

## St. Paul honors conservation efforts

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St. Paul officials Wednesday awarded 10 recipients the annual Sustainable St. Paul awards recognizing innovative conservation initiatives.

The recipients and awards are as follows:

- ✓ - Waste Reduction and Recycling: RiverCentre/Xcel Energy Center
- Green Spaces: Como Woodlands Outdoor Classroom Advisory Committee
- Clean-up and Beautification: Skidmore Garden Group
- Green Building Residential Design: Habitat for Humanity
- Green Building Commercial Design: Securian
- Energy Efficiency & Conservation: ReDirect Program
- Green Product Award: Creative Water Solutions
- Public/Private Initiative Award: City of St. Paul Green Building Policy
- Environmental Education and Awareness Award: City Academy
- Youth Leadership Award: Eco Ranger

Wednesday's city council meeting featured several ceremonial events.

Mayor Chris Coleman and city council President Kathy Lantry welcomed a delegation from Nagasaki, Japan, a sister city of St. Paul. Begun in 1955, the sister city relationship is St. Paul's longest lasting and the first between an American city and a Japanese city.

Every St. Paul mayor since Joseph Dillon, including Coleman, has travelled to Nagasaki, and their counterparts often come here. The visits often carry a message of peace and a desire to end nuclear weapons. Both Coleman and Mayor Tomihisa Taue expressed those sentiments Wednesday.

Through an interpreter, Taue said he hoped for the "obliteration of nuclear weapons, so such a tragedy is never repeated." He added, "I am sure such a friendship will lead to a peaceful world."

Coleman and the city council also honored the achievements of civil rights activist Katie McWatt, who died last week.

Members of the McWatt family received a plaque, and the council approved "co-naming" Dayton Avenue between Dale Street and Lexington Avenue "Katie McWatt Avenue.

Coleman and the council also recognized former City Attorney John Choi, who recently resigned to focus on his election campaign to succeed Ramsey County Attorney Susan Gaertner, who isn't seeking re-election.