



# NEWS RELEASE

## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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### Supervisor Mark Ridley Thomas & Board Present County's 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Green Leadership Awards, April 11



**LOS ANGELES** - Supervisor Mark Ridley Thomas, Chair of the Board of Supervisors, and members of the Board will present the Ninth Annual Green Leadership Awards (GLA) on Tuesday, April 11, 2017 in downtown LA. "We are recognizing outstanding individuals and businesses, which are committed to environmental sustainability and protecting our natural resources," said Supervisor Ridley-Thomas.

The GLA honors will be handed out during the regular weekly meeting of the Board of Supervisors, which begins at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday in the Board Hearing Room 381-B, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 W. Temple St., downtown Los Angeles.

#### The 2017 Green Leadership Honorees are:

- **CHAIR AWARD:** Baldwin Hills CSD - Community Advisory Panel
- **BUSINESS:** EcoSet Consulting, LLC – EcoSet Materials Oasis
- **PUBLIC AGENCY:** Los Angeles Department of Water and Power – John Ferraro Building
- **NON-PROFIT:** U.S. Green Building Council LA Chapter – The Road to GreenBuild
- **LOS ANGELES COUNTY:** Community Development Commission/Housing Authority – The Growing Experience-Environmental Resource Center (TGE-ERC)

"The Green Leadership Awards were established by the Board in 2008 to promote citizen involvement in energy and water conservation, environmental sustainability and preserving our natural resources," said Sachi Hamai, Chief Executive Officer.

#### The Chair's Green Leadership Award recipient was selected for the following accomplishments:

The Baldwin Hills Community Standards District – Community Advisory Panel (CAP) was created to provide residents of Baldwin Hills/Windsor Hills/View Park with a voice to ensure that operations at the Inglewood Oil Field are conducted in a safe manner and compatible with surrounding uses.

As the eyes and ears for the County, the CAP ensures protection of the Baldwin Hills-Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area, a 338-acre urban oasis of hiking trails, soccer and baseball fields, a lake with ducks, and a beautiful Japanese Garden.

#### Los Angeles County Green Leadership award winners were selected for the following accomplishments:

##### **Business Category – EcoSet Consulting, LLC**

The EcoSet Materials Oasis, a community reuse facility, diverts tons of waste from film, television and commercial production sets, which normally would go to landfills, and donates the materials to artists and

education groups in need of such resources. Custom props, textiles and fabricated structures from companies such as Target and Campbell's have been repurposed.

Since its creation in 2014, EcoSet Materials Oasis has donated more than 145 tons of reusable materials to non-profit organizations, artists, schools and individuals. Social media – Instagram, Facebook and Twitter – are used to announce available materials to its network. "Item of the Day" posts are also used to promote specialty items.

**Public Agency Category – LADWP**

The John Ferraro Building, headquarters for the LA City Department of Water and Power, was the first public building in the downtown area to install solar carports. In 2016, the building earned a Gold Certification for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED). The Department implemented a Solid Waste Management Policy, Green Cleaning Standards and Air Quality Monitoring.

Using state-of-the-art technology, the LADWP also made major upgrades to the HVAC and lighting systems, and now the building is a model of energy efficiency and environmental sustainability. Annual energy savings exceeded \$460,000, while the water savings was \$38,000.

**Non-Profit Category – US Green Building Council, LA Chapter**

The International Greenbuild Conference and Expo was held in Los Angeles for the first time last year, and attracted more than 18,000 people. It gave the LA Chapter an opportunity to showcase environmentally sustainable buildings, educate businesses on greening their operations, connecting women leaders through the Women in Green Forum, and training/certifying 400 janitorial workers in energy and water conservation techniques.

Other accomplishments included development of an EcoMap, an online searchable tool for green buildings, and creation of the Eco-Tech Makerspace, in partnership with T4T of Gardena, to ensure a lasting place for hands-on STEM learning for young people.

**L.A. County Department – Community Development Commission/Housing Authority**

The Growing Experience Environmental Resource Center (TGE-ERC) sits on seven acres adjacent to the Carmelitos Housing Community in Long Beach, and is a "best practice" model for environmental sustainability for underserved residents in an economically disadvantaged area. It provides produce for the residents, teaches them about drought-tolerant landscaping, renewable energy alternatives and how to divert garbage from landfills.

TGE-ERC includes a productive, water-efficient Aquaponics and Vertical Towers Growing System for leafy greens with fish, a demonstration Community Food Forest of edible plants, a Food Waste Composting Program in partnership with the City and local restaurants, and a pilot solar energy system to offset electric usage onsite.

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The Green Leadership Awards Committee includes the County's Chief Sustainability Officer Gary Gero, Co-Chair, and subject matter experts from the Departments of Internal Services – Office of Sustainability, Public Works, Regional Planning, Public Health and the Chief Executive Office, who review and evaluate all entries.

The County honors these leaders in both the private and public sectors as part of its annual observance of Earth Week. For more information, contact Victoria Pipkin-Lane at (213) 974-1361 or [vpipkin@bos.lacounty.gov](mailto:vpipkin@bos.lacounty.gov), and Laura Perez at (213) 974-1390 or [lperez@bos.lacounty.gov](mailto:lperez@bos.lacounty.gov).