



DATE: June 9, 2022
TO: Recycling Board
FROM: Michelle Fay, Program Manager
SUBJECT: 2022 StopWaste Efficiency Awards

SUMMARY

The 2022 StopWaste Efficiency Awards will be presented during the June 9 Recycling Board meeting to recognize six Alameda County entities for their efforts to reduce waste, recover edible food, and improve energy efficiency.

DISCUSSION

StopWaste's 2022 awards celebration marks the Agency's 20th event where businesses and institutions are recognized for their commitment to the environment. StopWaste had placed the event on hold last year during the COVID-19 pandemic, and we are excited to once again recognize sites within Alameda County for their outstanding achievements in waste reduction and energy efficiency.

A call for nominations went out in April to solicit submissions from Board members, member agency staff, hauler representatives, StopWaste staff, and our partners. To better reflect the broad scope of work happening in the community that aligns with our Agency's mission, we expanded the list of eligible sites to include all commercial accounts including for-profit businesses, nonprofits (such as food-recovery organizations), schools (public and private), and multifamily properties. In the past, only for-profit businesses were eligible.

StopWaste received 14 nominations representing a range of sites in nine Alameda County jurisdictions. The evaluation team completed assessments based on environmental benefit, innovation, leadership, connection with [StopWaste's Aims](#), and replicability. We are excited to share the following list of 2022 awardees. Awards will be presented on June 9 and will be the primary topic of the Recycling Board meeting.

[Altamont Creek Elementary School](#), Livermore Leadership in Sustainability at School

Altamont Creek has been a StopWaste partner school for over 20 years, helping develop and test school waste prevention programs and creating a holistic teaching model. Using sustainability as a lens, Altamont Creek's education framework engages students in multi-disciplinary projects, teaching hands-

on problem solving and leadership skills, and expands the classroom to the school landscape, garden, kitchen and building itself. The first in their school district, Altamont Creek set up a food share table and surplus edible food donation program, rescuing the equivalent of 2,025 meals in the 2019-20 school year alone. The school's achievements in waste reduction, energy efficiency, and water conservation also earned them the top Green Ribbon Award of Green Achiever, a distinction awarded by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

[ZEISS Innovation Center California, Dublin](#)

Leadership in Sustainability at Work

Zeiss is an international manufacturer of high-end optical equipment with ambitious company-wide goals to minimize environmental impact. At the Dublin location, state of the art technology maximizes energy efficiency and water conservation, while the facility's environmental management system (ISO 14,001) guides the sustainability of day-to-day operations from purchasing to material use and hazardous waste disposal. With strong support from management, ongoing engagement of all levels of staff, an active green team, and a culture of continuous improvement and innovation, the ZEISS Innovation Center California is a leader in corporate sustainability.

[Daily Bowl](#) and [Daylight Foods](#), Union City

Excellence in Food Recovery Collaboration

Daily Bowl, a non-profit food recovery service, and Daylight Foods, a fresh food distributor, have partnered on surplus edible food recovery for nearly three years. When orders are canceled at short notice, or food is left over and cannot be sold quickly at a discount, Daylight Foods can count on Daily Bowl for help. Daily Bowl collects the perishables and distributes them to agencies and nonprofits who share the rescued food with families in need throughout southern Alameda County. In 2021 alone, they saved 124,158 pounds of produce, dairy, prepared foods, and other perishables from having to be composted and instead helped feed food- insecure communities. Daylight Foods' efficient inventory management and Daily Bowl's connection with numerous food rescue organizations and their staff's ability to "triage" unpredictable amounts and types of surplus edible food make this a model collaboration.

[Local Ecology and Agriculture Fremont \(LEAF\)](#), Fremont

Excellence in Community Engagement

Local Ecology and Agriculture Fremont brings people together and builds community through a wide range of activities focused on sustainable living. LEAF manages both a community garden and an urban farm garden where residents learn about composting and organic agriculture, attend workshops on beekeeping, plastic waste reduction and other hands-on topics, and contribute to growing produce and seedlings for donation. In 2021 alone, LEAF donated 6,047 pounds of produce to Tri-Valley Volunteers food pantry, and 651 seedlings to local nonprofits. A champion in building partnerships, LEAF manages a Glean Team to rescue backyard fruit and engages community members and organizations in the City of Fremont's annual Go Green Earth Day event.

[Just Fare](#), Emeryville & Oakland

Excellence in Food Waste Prevention

Just Fare is a mission-driven food service operator and consulting firm, where the goals of minimizing environmental impact and doing the most possible social good permeate all aspects of operation and are shared by all team members. A long-term participant in StopWaste's Smart Kitchen Initiative, Just Fare has reduced surplus food by 96% while donating over 10,000 pounds of surplus edible food to feed people. Their Community Kitchen, founded during the pandemic, donates wholesome prepared meals to community members in need via dozens of local partner organizations. With a living wage and culture of respect and collaboration that keeps turnover low, Just Fare is pioneering a new food service operations model based on resource conservation while prioritizing people and planet.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is for information only.