

ClimateWise Awards Spotlight Climate Action Leaders

The ClimateWise 2021 Achievement Award Event held Thursday, December 9, was nothing short of remarkable moments recognizing the tremendous efforts of emerging leaders in sustainability and climate action within York Region. The virtual event brought organizations, business owners, employees, and industry stakeholders together to celebrate achievements of public and private sector organizations participating in climate action programs offered by the ClimateWise Business Network, including the ClimateWise Building Challenge and Mayors Energy Challenge.

This year's achievement awards go beyond commemorating sustainability efforts by also celebrating the resilience of those that rose above the tides of the pandemic in the past year and prioritized climate action against all odds. Hence, the 2021 Award Event's Theme: 'A Celebration of Achievement in Challenging Times.' At the event, 15 winners comprising companies and municipalities emerged from different categories under the

ClimateWise Building Challenge, the Mayors Energy Challenge, and the ClimateWise Business Network Award.

The ClimateWise Business Network Award honoured seven members of the network making great strides to set a precedent in greenhouse gas emission reduction. The award categories and the winners are:

- Greenhouse Gas Target Setter Award – **407 ETR**
- Greenhouse Gas Target Achievement Award – **Alectra Utilities**
- Greenhouse Gas Target Achievement Award – **Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority**
- Greenhouse Gas Effective Action Plan Award – **Reesor's Farm Market & Bakery**
- Greenhouse Gas Effective Action Plan Award – **Riverside Natural Foods**
- Municipal Energy Strategy Award – **Regional Municipality of York**
- Most Innovative Leader Award – **Compugen Finance INC**

For the ClimateWise Building

Challenge Awards, there were 75 strong contenders from which five winners emerged under five distinct categories. The winners and the categories are:

- Lowest Energy Use Intensity Leader Award – **Crown Property Management**
- Lowest Energy Use Intensity Leader Award – **City of Richmond Hill**
- Innovation Champion Award – **Riverside Natural Foods**
- Innovation Champion Award – **Town of East Gwillimbury**

The above are pioneer award recipients as the competition was launched in November 2020 under the ClimateWise Business Network. It is a free and friendly competition among York Region buildings to spur climate action and sustainability measures. In the months leading up to the award event, 58 more buildings joined the challenge and will be in the running for awards next year.

Finally, the Mayors Energy Challenge Awards, with participants comprising eight York Region Municipalities, had three winners emerge under one major category, tagged 'Mayors Energy

Challenge Advocate.' The winners are:

- Mayors Energy Challenge Advocate – **City of Richmond Hill**
- Mayors Energy Challenge Advocate – **City of Vaughan**
- Mayors Energy Challenge Advocate – **Town of Newmarket**

The Mayors Energy Challenge is an initiative of Windfall Ecology Centre and the ClimateWise Business Network. Officially launched in February 2020 by the Town of Newmarket Mayor John Taylor, the challenge aims to raise awareness on the opportunity for local businesses and commercial building owners to understand their buildings' energy performance through participation in the Provincial Energy and Water Reporting & Benchmarking Program.

The ClimateWise Business Network and Windfall Ecology Centre wish to congratulate all the ClimateWise 2021 Award winners and participants from the different programs for feats in sustainability so far! We look forward to many more celebrations of achievements with a growing network of emerging sustainability leaders through ClimateWise Business Network and ClimateWise Building Challenge.



Benefits of Benchmarking a Building

- Energy benchmarking increases general awareness of energy efficiency among building occupants, which may effect changes in behaviour.
- It leads to savings that will lower energy costs while maintaining – or even increasing – profit margins.
- Benchmarking a building helps develop a comprehensive energy management action plan and build the business case for capital investments (retrofits).
- It identifies best practices that can be replicated, either within a building or across a portfolio of buildings.



2021

Climate Action Achievement Awards

Celebrating York Region Leaders — setting and achieving emission reduction targets

Join the York Region business network — leading the way in sustainability — www.climatewise.ca

Greenhouse Gas Target Achievement




Greenhouse Gas Effective Action Plan




Most Innovative Leader



Greenhouse Gas Target Setter



Municipal Energy Strategy



Join a friendly, energy saving, competition between York Region buildings — www.climatewisechallenge.ca



Owners • Managers • Tenants

Innovation Champion




Lowest Energy Use Intensity Leader




Join the ClimateWise Building Challenge today and be a **CLIMATE ACTION LEADER** in 2022 !



Raising climate action awareness — www.climatewise.ca/mayors-challenge

Mayors Energy Challenge Advocate







Thank you to our sponsors supporting climate action in York Region






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Read the stories behind climate action achievement in York Region
www.climatewise.ca/awards-2021

[www.climatewisechallenge.ca/
benefits-of-energy-benchmarking](http://www.climatewisechallenge.ca/benefits-of-energy-benchmarking)