

# ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD PROGRAM HISTORY & PAST WINNERS



The Environmental Commission recognizes deserving individuals, businesses, and non-profits, for their commitment to environmental stewardship and outstanding environmental achievements in the City of Encinitas. Two Excellence in Environmental Stewardship awards have been historically granted to a for-profit business and a non-profit business each year since the program's founding in 2014 and inauguration in 2015 by Environmental Commissioners Jim Wang and Joy Lyndes. In 2019, under the leadership of Environmental Commissioners Inge Bisconer and Christian Adams, a new Environmental Hero category was added to recognize both an adult and a youth who are not necessarily affiliated with a business. Candidates are peer-nominated and must be Encinitas residents or located in Encinitas. Winners are selected by an independent jury of recognized environmental leaders.

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## **PAST WINNERS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD PROGRAM**

### **2020**

The 2020 Environmental Award Program Winners were announced by Mayor Catherine Blakespear at the April 28, 2021 City Council meeting via ZOOM. Awardees were invited to speak and show their recycled glass trophies at the beginning of the meeting: [https://encinitas.granicus.com/player/clip/2391?view\\_id=7&redirect=true](https://encinitas.granicus.com/player/clip/2391?view_id=7&redirect=true). The awards were made by [Winner's Awards](#).

#### **Environmental Hero Award, Adult category – Torrey Neel**

Torrey has been involved with the California Native Plants Society, where she demonstrates an increased awareness on the importance of native plants to our California ecosystem. Prior to starting a native plant nursery in Leucadia, Torrey would start seeds and place them out for members of the Encinitas community to plant for free. She has volunteered at the San Diego Botanic Garden, and her inspiration has meant much to both people and the all-important natural environment.

#### **Environmental Hero Award, Youth (under 18) category – Danny Sheehan**

Danny is a volunteer with the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program (SWPPP) at Paul Ecke Elementary school and an active monitor of our local Marine Protection Act. He is an accomplished surfer and is passionate about protecting the natural beauty of our ocean environment and reversing the damage already caused by humans. On many occasions he has confronted and successfully convinced older youth to stop destructive actions to sea life. Danny has demonstrated environmental consciousness well beyond his young years.

#### **Excellence in Environmental Stewardship, For-profit Business – BCK Programs**

BCK instructors train public elementary school students as young as kindergarteners how to sort their lunchtime waste and compost food scraps, and run programs in recycling, energy conservation, air pollution and litter prevention. In the middle schools, BCK has worked diligently with students to create a 75% diversion rate, and students from 5th grade to 12th grade are given the opportunity to dig deep into water pollution issues through BCK's popular SWPPP (Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan) Internship Program. The program has instructed thousands of Encinitas students with the hope that they become informed Encinitas citizens passionate about protecting the environment.

#### **Excellence in Environmental Stewardship, Non-profit Business – San Diego Botanic Garden**

Now in its 50th year, San Diego Botanic Garden is the preeminent plant conservation institute of the region, and one of the most important botanic gardens in the country. The Garden educates over 1,000 students per year through formal programs, with special focus on field trips and classroom support for Title 1 and other underserved schools in Encinitas and San Diego County. The Garden serves as a world class plant conservation and education institution right in the heart of Encinitas and works with the City to maintain the natural areas around Cottonwood Creek Park.

## 2019

The winners of the 2019 program were again presented beautiful awards made of recycled glass by [Winner's Awards](#). The Environmental Hero Awards were presented at the Surfing Madonna Beach Run on Oct 26, 2019 by deputy Mayor Jody Hubbard, and the Excellence in Environmental Stewardship awards were presented by Mayor Catherine Blakespear at the August 12, 2020 City Council Meeting.

### **Environmental Hero Award, Adult category – Nita Gilson**

Nita Gilson, founder of [CropSwap](#) and [ProduceGood](#), located at The Hive at the Leichtag Commons. The organization's volunteers gather unwanted fruit and vegetables from farms and backyards and connects this otherwise wasted food with the needy. Since its inception in 2014, [ProduceGood](#) has recovered over 165 tons of produce, providing over one million meals for the hungry.

### **Environmental Hero Award, Youth (under 18) category – Elizabeth Hazard**

Elizabeth Hazard is an Encinitas native and 11th-grade honors student at San Dieguito Academy who is making headlines in her work for a more natural world. Working with the Nature Collective and in school, she is a recognized leader in native plant conservation and gardening. She created her school's California Native Plant Club which has secured back-to-back First Place Awards in the San Diego County Fair Ecke Jr. Garden Shows.

### **Excellence in Environmental Stewardship, For-profit Business – [Inn at Moonlight Beach](#)**

Inn at Moonlight Beach is the first hotel in the world to receive the prestigious [WELL Certification](#) at the Platinum (highest) level. The Inn filters the air and water to its highest levels, the building materials are reused and sustainable, a biodynamic urban farm generates its own compost and provides guests local foods, and the site has been remediated and the soil amended to prevent stormwater runoff and soil erosion. Shangwen Kennedy, the owner of The Inn at Moonlight Beach, accepted the award.

