

City Council honors top commercial recyclers

Three Bellevue businesses were honored by the City Council for their outstanding recycling efforts in 2011--La Tienda, Bellevue Healthcare, and Par 5 Design Center. In addition to recognition from the city and Republic Services (formerly Allied Waste), which handles garbage and recycling for Bellevue, each business received a month of free garbage service.

In the small business category, La Tienda is recycling 87 percent of their waste. La Tienda has earned this award in seven of the past eight years. La Tienda specializes in selling South American and Mexican food to a diverse customer base, and they recycle large amounts of cardboard. La Tienda has been a member of the Bellevue business community for more than ten years.

Bellevue Healthcare won in the medium size category, with an 80 percent recycling rate. Bellevue Healthcare sells, rents and services home medical equipment. They recycle soda cans and plastic containers and recycle or reuse cardboard boxes. They have easy access to recycling containers in their building and "close the loop" by purchasing office supplies made from recycled content. For the past eight years, Bellevue Healthcare has made the list of the Puget Sound Business Journal's fastest growing privately owned companies in Washington state.

Par 5 Design Center won in the large business category. Par 5 Design Center has ten commercial tenants at their Bel-Red location who together achieved an outstanding recycling rate of 75 percent. One of the businesses is the Habitat for Humanity Store, which takes recycling to the next level by selling used furniture, appliances, home décor and building materials. The store accepts donations and is open to the public.

The commercial recycling program is available at no additional charge to Republic Services commercial garbage customers. The program allows all recyclables to be combined in the same recycling container. As a result, cardboard, mixed paper, newspaper, aluminum cans, plastic containers, plastic film and all colors of glass containers can be combined for recycling.

Republic Services and the City of Bellevue began the Commercial Recycling Awards as a way to recognize businesses that go above and beyond in their recycling efforts and to promote the commercial recycling program. If businesses would like to learn more about recycling, they should contact Republic Services at 425-646-2492 or Bellevue Utilities at 425-452-6932.