewood.org.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The City of Lakewood Sustainability Awards were established in 2008 to recognize leadership in sustainability. Awards may be presented to projects, youth, businesses and City employees who promote sustainability in one or more of the following areas:

- **Climate Change & Adaptation:** Projects that reduce greenhouse gases or help our community respond to heat waves, intense storms, droughts and other extreme weather events.
- **Energy, Water & the Built Environment:** Projects that conserve energy and water, promote renewable energy or use building design to enhance the environment.
- **Resilient Economy:** Projects that help grow a strong, local economy and provide opportunities for households to improve their quality of life through education and employment.
- **Zero Waste:** Projects that reduce waste by thoughtful procurement of materials and keep materials out of the landfill through reuse, composting and recycling.
- **Community Cohesion & Public Health:** Projects that support healthy and active living and promote community building and personal connections.
- **Natural Systems:** Projects that support healthy ecosystems and protect biodiversity.
- **Sustainable Transportation:** Projects that encourage multimodal travel options — like walking, biking and taking transit — or that contribute to safer streets, cleaner air and connected communities.

Once applications are received, a panel of evaluators scores each nomination based on how well the project meets the award criteria. For award criteria and a comprehensive year-by-year list of past winners, please visit Lakewood.org/Sustainability Awards.

Awards winners are recognized at the annual Sustainability Awards ceremony during a City Council regular meeting or study session. The awards are presented during the City Council meeting and the public is invited to a reception beforehand to meet the winners and learn about their projects.

BUDGETARY IMPACTS:

None

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

None

ALTERNATIVES:

None

PUBLIC OUTREACH:

None

NEXT STEPS:

None

REVIEWED BY: Kathleen E. Hodgson, City Manager
Benjamin B. Goldstein, Deputy City Manager
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