

PREVIOUS AWARDS

4th Annual Climate Smart Champions Awards 2022



Awards were granted in the following categories:

- **Climate Champion of the Year:** Bishop Oscar Cantú, Diocese of San Jose

Bishop Oscar Cantú activated the Roman Catholic Diocese of San Jose in the Laudato Si Action Platform by appointing a volunteer committee to implement Pope Francis' climate initiative through 29 churches in San José.

- **Mobility Champion:** Emily Schwing, Public Affairs Director at Veggielution

Emily Schwing is the Public Affairs Director of Veggielution, an urban farm that connects people through food. One of the many projects Emily has worked on is a partnership with Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition to create a bike-delivery service delivering fresh food to low-income families in East San José.

- **Energy Champion:** Mujeres Empresarias Tomando Acción (META)

META is a woman-owned business comprised of community workers who gave money-saving information to underserved communities to save on electricity bills when they switch to solar energy.

- **Water Conservation Champion:** Alan Hackler, Bay Maples Wild California Gardens

Alan Hackler of Bay Maples Wild California Gardens advocates and uses greywater and rainwater to irrigate his landscaping designs as well as native plants garden concepts to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

- **Youth Climate Champion:** Mila Bekele

Mila Bekele is a home-schooled high school senior and youth activist; she understands the urgency of climate change and inspires other students and peers to take climate action.

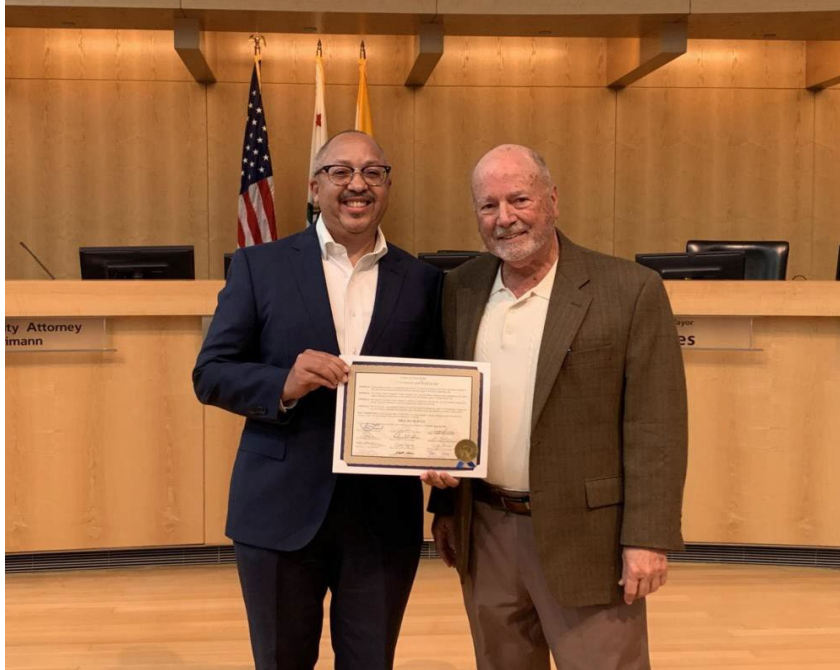
- **Climate Smart Equity Champion:** ZEN Pilot Community Partners, McLaughlin Area Tenants (MAT) Neighborhood Association and Project Hope

Project Hope and MAT work together to activate climate action in East San José. They aim to empower residents who live in the Santee neighborhood, a historically underserved community, to develop sustainability projects.

3rd Annual Climate Smart Champions Awards 2021

Watch our recognition [video](#) on Facebook and read below for more information about each category and the selected champions.

Awards were granted in the following categories:



- **Climate Champion of the Year:** Bill DeVincenzi



- **Equity Champion:** Mayra Pelagio-Munoz, LUNA Executive Director



- **Energy Champion:** International Children Assistance Network (ICAN)



- **Water Conservation Champion:** Stephanie Morris



- **Youth Climate Champion:** Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action (SVYCA)



- **Climate Smart Mobility Champion:** 8 Transportation Promotoras (community leaders)
Victoria Partida, Rosa Cordova, Isela Galvan, Gicela Cruz, Yasmin Mata, Maria Rojo,
Diana Moreno, Elizabeth Band

2nd Annual Climate Smart Champions Awards 2020

Watch the [video](#) to hear directly from all our Champions about what drives them to be climate leaders in the community.



Awards were granted in the following categories:

- **Climate Smart Mobility Champion:** Shiloh Ballard
- **Climate Smart Energy Champion:** Barry Cinnamon
- **Climate Smart Water Champion:** Karen Koppett
- **Climate Smart Community Champions:** Hoai-An Truong and Jenny Green, Team Climate Warriors, Climate Smart Challenge
- **Climate Smart Youth Champion:** Students at East Side Union High School District

1st Annual Climate Smart Champions Awards 2019

Awards were granted in the following categories:

- **Climate Smart Champion of the Year** (two Champions recognized): San José Community Energy Advocates and Mothers Out Front South Bay
- **Outstanding Transportation Champion:** Jaime Fearer, California Walks/Walk San Jose
- **Development Champion:** CBRE
- **Energy Efficiency Champion:** Chris Funk, East Side Union School District
- **Water Conservation Champion:** Adam Salvadalena, San José State University
- **City Employee Champion:** Angel Ibanez, Office of San José Mayor Liccardo
- **Youth Climate Champion** (three Champions recognized): Mothers Out Front South Bay Youth: Anika Knowles, Karina Knowles, Ariana Habermann