



# NEWS RELEASE

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## LINCOLN & LANCASTER COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP AWARDS

The Lincoln-Lancaster County Environmental Leadership Awards will be held on Thursday, June 3, at the Nebraska Champions Club. The ceremony will recognize businesses, organizations and individuals who have demonstrated environmental stewardship and dedication to sustainable practices that improve our air, land, and water quality while protecting public health.

The ceremony is designed to bring public attention to those who strive to protect and enhance the beauty and livability of our community. The award presentations are intended to inspire others to follow the models and examples set by these 2010 Environmental Leadership Award recipients. Award winners this year include:

- ***Business and Industry* – Sadoff Iron and Metal Company and Servant Cab Company, LLC**

Sadoff Iron and Metal Company, is a metal processing facility that has been operating in Lincoln since the fall of 1999 in the Air Park Industrial Area. They worked closely with the neighborhood to assure a safe and attractive scrap yard. Sadoff has exemplified environmental and community stewardship by partnering with the Arnold Heights Neighborhood Association on their annual cleanups, provided a premium price to the Arnold Elementary School for their aluminum cans, and donated money to Parks and Recreation for the Eagle's View Park.

Servant Cab Company purchased 13 hybrid cars to replace their older, less efficient fleet vehicles. Saving 1,220 gallons of fuel per year, reducing their greenhouse gas emission totals by 403 tons per year and saving the business \$90,000 per year in gas. Demonstrating that environmentally friendly practices result in smart business decisions.

- ***Education – Harry A. Heafer and Healthy Families Play Outside***

Harry A. Heafer is a long-time environmental educator who directed the Keep Lincoln & Lancaster County Beautiful program for nearly 15 years, providing public education and litter cleanup coordination. He initiated the Storm Water Awareness Program, piloted a cigarette butt litter prevention effort in downtown Lincoln, and was the force behind the Trash Can Band, a group of young people who marched for 14 years in the Star City Holiday Parade, spreading a litter-free message.

The Healthy Families Play Outside network is comprised of individuals committed to helping people of all ages foster a life-long relationship to nature. They have brought in national speakers, Richard Louv and Robin Moore, created the Lincoln Safari, and implemented nature nights and clubs for children throughout the area.

- ***Non-Profit Organization – Nebraska State Education Association, NSEA***

In 2009, NSEA completed an 18-month renovation of their 1962 headquarters building located directly west of the State Capital. The NSEA, made up of 27,000 Nebraska educators, administrators, and school staff raised member dues by \$20 per member, per year to renovate the building. This project reflects a commitment by the NSEA to refurbish a building with state-of-the-art, environmentally friendly materials and practices. In the end, the architectural uniqueness was preserved while bringing a 1960's-era building up to 2010 environmental standards.

- ***Government – UNL Whittier Junior High School Renovations***

The University of Nebraska–Lincoln, has led recent renovations of Lincoln's historic Whittier Junior High School. The decision by UNL administration and faculty to utilize the existing Whittier building grew out of a twofold need for additional research space and affordable, high quality child care services for faculty, staff and the community. The Whittier project is a wonderful example of adaptive reuse and demonstrates how to incorporate sustainable practices through construction design, policy and planning. UNL was able to incorporate and embrace the strategies outlined by the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design program, or LEED. These LEED strategies not

only benefit the university as a research and educational institution, but they also have positive implications for improving the quality of life for university families, building occupants, and the broader community.

- ***Agriculture – Community C.R.O.P.S.***

Through a network of community gardens, urban farms, and hands-on learning activities, Community CROPS has a mission of helping people work together to live sustainability through the cultivation and growing of healthy food. C.R.O.P.S. stands for “Combining Resources, Opportunities, and People for Sustainability.” Beyond the gardens, CROPS has been instrumental in nurturing and facilitating several community-based workshops and classes that include assistance with composting, bee-keeping, rain gardens and growing vegetables organically.

- ***Individual Citizen – Jeanne Pashalek***

Jeanne strives to achieve a self-sustaining lifestyle with limited impact on the environment. She uses garden beds, orchards, beehives, and livestock to help achieve this life mission. Jeanne also utilizes her environmentally progressive practices in her professional life as a Deputy Chief with Lincoln Fire & Rescue. She was instrumental in getting all the fire stations to begin recycling. Jeanne exemplifies that as individuals the choices we make in our homes, our work, the food we eat, and what we buy and throw away all influence our footprint and can help ensure a sustainable environment for future generations.

This year’s ceremony will include a keynote address by Karl Brooks, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 7 Administrator selected by President Obama in February. Dr. Brooks most recently was a professor of Environmental Studies and History at the University of Kansas, and holds degrees from the University of Kansas, Harvard Law School, the London School of Economics, and Yale. Dr. Brooks practiced law for ten years in Idaho and served three terms in the Idaho Senate. Mayor of Lincoln Chris Beutler and Chair of the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners Bernie Heier will also be providing opening and closing comments. Community leaders will provide a presentation highlighting the accomplishments of each of the award recipients.

