



USGBC-NJ NEWS

For Immediate Release

Contact: Allison Kobus
LKM Communications
(732) 505-0724
coordinator@usgbcnj.org

USGBC-NJ Announces 2009 “Green Leadership” Awards

To be presented at the Third Annual “Building A Greener NJ” Gala in May

Trenton, NJ – New Jersey’s chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council has selected this year’s winners of the annual announced the USGBC-NJ “Green Leadership” Awards for Sustainability in the Garden State. Winners will be honored at the chapter’s third annual “Building A Greener NJ” gala, to take place on Thursday, May, 21, 2009 in Parsippany. The event will be held at the Wyndham Worldwide Headquarters, 22 Sylvan Drive, from 6 to 9 p.m. Chosen to receive awards:

New Jersey Meadowlands Commission - Green Policy
NJ State League of Municipalities - Innovation in Green Product or Service
PSE&G - Corporate Commitment : Major Corporation
Spiegle Architectural Group, Inc. - Corporate Commitment : Small Business
Merrill Lynch/Bank of America - LEED® Project
Jersey City - Community/Municipal
To Be Decided- Student Award

USGBC-NJ is also calling for nominations of New Jersey students who are working to increase awareness of the importance of “green” initiatives in everyday life. One student or student team will be selected to receive the “Sustainable Community Awareness Award” for outstanding efforts to expand the public’s knowledge and participation in activities that promote sustainability and protect the environment.

Winners will receive a \$500 “Green Seed Fund” award to help them fund a sustainable project within their school, class or community. The winner(s) will be presented with the award at USGBC-NJ’s third annual “Building A Greener NJ Gala,” to be held Thursday, May 21, 2009 at “To be sustainable is to make certain the things we do today do not negatively impact on our future and the future of future generations. Sustainable buildings are high performance structures that are economically efficient, use products and practices that protect the environment and are healthy places to live and work,” said

USGBC-NJ Chairman Bill Amann. "It is vital that we encourage our young people to 'think green,' because everyone's future is at stake."

USGBC-NJ Gala Committee Chair Michelle Cottrell, the president of Design Management Services, is sponsoring the Green Seed Fund. Ms. Cottrell, whose business features LEED coordination services and sustainable interior design, said the addition of a monetary award is new this year.

"USGBC-NJ recognizes the importance of sustainability education. I feel it is important to provide resources to support the winning student or student team in their efforts to promote green thinking within their school or community," Ms. Cottrell said.

The "Building a Greener New Jersey Gala" showcases the individuals, corporations and government entities that are at the forefront of the green building movement. For more information visit: www.usgbcnj.org.

The mission of USGBC-NJ is to promote sustainable building planning, design and construction through the use of LEED. Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, (LEED), is a voluntary green building rating system establishing national criteria for sustainable buildings.

USGBC-NJ Student Sustainable Community Awareness Contest Rules

Eligibility:

- Middle through High School Students in public or private schools.
- A student (or team of students) involved in a project that satisfies one or more of the award Criteria in the 2008- 2009 school year and can successfully demonstrate that the outcomes/results of the project have made a positive impact on the environment.

Award Criteria (students can choose one or more criteria)

- Inspires or teaches others about sustainable practices.
- Demonstrates strategies that help lessen the impact of Global Warming and Climate Change through innovative student designed projects or events.
- Demonstrates the value of green design for buildings and the importance of systems thinking and other related technologies that contribute to sustainability.
- Demonstrates steps that conserve natural resource and promote the use of renewable energy that and help protect ecosystems and the inhabitants that live there.

Submission Deadline:

May 1, 2009

Please send entries electronically to coordinator@usgbcnj.org. Place Student Sustainable Community Awareness Contest in the subject box.

Required Project Components:

1. Essay: (judged as 30% of the project)

500 word essay that describes both the personal motivations behind this project and also how this project will inspire and/or educate others.

2. Green Project: (judged as 70% of the project) to be presented in electronic PDF format

Project must include:

- Name of project
- Name of student(s)
- Project focus - Example: renewable energy, recycling, conservation, green advocacy, etc
- Written documentation of important steps of the project that led to a sustainable solution(s) including photographs or video (Green Portfolio)

· Names of people, mentors, teachers and organizations that provided assistance or resources for the project

· Research Sources

####