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Nine Local Green Leaders Honored with 2013 Clean Air Awards

Breathe California's prestigious awards are presented as part of the organization's ongoing campaign to address the growing challenges posed by air pollution and global warming. Now in its 23rd year, the awards recognize local innovations and accomplishments that have helped make the Bay Area a leader in improving air quality. This year's awards took place at the Westin St. Francis in San Francisco on April 12th. Breathe California of the Bay Area proudly honored the following recipients.

Leadership Award

Dan Shugar of the Solaria Corporation was this year's Leadership Award winner. Shugar has led teams responsible for deploying more than 500 solar electric power systems and helped improve the efficiency and affordability of solar photovoltaic products, manufacturing and installation. He also creates awareness for solar technology through his work with business, policymakers, the media, NGOs, and many other stakeholders. In addition, Shugar also has been driving an electric car for decades.

Solaria's offices routinely promote "going green." They are powered by an onsite solar power system, have an organic farm, which allows employees to grow and harvest vegetables, an electric vehicle charging station, and bicycle racks.

Clean Air Guardian Award

Douglas Pagnelli, principal of Ryan Elementary School in San Jose, was the winner of this year's new award category, the Clean Air Guardian Award. Pagnelli demonstrated his commitment via the Let's Get Moving to School project which includes Walking Wednesdays, and Get Fit Fridays. Pagnelli encourages students and staff to walk to get to school to reduce air pollution. He even personally leads kids on the walk to school every Wednesday and sets up raffles to motivate the kids to use alternative transportation.

Technology Award

Adobe was the winner of this year's Technology Award for implementing alternative systems to generate energy and promote growth within a sustainable environment. Adobe also placed twenty wind turbines in its headquarters campus, as well as twelve large fuel cells, which generate about 1/3 of its overall energy usage.

Adobe's fuel cells are powered with bio-methane so its alternative energy systems are carbon neutral, generating 1.2 MW of carbon free electricity in San Jose. Through a series of 140 energy projects, Adobe has reduced its overall carbon emissions by 4 percent.

Special Recognition

Bob Garzee, founder of Synergy EV & Electric Transportation Development Center, was recognized by the California State Senate for his tireless commitment to alternative fueled vehicles. Garzee founded the Green Transportation Workforce Development Inc. to bring together experts to provide alternative fuel vehicle training for fleet technicians and placed fifty affordable electric vehicles in the Bay Area in collaboration with THINK EV Company and creating a THINK Owners Club.

He also promotes the "Zero Emissions Squared" program that involves solar fueling of all electric vehicles, the cleanest form of transportation with zero emissions from driving and charging.



2013 Clean Air Award Winners, from left to right: Bob Garzee, Clean Cities Coalition; Dr. Dennis Shusterman, MD, MPH; Ravi Brar, ECOtality; Steven Grover, Elock Technologies; Michael Bangs, Director of Global Facilities, Adobe; Douglas Paganelli, Principal Ryan Elementary School; Claire Fitzgerald, accepting for Cyan Dandridge of the Marine School of Environmental Leadership; Stri Zulch, accepting for Dan Shugar of Solaria Corporation; Dan Geiger, Executive Director, US Green Building Council, Northern California

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Breathe California is dedicated to fighting lung disease, advocating for clean air and advancing public health. For more than a century, we have addressed the most serious health threats of our time through grassroots programs that empower individual, institutional and community change for better breathing and healthier living.