



---

**DATE:** March 22, 2017  
**TO:** Waste Management Authority Board  
**FROM:** Wendy Sommer, Executive Director  
**BY:** Michelle Fay, Program Manager  
**SUBJECT:** 2017 Business Efficiency Awards

---

## **SUMMARY**

The 2017 StopWaste Business Efficiency Awards will be presented during the March 22 WMA Board meeting, recognizing five Alameda County businesses for their efforts to reduce waste. Doors will open at 2:30 p.m. for attendees to enjoy light refreshments and networking before the meeting is called to order at 3:00 p.m. Board members with awardees in their jurisdiction will be asked to hand the award to the business representative.

## **DISCUSSION**

After a one-month call for nominations, StopWaste received twelve nominations representing seven Alameda County cities. Nominations were submitted by Member Agency staff, hauler representatives, StopWaste staff, and technical assistance consultants. Each nomination was evaluated based on environmental benefit, innovation, leadership, and replicability. Geographic distribution, industry representation, and compliance with the Mandatory Recycling Ordinance were also considered. We are pleased to share the following list of awardees. Please see the attachment for more information about each awardee and a brief description of their outstanding achievements.

Excellence in Waste Prevention & Closing the Loop:

***Evergreen Nursery, San Leandro***

Excellence in Waste Prevention & Reuse:

***Niles Pie Company, Union City***

Excellence in Reducing Wasted Food:

***Guckenheimer – For sites participating in the Smart Kitchen Initiative (LeanPath program)***

Excellence in Recycling & Composting:

***Beneficial State Bank, Oakland***

***Rahma Mediterranean Market, Dublin***

**RECOMMENDATION**

This item is for information only.

**ATTACHMENT**

2017 StopWaste Business Efficiency Awards – Achievement Highlights



## 2017 StopWaste Business Efficiency Awardees

- Evergreen Nursery – San Leandro
- Niles Pie Company – Union City
- Guckenheimer – Various Alameda County Cities
- Beneficial State Bank – Oakland
- Rahma Mediterranean Market – Dublin

### Achievement Highlights

#### **EVERGREEN NURSERY, San Leandro**

Excellence in Waste Prevention & Closing the Loop

**Evergreen Nursery, Inc.** in San Leandro is a local, independent nursery and garden center with professional landscape and design services. Operating since 1984, Evergreen has been an active and engaged partner of StopWaste for almost ten years, promoting projects ranging from Bay-Friendly Gardening to Lawn to Garden parties. An early adopter and promoter of natural and organic gardening, Evergreen hosts frequent talks and workshops on techniques like sheet mulching, and carries an extensive line of drought tolerant and native plants. In just two years, Evergreen sold compost and recycled mulch that led to over 19,000 square feet of lawn replacement.

#### **NILES PIE COMPANY, Union City**

Excellence in Waste Prevention & Reuse

**Niles Pie Company** in Union City is a retail and wholesale bakery with eight staff. Their pies and baked goods are made with organic, seasonal, locally sourced ingredients and sold at the store and four farmer’s market locations in Alameda County. With the help of a StopWaste Use Reusables grant, they purchased 100 reusable wooden pie boxes in October 2016, expected to help prevent the use of at least 2,000 disposable paper boxes over one to two years. Niles Pie Company offers reusable dishes and silverware for prepared food served on-site, repurposes food scraps where possible, and composts the rest via voluntary organics collection. Surplus baked and prepared foods are donated to local non-profits helping the needy.

#### **GUCKENHEIMER, various Alameda County cities**

Excellence in Reducing Wasted Food in Alameda County

**Guckenheimer** is an on-site food service management company with locations throughout the country. In 2016, all 13 corporate cafeterias and restaurants Guckenheimer manages in Alameda County joined StopWaste’s Smart Kitchen Initiative for one year, committing to tracking pre-consumer food waste and surplus edible food and implementing strategies for

food waste prevention and food donation. Over the course of the year, the 13 sites combined reduced pre-consumer food waste by almost 68,000 pounds or 42% compared to baseline. To foster the sharing of experiences and best practices for food waste prevention, Guckenheimer facilitated monthly group calls among participating chefs and managers.

**BENEFICIAL STATE BANK, Oakland**

Excellence in Recycling & Composting

**Beneficial State Bank** is a triple bottom-line financial institution headquartered in Oakland, with 12 branches in California, Oregon, and Washington. Started in 2007, Beneficial State Bank's mission is to produce meaningful social and environmental benefits while being financially sustainable. In line with their zero waste goal, the bank's Green Team started regular waste stream audits at five branches in 2015. As a result they have implemented measures to increase recycling and composting while reducing contamination, including extensive staff education on waste reduction. Beneficial State Bank's purchasing policy prevents waste by promoting reusable food service ware and closes the loop with recycled content products.

**RAHMA MEDITERRANEAN MARKET, Dublin**

Excellence in Recycling & Composting

**Rahma Mediterranean Market** in Dublin is a small, independently-owned Halal food market and catering company serving the Tri-Valley area since 2008. In addition to Mediterranean and Middle Eastern groceries, Rahma's Halal butcher shop and deli sell meats, salads, and sandwiches. Although as a Dublin business Rahma is not affected by the Alameda County Mandatory Recycling Ordinance, owner Khaled Aburahma has set up recycling and composting service and actively promotes waste reduction among employees and business neighbors alike. Efficient purchasing and inventory management practices prevent most food waste. Nearly 90% of all remaining waste is diverted from the landfill, saving Rahma nearly \$10,000 a year on garbage disposal fees.