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2008 Environmental Award Winners

About the awards

The wooden awards that were given out at the 2008 award ceremony were prepared by Bill Wallace of New Light Wood Works in Wake Forest. The oak bowl that served as the Raleigh Environmental Stewardship Award was turned from an oak tree that had blown over in northern Wake County. It was from a section in the tree where a branch had died years ago and the tree had healed itself leaving the interesting grain and color. It was rough turned to about 1 1/2 inches thick and left to dry for about 6 months before being turned to its final shape.

Raleigh Environmental Stewardship Award

This is the overall award, given for a commitment to social, economic and environmental sustainability. The winner for 2008 was Cherokee with its LEED Platinum office and Mainstream GreenHome.

Cherokee's commitment to sustainability is embodied in the National Homebuilder Mainstream GreenHome and their corporate headquarters in downtown Raleigh.

The GreenHome aims to guide the national homebuilding community toward healthier, high-performance design and construction while encouraging the public to embrace the many emerging opportunities to live in an ecologically sensitive way. From beautiful hardwood floors built of logs reclaimed from a local riverbed to integrated solar power technologies that efficiently provide heat and electricity, the home utilizes a range of innovations to minimize its impact on the environment without sacrificing comfort or aesthetics.

Natural Resource Conservation Award

Winner: *Wake County Energy Savers, Wake County Public School System Environmental Stewardship*

EnergySavers plays a vital role in the Wake County Public School System in terms of natural resource conservation and saving money on our utilities. EnergySavers helps the school system lower our energy and water consumption in these difficult times of drought and rising energy costs. The efforts of those students, teachers, and staff who participate in the EnergySavers Program have yielded tangible results.

Youth Award

Winner: *Student Action for the Environment (SAFE) Broughton High School*

Student Action For the Environment (known as SAFE) was founded by students in the spring of 1990 at Broughton High School. From the beginning, one of SAFE's primary goals has been the recycling at Broughton. It all started with white paper in the science wing and has grown into a school-wide effort that also includes mixed paper, household batteries, cans, bottles, six pack rings, ink jet cartridges and phonebooks.

Green Design (Built Environment)

Winner: *Brier Creek Elementary School & City of Raleigh Community Center*

The new Brier Creek Elementary School and Community Center represents a unique opportunity for collaboration between Wake County Public Schools and the City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department, to develop an environmentally responsible, joint-use urban facility that minimizes use of resources and maximizes use of shared facilities like the community center, fields, trails and playground areas.

Environmental Awareness



Winner: *Mary Ann Brittain & the Prairie Ridge Ecostation for Wildlife and Learning*

Prairie Ridge Ecostation was established in 2004 by the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences for research and educational purposes. A major focus of the Prairie Ridge project is to provide a field station in the Triangle area for all North Carolina teachers and their students and the visiting public to learn about sustainable living and to experience the natural world. Visitors are welcome to walk the two designated trails during the posted hours. Prairie Ridge is located at 4301 Reedy Creek Road in Raleigh, next to the National Guard Armory.

Market Transformation Award**Winner:** *Rainwater Solutions, Mike and Lynn Ruck*

Rain Water Solutions started out retro fitting 55 gallon pickle barrels into their first rain barrels in the year 2000. During the first summer, Rain Water Solutions sold an entire truckload of 300. After that experience, Rain Water Solutions decided to start manufacturing their own design, from the ground up. The owners felt the pickle barrel design was limiting considering the features they would be able to offer and the new design of their 65 gallon rain barrel came into being.

Urban Stewardship Award**Winner:** *Chavis Heights Redevelopment, Housing Authority of the City of Raleigh*

The new Chavis Heights features 40 one-bedroom villas, 73 two and three bedroom townhomes, and a 55-unit senior living facility centered around a one-acre park all within walking distance to downtown Raleigh.

At the outset, the Raleigh Housing Authority made energy efficiency one of its goals for the new Chavis Heights development. A partnership was formed with Progress Energy and Advanced Energy of North Carolina to help meet this goal. Energy saving features at the new Chavis Heights include on-demand water heaters, high-efficiency windows, tight and properly sealed envelopes, tight duct systems, fresh-air ventilation, and compact fluorescent lighting. All 168 units on-site were constructed to the strict Energy Star certification requirements which translate to a 15 percent energy savings for the residents.

Pioneering Efforts**Winner:** *Innovative Design*

The Raleigh architecture firm of Innovative Design was founded in 1977 with energy-efficient, environmentally sensitive design as its primary focus. For three decades their mission has remained the same-to be a leader in the field of energy-efficient, energy environmentally sensitive design and to use that status to both influence the consumer and move the design community to a greener, more sustainable path. As a result of their expertise, passion and commitment, they are recognized internationally as a firm that not only excels in green design but also understands the importance of educating others and about the possibilities and necessity of choosing a greener path. The state, national and international recognition they have received attests to their accomplishments.

Legacy Award**Winner:** *Professor Will Hooker*

Professor Hooker has been teaching landscape design at NC State University for over 30 years, during that time, has based his teaching on ecologically sound principles. During the last 20 years, he has made sustainability his primary advocacy, teaching and speaking about the issues and imperatives at the university, around the state and country, and in his travels around the world. As you can see in these pictures, Professor Hooker has spent his career committed to the environment. He has also served on NC State Faculty Senate and the Physical and Environment Committee, taking leadership roles and again pushing the concepts of sustainability.

Regional Award**Winner:** *Upper Neuse Clean Water Initiative*

The Upper Neuse Clean Water Initiative began in 2005 when local land trusts, supported by the City of Raleigh Public Utilities Department funding, united to address land conservation and water supply protection in the Upper Neuse River Basin. The Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association, Eno River Association, Tar River Land Conservancy, Triangle Greenways Council, Triangle Land Conservancy, and the Trust for Public Land, facilitated by the Conservation Trust for North Carolina, have developed a comprehensive conservation plan that identifies and ranks the land most critical for water supply protection.