### **Excellence in Environmental Stewardship, Non-profit Business – [Encinitas Ranch Community Association](#)**

Encinitas Ranch Community Association is known for its work to create one of the county's largest recycled water projects (13.7 million gallons of water per year), for upgrading their irrigation system to state of the art automation and sensor technology, and for working with their landscape contractor to convert to battery powered landscape maintenance equipment. Richard Stern, President, Encinitas Ranch Community Association, accepted the award.

## 2018

The 2018 Awards were delivered on Sunday, October 7, 2018, by the City of Encinitas Mayor, Catherine Blakespear, at the Surfing Madonna Beach Run at Moonlight Beach. In 2018, the awards were made of recycled glass and presented to Doug Gibson, Executive Director and Chief Scientist of the San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy (Non-profit category) and to Brian Callaway, outdoor enthusiast, and Patagonia Cardiff's Retail Floor Lead (Business category).

### **Environmental Excellence Award, For-profit Business – [Patagonia](#), (Cardiff, CA)**

The Patagonia Store in Cardiff by the Sea, California, splits its profits between charitable causes and shareholders. Patagonia engages the community, promotes sustainability and awareness, and combats marine debris through beach cleanups with [I Love A Clean San Diego](#).

### **Environmental Excellence Award, Non-profit Business – [San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy](#)**

The San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy, now called [The Nature Collective](#), has been enhancing, preserving, and restoring the San Elijo Lagoon for decades, allowing many migrating wildlife to have a safe landing place to rest and rejuvenate. The Conservancy provides education for all generations and a peaceful place to connect with nature and enjoy a leisurely walk.



## 2017

On November 5, 2017, Encinitas Mayor Catherine Blakespear presented awards for Excellence in Environmental Stewardship to two Encinitas individuals for their organizations' commitments and dedication to environmental awareness and for demonstrating outstanding eco-friendly practices and contributions to our community. This is the 3<sup>RD</sup> year for this Environmental Commission initiated Environmental Awards Program.

### **Environmental Excellence Award, For-profit Business – Richard Risner**

Rich Risner, owner of [Grounded Landscape Architecture](#), promotes environmentally-sensitive landscaping, while using drought-tolerant plants and landscape planning, and creating spaces in appropriate balance with nature.

### **Environmental Excellence Award, Non-profit Business – Mim Michelove**

Mim Michelove, co-founder of the non-profit [Healthy Day Partners](#), has worked with schools for over a decade to teach children and parents about the complete cycle of food, from farming to healthy eating to sustainability.

“These awards give our environmentally friendly residents and businesses the recognition they so greatly deserve for being forward-thinkers and community leaders in environmental stewardship,” explains Encinitas Environmental Commissioners Jim Wang and Joy Lyndes. The 2017 EAP Awards were sponsored by the City of Encinitas, the Encinitas Environmental Commission, the Surfing Madonna Oceans Project, and Coastal SAGE Landscape Architecture. This year the awards were made from colorful recycled glass instead of artwork presented by a local artist.

Mayor Blakespear presented these awards at the November 5, 2017 Surfing Madonna Beach Run, after running the in the race herself. This year the race made an official attempt to set a Guinness World Record as the world's largest run on beach sand. The Surfing Madonna's mission is to keep our oceans clean, our coastline protected, and to provide opportunities for disabled kids and adults to experience the healing power of the ocean. This is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting our ocean from the harmful effects of pollution and cultivating new ocean advocates.

“Congratulations to our deserving 2017 award winners, and thank you to all the EAP volunteers, sponsors, judges and our Encinitas community, for your outstanding efforts to set a high standard for environmental stewardship.” – Environmental Commissioners, Joy Lyndes and Jim Wang

## 2016

### **Environmental Excellence Award, For-profit Business – [Encinitas Foreign & Domestic Auto Repair](#)**

Encinitas Foreign and Domestic Auto Repair, family owned since 1988, is a company that is eco-friendly throughout. They are 100% solar powered and energy efficient, recycle whenever possible, are also a certified Green Station for used oil collection to protect our natural environment, and they segregate and isolate aerosols, cleaners, and other toxins.

### **Environmental Award Program for the Non-profit Business – Brad Roth, [Cottonwood Creek Conservancy](#)**

Brad Roth has dedicated over 25 years of his life to the Cottonwood Creek Watershed. Brad Roth, Mark Wisniewski, and countless volunteers over time have devoted endless hours to the preservation and restoration the creek. Brad Roth and the Cottonwood Creek Conservancy have been educating, inspiring and leading, teams of volunteers since 1993.

The two artists selected in the creation of the 2016 Environmental Awards were Christina Zeller of [Christina Zeller Art & Design](#), and [Nate Main](#), illustrator and designer.

## 2015

This first year of the Environmental Award Program, two artists were solicited to make the awards to be given to the recipients. The art had to be original and environmentally themed. The artists had to be local Encinitas residents. The artists were compensated for their work by the Commission. The two artists in 2015 were [Artie Mattson](#) and [Tom Scott](#)

### **Environmental Excellence Award, For-profit Business – [GoodOnYa Organic Deli](#)**

Established in 2001 by Olympic Athlete, Kris Buchannan, [GoodOnYa](#) received the award for their environmental and organic practices throughout their product lines, equipment, operations, and company culture.

### **Environmental Excellence Award, Non-profit Business – [Solana Center for Environmental Innovation](#)**

[The Solana Center](#) received this award for their long history of promoting sustainable practices, recycling, composting, local cleanups, and environmental education.