

Board of County Commissioners

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News Release

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For Immediate Release

Environmental Awareness Award winners honored

May 7, 2009 – The Board of County Commissioners and the Environmental Advisory Council today recognized the 2009 winners of the Environmental Awareness Awards in a ceremony at the County Office Building. Winners were named in five categories for the work they have done to protect the environment and educate others about environmental issues. This year, for the first time, honorable mentions were recognized as well. Each winner received a plaque made of post-consumer glass. Part of Carroll County's National County Government Week activities, today's ceremony fit with the national theme of "Greening Our Future."

The 2009 Environmental Awareness Award winners by category are:

Individual: Melissa Melum

Those who know her describe Melissa as an educator. Her work as a volunteer and as a member of the Maryland Heartland Sustainable Living Fair's board of directors exemplifies her philosophy of living a fair, simple and organic existence. Melissa's educational efforts extend beyond the classroom. She serves as an education coordinator, teaching on topics such as solar, geothermal and wind energy, along with plumbing alternatives, canning, and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design standards.

Educational: Eldersburg Elementary School

Throughout Eldersburg Elementary, you can find "green" touches. For example, a parking spot is reserved for visitors who drive hybrid cars. There is a rain garden with bluebird boxes. Recycling extends beyond the usual cans and bottles with the school's Reuse-A-Shoe program. Even juice bags are recycled.

Business/Industry: Karen and Bob Leatherwood, Carroll County Waste Services

Karen and Bob Leatherwood plunged into a new business venture when they recognized a need for a "pay as you throw" waste service in the South Carroll area. Their firm manages trash in a fair, economic, and environmentally sustainable way.

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CARROLL COUNTY

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Agricultural: Robert Fischer

Since 1949, My Ladies Manor beef farm has been Robert Fischer's pride and joy. Its nearly 100 acres in southeastern Carroll County feature pristine hillsides, tall trees and beautiful pastureland. Mr. Fischer and the others on this three-generation farm work to protect the environment, planting buffer zones and using fences and bridges to keep cattle from soiling the water. Recently, he installed a manure management facility.

Student: Amy Conaway

Amy Conaway reduced her own carbon footprint and is helping others to do the same. She was instrumental in the development of Carroll Community College's Green Team. The group promotes environmental awareness through education on campus and throughout the community. Amy actively participates in Earth Day, Johnny Appleseed Day and other events. She even created a web site that offers "green" tips.

Honorable mentions were awarded in three categories.

- Individual – Nancy Dunn, Kate Painter and Ken Mihalyov.
- Institutional/Educational – Robert Moton Elementary School, Carroll Community College President Dr. Faye Pappalardo, Carroll Hospital Center, Maryland Heartland Sustainable Living Fair, and Mount Airy Middle School.
- Business/Industry – Northrup Grumman Corp.'s Sykesville campus.

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2009 Environmental Awareness Award winners and honorable mentions, from left: Nancy Dunn, Karen Leatherwood, Melissa Melum, Robert Fischer, Amy Conaway, Eldersburg Elementary School Assistant Principal Melanie Laffer, and Ken Mihalyov.