

# Nominations Sought For 2016 Mid-Valley Green Awards

By Beth Casper

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Green Awards serve as inspiration

Amy Estrin did not nominate her mother for a Green Award to heap praise on her mother.

Millie Estrin, 91, does not work hard to teach people how to recycle, reduce and reuse so that she can earn rewards. She does “the right thing for the right reasons, not to receive accolades,” Amy said.

But nominating Millie for the Green Award served a much greater purpose—inspiration for others in the community.

“When you know someone who is so productive in their community and does so much for the good of other people, you want those people recognized because you want other people to be inspired by them,” Amy said. “I went to the awards and I was inspired. There are a lot of different ways you can contribute and work in your community. I think sometimes people think you have to do things in a grand way but you don’t.”

Millie took home a special award—the Green Bookend Award for her educational work, including more than 250 hours as a Master Recycler in Marion County.

It was the perfect way to celebrate her inspiration. The Green Bookend Award paired Millie with 8-year-old Logan Blanco, who initiated his own bottle cap recycling program.

“She wants the next generation to be inspired,” Amy said. “She wants someone to take her place.”

Marion County receives about 40 nominations for the six categories of Green Awards each year. Nominators are friends, co-workers, business owners and relatives of the nominees. Even nominees who don’t win are inspirations to the community—their stories are told at the Green Awards ceremony attended by more than 400 people.

Nominators also hope to make sure credit is given where it is deserved.

Jim Green, board member of the Straub Environmental Center, nominated CB Two Architects for Sustainable Business of the Year. The firm built a LEED Platinum green building, WaterPlace, as the business’ office, which led to them winning a Green Building of Year Award in 2012. CB Two Architects’ focus for all of its projects is on efficiency and sustainability.

“Part of the beauty of the Green Awards is to get the word out about the great work green businesses are doing,” Green said. “Hopefully, it inspires people to work with those businesses.”

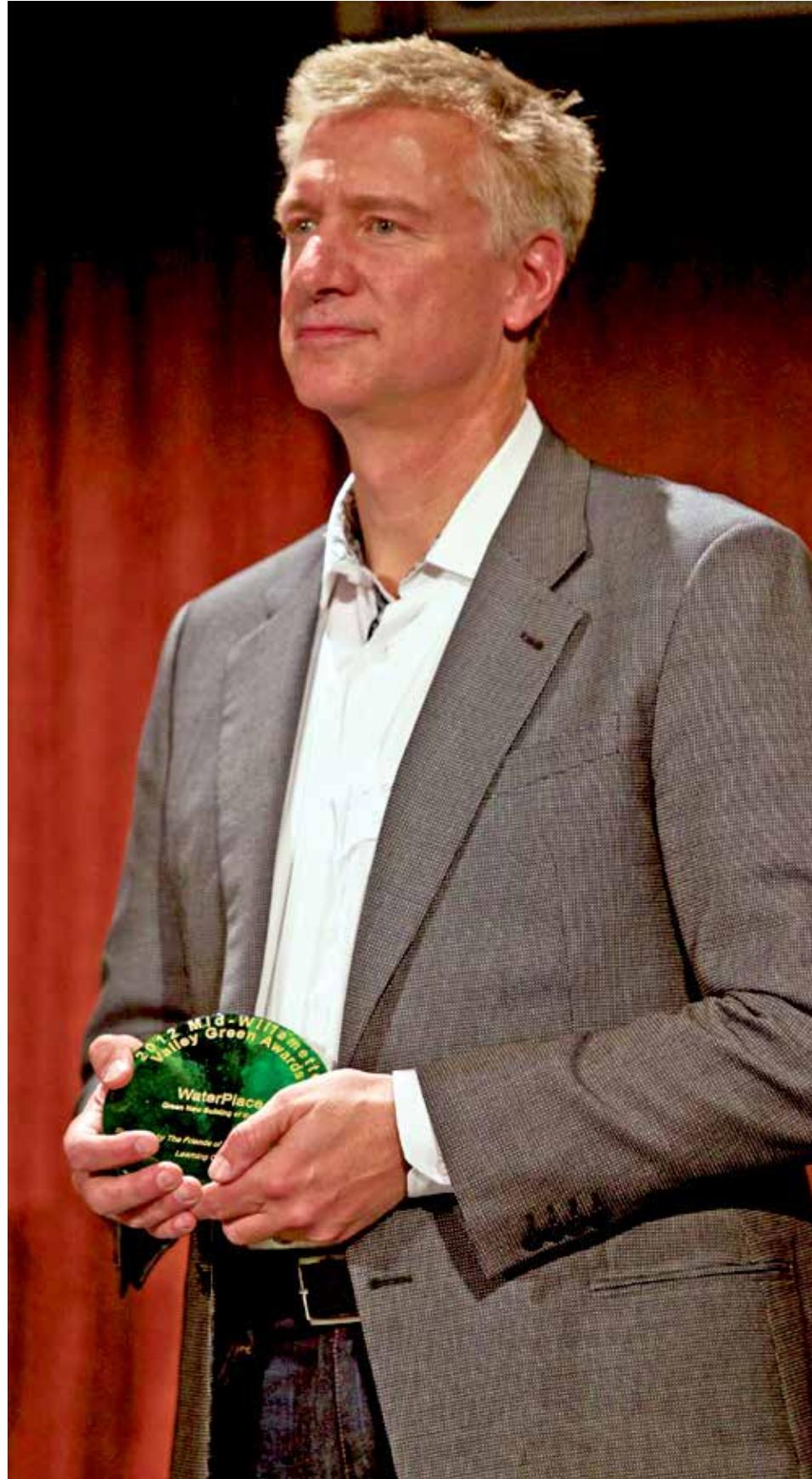
This year, nominations will be received

for the following categories:

Individual/Business Recycler of the Year  
Sustainable Small/Large Business of the Year  
Sustainable Wine Producer/Brewery of the Year  
Green Apple of the Year

Green Product /Service of the Year  
EarthWISE Business of the Year

For more information or to nominate a person or business for the Green Awards, visit "<http://www.midvalleygreenawards.org>" [www.midvalleygreenawards.org](http://www.midvalleygreenawards.org).



Winners of the 2015 Mid-Valley Green Awards

Recycler of the Year - Individual  
Dana Canning

Recycler of the Year - Business  
South Salem CycleWorks

Green Apple of the Year  
Dan Hoynacki

Sustainable Business of the Year - Small  
Rafns'

Sustainable Business of the Year - Large  
BrucePac

Green Product of the Year  
Zena Forest

Green Service of the Year  
Nathan Good Architects

EarthWISE Business of the Year  
Kerr Concentrates

Sustainable Wine Producer of the Year  
Willamette Valley Vineyards

Green Awards Special

Life Time Achievement Award

Mike & Karen Weddle

Special Green Bookend Award

Millie Estrin & Logan Blanco



Photos:

Top, Winners of Special Bookend Award  
(L to R): Logan Blanco, Millie Estrin, with  
presenter Jim Green.

Left, CB Two Architects receives the 2012  
Award for Green Building of the Year.

