
DOWNTOWN

A Better City and Boston Main Streets present Challenge for Sustainability awards

Posted by Jeremy C. Fox

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By Jeremy C. Fox, Town Correspondent

The non-profit group A Better City and the Boston Main Streets program presented Challenge for Sustainability awards to 30 businesses that worked to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions while also contributing to their local economies, ABC said in a statement.

ABC partnered with the city program to work with small- to medium-sized businesses in 19 Main Streets districts, and the organizations together presented awards to the 2012 winners at an annual event Monday evening.

Founded in 2009, the Challenge for Sustainability encourages businesses to audit their energy usage and waste creation and to share best practices with others.

Program participants saved \$5.7 million on electricity in 2012 and in that year produced 178 fewer tons of waste, 11,000 fewer tons of steam, and saved enough water to fill 15 Olympic-sized swimming pools, ABC said.

Winners of the top Boston Main Streets awards were the Massachusetts Affordable Housing Alliance, for highest score; Tropical Foods, for greatest energy reduction; and Community Servings, for most improved.

ABC members who won top honors were the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center, for highest score; the Hines real estate firm, for greatest energy reduction; Turner Construction, for most

improved; and Kathleen McCarthy of John Hancock, who was given a peer award.

The names of award winners are inscribed on trophies made from sustainably harvested bamboo, which are passed each year to the latest winner, like hockey's Stanley Cup.

ABC presents certificates to other businesses recognizing their efforts in energy efficiency, purchasing, transportation, waste reduction, water consumption, and behavioral issues.

For more information, visit www.challengeforsustainability.org.

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