



**CITY OF PASADENA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**



OUTSTANDING RECYCLER AWARDS APPLICATION

Thank you for your interest in recycling and environmental awareness. Outstanding Recycler Awards will be presented at the first City Council Meeting in the Month of November to celebrate Environmental Awareness Month and recognize those who have exhibited creativity, initiative or substantial effort in practicing environmental responsibility.

Awards will be presented in five categories:

1. Development of a reduction, reuse, or recycling program for a commercial operation or nonprofit organization.
2. Creative reuse of common objects.
3. Educational outreach that inspires environmental stewardship.
4. Solid waste/Recycling Hauler demonstrating innovative environmental practices and stewardship
5. Overall recycler of the year for outstanding support and commitment to recycling.

Please return completed application via mail or fax to: **City of Pasadena, Department of Public Works/SMIWM Division, P.O Box 7115, Pasadena, CA 91109, Attn: Recycling Awards, 626-744-7085 (fax)**. The application must be received no later than October 22, 2009.

Applicant Name: Sequoyah School	Address: 535 S Pasadena Avenue
Applicant Business or Organization Name: Sequoyah School	Telephone: 626-795-4351 Fax: 626-844-3288 Email: ephleger@sequoyahschool.org
Applicant Contact: Elena Phleger	Telephone: 626-795-4351 x15 Fax: 626-844-3288 Email: ephleger@sequoyahschool.org
Nominated by: Renee Dake Wilson	Telephone: 323-467-0633 Email: renee@dakewilson.com

Program Description

Please describe your program in your own words on the reverse side of this sheet. When applicable, please include quantities in pounds, tons or volume of materials diverted from landfill disposal. Please include other applicable awards you may have received. Attach additional sheets if necessary.

Program Description

Award Category: 1. Development of a reduction, reuse or recycling program for a commercial operation or nonprofit organization.

In celebration of the school's 50th year in 2008, Sequoyah School, an independent K-8 school, formed a Sustainable Campus Committee (SCC). Using Sequoyah's existing foundation of collaborative, hands-on, place-based learning the SCC seeks to inculcate practices that encourage careful use of resources and lasting change.

Informed by the school's commitment to stewardship (one of Sequoyah's **Habits of Mind** see attached) the committee drafted the Sequoyah School Sustainability Criteria. Affirmed by the board of trustees in spring of 2009, The Sustainability Criteria (see attached) illuminates existing successes to be built upon, while providing direction for Sequoyah to move into the future. Categories for The Criteria are taken from the UN Urban Environmental Accords, and are those that have been adopted by the City of Pasadena, LEED, and others. The Criteria is used by the Sustainability Committee to inform an annual sustainability plan (see attached) which is reviewed by the Board of Trustees' Long Range Planning Committee.

In the past year Sequoyah has made significant progress in implementing changes in organization and practices that reduce waste, conserve resources, and promote environmental stewardship. Campus improvements envision the restoration of the historically significant buildings and surrounding landscape within the present day context of green building design. Event planning has been reviewed and changes have been made to incorporate zero waste goals. The school has completed a capital needs assessment to determine best ways to conserve resources while enhancing operational efficiencies, and responsibly addressing deferred maintenance. The school has begun an energy audit, and undertaken campus wide landscape irrigation. The parking lot has been redesigned to incorporate shade trees, percolation pockets, and streamline traffic to lessen idling. Habitat and vegetable gardens have been established and planted creating an outdoor classroom. The entire school community has been involved in assemblies and workshops which educate the community, publicize stewardship and celebrate accomplishments.

We have also taken the step to integrate eight criteria for sustainability into existing elementary and junior high science curriculum (energy, waste, urban design, urban nature, transportation, environmental health, water, social justice). By involving younger students directly in achieving sustainability, our students are developing the skills and knowledge to become agents of change. For example, Sequoyah students have studied how water comes into and leaves the campus, and how it used on campus. In order to determine how to best conserve this valuable resource, students proposed projects to their student government which selected two for funding and implementation (rain barrels, dual flush toilets). Students are now studying how energy comes into and is used on the Sequoyah campus and what the community can do to conserve and even generate additional energy. In our **Gardens for Learning** program students investigate plant biology and soil ecology. They incorporate the study of weather and test how plant life can affect micro-climates. They use the composting system to study microbiology.

Our goal is that our students will see how the history of their campus has been developed within an **economic, social and ecological context**. And they will gain the knowledge, experience and strategies to become effective stewards of their future.

Reused or Recycled:

Item/Material	Disposition	Quantity	Per Month or Year
<p>Replaced paper cups, paper plates, for all events (ie: admissions tours, potlucks, fundraisers) with reusable plates and cups. Encouraged bring your own dishes and serving platters.</p>	<p>Kitchen, Daycare House</p>	<p>Trash reduction at Back to School Potluck from 17 bags to 1. Dishwashing team of volunteer parents works with maintenance staff to manage set-up and clean-up for events with reusable dishes.</p>	<p>10 admissions tours, multiple potlucks, three schoolwide special events per year (250 people)</p>
<p>Responding to student science project Student gov't used purchased one dual flush toilet , and one rain barrel</p>	<p>Daycare house toilet, parking lot runoff</p>	<p>Conserved rainwater used for parking lot landscaping. Dual flush toilet saves significantly. The proposal process educates students</p>	<p>ongoing</p>
<p>paper</p>	<p>Administrative offices and classrooms</p>	<p>Switched to recycled paper , for copy paper,letter head, publicity materials</p>	<p>ongoing</p>
<p>Construction materials</p>	<p>Campus improvements</p>	<p>Entry shade structure modeled after existing pergola structure using 50% less lumber and LSL's (laminated strand board) for trusses.</p>	<p>Ongoing construction planning</p>
<p>Food waste</p>	<p>Compost Bins- Gardens for learning</p>	<p>Student compost committee</p>	<p>ongoing</p>

Source Reduction:

Item/Material	Source Reduction Practice
water	Installed drip irrigation in Gardens For Learning, and restored drought resistant landscaping. "Dishwashing team" promotes best practices. Kitchen audit results in repaired leaks, a proposal for commercial dishwasher.
energy	Undertaking energy audit, installed motion sensors, replaced incandescent fixtures with compact fluorescents, more efficient hvac, weekend and vacation shut down program, implemented schedule to replace older appliances with more efficient (ie; new energy star washer dryer)
waste	Began a program of "Waste-less Wednesdays". 1/6 less trash vs. typical day. Contracted trash hauler, Athens, sorts trash for recycling. Student 'compost committee" collects food waste after lunch and manages compost production. Food purchasing guidelines distributed to administrative staff and classroom parents encourage purchasing of items for events with less packaging and that are made locally. Hosted Sustainability Weekend bringing "No Impact Man" and Cloud Institute to campus to inspire and inform educators and families about ways to reduce ecological footprint.
emissions/carbon dioxide	Promoted a series of actions to encourage carpooling, (ie: posted zip code distribution roster on website, carpool sign up table at Back to School potluck) and reduce idling in the parking lot (ie: music teacher composes a song to ingrain pick up protocol, celebrated 350 climate action day)
paper	School has switched to using post consumer recycled paper, Student "green committee" regularly collects used paper for recycling, and double side copying.
Hazardous waste	Guidelines for disposal of hazardous waste have been researched, and implemented (see attached). Replaced use of fertilizers with compost and soil amendments.

Narrative: see attached program description

Completed by:Elena Phleger Signature; _____

Date10/22/2009