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Local companies honored for environmentally friendly business practices

Special "Emerald Awards" ceremony to be held April 12

The Broward County Environmental Protection Department has selected several local businesses to honor with Emerald Awards. The awards recognize environmentally responsible businesses in Broward County that have displayed exceptional efforts to protect the environment.

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners will present trophies to the winners at a special ceremony:

Tuesday, April 12, 2 p.m.
Broward County Commission Chambers
115 S. Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale
A brief reception will follow in room 430

The voluntary program recognizes businesses in four areas: waste reduction, recycling, improved operating practices, and other "green" strategies that reduce pollution and waste. Both large and small businesses are eligible to receive an award in each category. One business is also honored with the title "Environmental Business of the Year," which will be announced at the ceremony.

This year's winning businesses are:

Pollution Prevention: Hazardous Waste Reduction: Imperial Point Medical Center (large business); Preferred Automotive, Inc. (small business)

Recycling: Publix Distribution Center (large business)

Innovative Procedures/Process Improvement: Coral Springs Medical Center (large business)

Green Products/Practices or Programs: Wild Oats Community Market (large business)

"When I began my term as mayor, I proclaimed this year as 'Year of the Environment,'" said Broward County Mayor Kristin Jacobs. "These businesses are truly leaders and should be honored for their environmental stewardship. Their efforts demonstrate that environmentally friendly business practices can also be a strong component of a successful business."

Receiving an Emerald Award can help companies boost business. Research has shown that a company's environmental reputation will rival quality and brand name as criterion

used by customers. Environmentally friendly business practices can help companies attract new customers, encourage repeat customers and boost employee morale.

The Emerald Awards program also includes a new component to reward homeowners, governments and other groups that have incorporated “NatureScape Broward” techniques into their landscaping. NatureScape yards are designed to: conserve water by using native plants in place of lawn; provide food, water and shelter for wildlife; use integrated pest control practices; reduce storm-water contaminated by pesticides and fertilizers; and recycle yard waste into mulch and compost.

The six NatureScape Emerald Award winners are:

Homeowners: Barbara Bartz and Rick McKenzie; Linda and Jerry Avery

Municipality/Government: Coconut Creek City Hall; African-American Research Library and Cultural Center

Special Achievement: Wilton Manors NatureScape Broward Team Leaders; and Lauderdale by the Sea Garden Club

“The winners should be commended for their efforts,” said Mayor Jacobs. “We all benefit from these Florida-friendly landscaping practices.”

More information, including application procedures and guidelines, is available online at www.broward.org/emeraldaward, or call 954-519-1400.

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