

5 Indianapolis groups honored for helping green up

Parking lot gardens, beverage fleet's natural-gas conversion among those to win Susta

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The CityWay development in Downtown Indianapolis is one of five local companies to received Sustainability Awards from the city of Indianapolis. CityWay won for recycling 740 tons of trash and debris, more than 60 percent of the total, from its construction. / Kelly Wilkinson / The Star / Indianapolis Star

Written by
Will Higgins

Five local organizations were recognized today for environmental efforts that ranged from establishing a rain garden in a grocery store's parking lot to converting a fleet of trucks from fossil fuels to natural gas.

Mayor Greg Ballard honored them with Sustainability Awards at a luncheon at the JW Marriott in Downtown Indianapolis. Sponsored by the Department of Public Works' Sustainability Office, it was the fourth annual Sustainability Awards event.

The awards were given in five categories: water, land, air, energy and reduce-reuse-recycle.

The water winner was Indy Tilth for its



Alvin Sangsuwangul, Indianapolis, is shown working in one of the raised garden beds in the community garden space at the Big Car Service Center for Culture and Community on Indianapolis' Westside back in April 2012. The garden is located in the parking lot of the former automobile service center. / Doug McSchooler / For The Star

Double 8 grocery store rain garden. It was installed at the Double 8 in Mapleton-Fall Creek neighborhood. It filters the water, cleanses it, before it flows into Fall Creek, and also slows the flow, thus reducing erosion of the creek bank.

Monarch Beverage's compressed natural gas conversion on its delivery trucks is expected to reduce carbon-dioxide emissions by 1,500 tons annually.

The new development CityWay won for recycling 740 tons of trash and debris, more than 60 percent of the total, from its construction.

The other winners were Quemetco, for its Wet Electrostatic Precipitator, which reduces emissions from its smelting operation, and the Big Car Service Center, the arts group, for turning its giant asphalt parking lot into a community garden.



Monarch Beverage's conversion to compressed natural gas conversion on its delivery trucks is expected to reduce carbon-dioxide emissions by 1,500 tons annually. / Photo provided by Monarch Beverage