



NEWS The United States Conference of Mayors

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For Immediate Release
Sunday, January 18, 2009

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FIVE CITIES HONORED FOR EXCELLENCE & INNOVATION IN PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

The U.S. Conference of Mayors Presents 'Best-Practice' Awards

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Conference of Mayors today recognized **outstanding partnerships between cities and private companies** at the Conference's 77th Winter Meeting. In addition to Las Vegas Mayor Oscar B. Goodman, who serves as Chair of the Mayors and Business Community Task Force, Conference President Miami Mayor Manuel A. Diaz and U.S. Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Director, Tom Cochran, participated in the awards ceremony.

In announcing the awards, Mayor Goodman remarked, "Today's awards recognize five successful and outstanding relationships between cities and businesses. These businesses support the Conference's goal of creating a strong and engaged business community in cities all over the country. Our public-private partnerships make cities -- and ultimately our nation -- economically stronger."

The Mayors' Business Council established the 'Best Practice' awards to encourage businesses and cities to work together to improve local communities. An independent panel of judges was appointed by the Conference of Mayors to review individual submissions. Selections were made based on a set of criteria including: improvement in delivery of services, replicability, sustainability, cost-savings, creativity of approach, benefits to both public and private partners, economic and business benefits, and measurable results.

There were two award categories: The Award of Excellence (one award presented) and Outstanding Achievement Awards (four awards presented).

The award winners and program descriptions are as follows:

AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE:

City	Business Council Member	Partnership
Miami, FL	EcoMedia	"EcoZone Miami"

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS:

Fayetteville, AR	CH2M HILL OMI	"Partnering for a Greener Green Valley"
Los Angeles, CA	Verizon	"LA's BEST After School Enrichment Program"
Manhattan Beach, CA	Waste Management, Inc.	"Manhattan Beach School Recycling"
Phoenix, AZ	Black & Veatch	"Lake Pleasant Water Treatment Plant"

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE:

Miami, FL / EcoMedia

The City of Miami teamed up with EcoMedia to establish “*EcoZone Miami*”, a groundbreaking program that has been central to Mayor Diaz’s environmental blueprint for the City. Since its inception, this partnership, worth over \$1.6 million in funding, community outreach and education, and projects, has helped Miami further elevate its position as a leading environmental city. The program has been an integral partner to all facets of the Mayor’s environmental priorities from the installation of “solar trees” to make Miami city hall the first solar city hall to upgraded interior light fixtures and high efficiency units. From the planting of 1,000 trees to the installation of storm drain filters, this unique public/private partnership is at the forefront of providing critical funding to the City so other critical programs can continue to receive funding. To pay for these and other projects, EcoMedia generates revenue by selling advertising space to local and national businesses and contributes up to 50% of these revenues towards environmental projects.

For more information, please contact: Chris Massey, EcoMedia at 212-699-6417 or cmassey@ecozonemedia.com or Robert Ruano, City of Miami at 305-416-1532 or rruano@miamigov.com.

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS:

Fayetteville, AR / CH2M HILL OMI

The “*Partnering for a Greener Green Valley*”, a partnership between CH2M HILL OMI and Fayetteville, is ensuring that sustainability is not just a vague promise but a true practice within city operations and around the community. The city saved \$330,000 by auditing electrical uses after hiring a sustainability coordinator. CH2M HILL OMI and University of Arkansas professors worked on a Supersaturated Dissolved Oxygen System which reduced energy and chemical costs and translated to an annual savings of nearly \$35,000.

For more information, please contact: Susan Mays, CH2M HILL OMI at 720—286-4280 or susan.mays@ch2m.com or Pam Henson, City of Fayetteville at: 479-575-8331 or mayor@ci.fayetteville.ar.us.

Los Angeles, CA / Verizon

Verizon and the City of Los Angeles' partnership, "LA's BEST Continued Learning Demonstration Sites," resulted in the creation of two after-school programs that go beyond test-driven and segmented curriculums and make room for questions and explorations about students' interests, work, learning, and the world. A key aspiration is to use innovative computer-based and internet-based curricular offerings to accelerate student learning and to expand student exposure to various forms of new technology, including media programs, laptops, and instructional technology programs. Under this partnership, two low-income schools serving over 400 children were chosen as Demonstration Sites and are evaluated on factors such as the change in students' attitudes toward reading, academic achievement, and improved graduation rates, among others.

LA's BEST - Better Educated Students for Tomorrow—is a nationally recognized after school education, enrichment and recreation program serving more than 28,000 children with the greatest needs and fewest resources throughout the City of Los Angeles.

For more information, please contact: Elva Lima, Vice-President of Strategic Programs, Verizon at 916-441-4112 or elva.lima@verizon.com or Carla Sanger, City of Los Angeles at 213-978-0801 or carla.sanger@lacity.org.

Manhattan Beach, CA / Waste Management, Inc.

The “*Manhattan Beach School Recycling*”, a partnership between Waste Management, Inc. and the City of Manhattan Beach, identified opportunities to improve current environmental policies and programs in the City’s schools. Waste Management audited seven public schools and discovered numerous opportunities to increase recycling and reduce waste. Following the audits, Waste Management provided a report to the district and City that included an individualized Green Plan for each school resulting in a 23% increase from last year’s recycling/diversion rates.

For more information, please contact: Vickie Wippel, Community Relations Manager, Waste Management, Inc. at 310-984-4501 or vwippel@wm.com or Patricia Schilling, City of Manhattan Beach at 310-802-5053 or pschilling@citymb.info.

Phoenix, AZ / Black & Veatch

The “*Lake Pleasant Water Treatment Plant*”, the largest integrated design-build-operate project in North America was delivered in a partnership led by American Water with Black & Veatch / McCarthy and the City of Phoenix. The facility incorporates the latest in modern water treatment technology and automation providing a reliable supply of safe drinking water that meets or exceeds all requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act. Designed to blend seamlessly into the desert landscape without disturbing the natural beauty of the area, the facility includes the environmental stewardship, ecological responsibility and sustainability considerations important to the city and the team. The project looks decades ahead to help maintain reliable delivery of drinking water supplies.

For more information, please contact: Clint Robinson, Associate Vice President, Black & Veatch at 913-458-3999 or robinsonco@bv.com or George Weisz, City of Phoenix at 602-262-7111 or george.weisz@phoenix.gov.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are 1,139 such cities in the country today, each represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the Mayor.

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