

NEWS

TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE



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WOODBIDGE TOWNSHIP MAYOR JOHN E. McCORMAC NAMED “ENVIRONMENTALIST OF THE YEAR”

**Woodbridge Sets Statewide Pace with Sustainable Eco-Friendly Initiatives
Sustainable Inventory Includes: \$7 Million Solar Panel Project... Environmental
Resource Guide & Master Plan... Automated Trash Collection & Single-Stream
Recycling... Bio-Diesel Fuel & Hybrid Vehicles... ‘Green’ Business Recognition...
“Green” Energy-Saving Retrofit of Municipal Buildings... “Green” Redevelopment**

Woodbridge – Mayor John E. McCormac was named “Environmentalist of the Year” for 2014 by the Governor’s Environmental Excellence Awards which recognize environmental, academic, business, government, civic and citizen leaders from across New Jersey for their commitment to protect and enhance the state’s environment.

In announcing the prestigious award at a ceremony at the State Museum in Trenton, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner Bob Martin, said that Woodbridge Mayor John E. McCormac had been selected “Environmentalist of the Year” for 2014. The Governor’s Environmental Excellence Award noted that since becoming mayor in 2006, John E. McCormac implemented environmental and sustainable programs to protect and restore the environment, while taking into account Woodbridge’s economic and financial factors. His accomplishments support his belief that “if you go green, you will save green.”

Under Mayor McCormac’s leadership, Woodbridge Township received \$2.4 million in rebates from the State Board of Public Utilities to install solar panels at six town-owned buildings, secured \$5 million in open space funds from the county for preservation, and implemented single stream recycling that reduced municipal disposal costs by \$135,000 while increasing recycling by 44 percent (to 65 percent in 2013, far above any larger town in New Jersey).

Mayor McCormac also:

- Worked with the school board to conduct energy audits of school buildings that led to building upgrades and energy conservation measures.
- Backed remediation of 29 acres at a former manufacturing site, part of the Keasbey Redevelopment Zone, to clear a path to locate a future energy complex as part of the redevelopment of this brownfield site.
- Fostered, through the municipal Redevelopment Agency, restoration of more than 100 acres of wetlands along the Raritan River and construction of the future Woodbridge Waterfront Park.
- Helped forge a partnership between the township and CIEL Power to offer a Township-wide Home Energy Assessment program.

In addition, Woodridge Township has been named the New Jersey “Sustainable Champion” having achieved Silver-Level Certification for five consecutive years – 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010 and 2009 (Woodbridge did not participate in the Sustainable Jersey program in 2014) and has been selected as a pilot community in the national program of STAR

(Sustainability Tools for Assessing and Rating Communities), in conjunction with Sustainable Jersey and Rutgers University.

“I am proud to receive the Governor’s Environmental Excellence Award as Environmentalist of the Year,” said Mayor McCormac. “The Award serves as a benchmark for our sustainable initiatives and provides the Township with additional resources needed to plan for our green future. As a result, Woodbridge will continue to implement sustainable initiatives and programs that serve to better manage the way we use energy and other natural resources at work and home. We will continue to move into the future as a sustainable and environmentally-conscious community.’

The 15th annual Governor’s Environmental Excellence Awards program is co-sponsored by DEP and the New Jersey Corporation for Advanced Technology (NJCAT), in partnership with the State League of Municipalities. NJCAT Technical Director Dr. Richard Magee, an avid supporter of GEEA for the past 15 years, was recognized by Commissioner Martin for dedication to the environment and this awards program.

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