

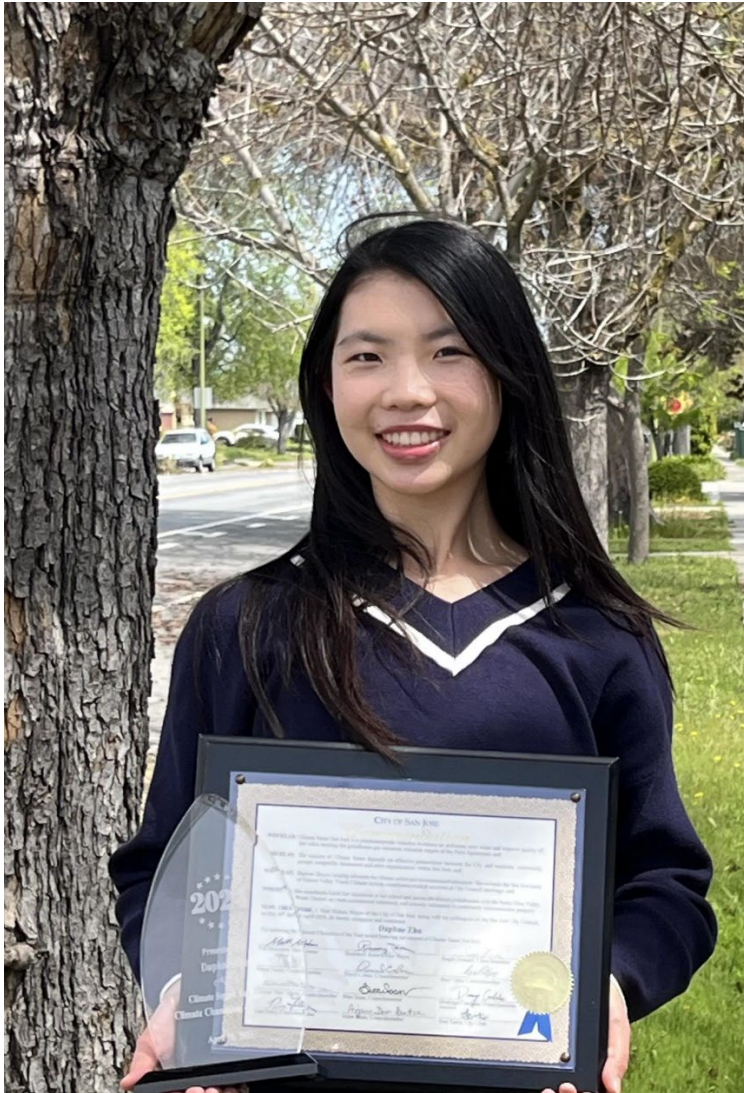
# PREVIOUS AWARDS

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Climate Smart Champions Awards 2023



Awards were granted in the following categories:

- **Climate Champion of the Year:** Daphne Zhu



Daphne Zhu, a high school junior at Lynbrook High School in West San José, has been deeply involved in climate activism and served as a co-lead of the San Jose team of Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action (SVYCA). She organized Lynbrook High School's inaugural Earth Day Festival and serves as an officer of the environmental club, actively working to improve sustainability across the Fremont Union High School District. As a District 5 Representative and Vice Chair of the Santa Clara Valley Water District Youth Commission, she leads creek cleanup events and engages in community volunteer work, including habitat restoration and environmental education initiatives.

- **Energy Champion:** Rising Sun Center for Opportunity - Climate Careers



Rising Sun Center for Opportunity's Climate Careers engages youth from low-income households across ten counties in the Bay Area and Central Valley, providing them with summer employment and ongoing professional development in residential energy and water efficiency services. Specifically hiring 20 San Jose youth in the past two years, the program focuses on racial equity and empowerment, aiming to elevate the skills and voices of historically marginalized BIPOC youth while conducting Green House Calls for residents in pollution-burdened neighborhoods, resulting in significant energy and water savings.

- **Mobility Champion:** Good Karma Bikes



Good Karma Bikes rescues bicycles from landfills, refurbishes them, and grants them to individuals in need, contributing to transportation equity and environmental sustainability. Through bike repair and education programs, the organization empowers underserved communities, reduces greenhouse gas emissions by promoting cycling, and fosters a culture of inclusion and mentorship, ultimately enhancing quality of life for recipients and promoting healthier, more sustainable communities.

- **Water Conservation Champion:** Girl Scout Troop 62735



Girl Scout Troop 62735 embarked on a Bronze award and Adopt-a-Park project in collaboration with the City of San José to revitalize an abandoned community garden. They gathered input for the garden's transformation, focusing on drought-tolerant, pollinator-friendly native plants and repairing benches for community enjoyment. By engaging in environmentally sustainable practices like sheet mulching and promoting biodiversity, Girl Scout Troop 62735 demonstrates how youth-led initiatives can beautify public spaces and foster climate-resilient environments, benefiting diverse communities and enhancing their collective understanding of gardening and conservation.

- **Climate Smart Equity Champion: Breathe California**



Breathe California focuses on lung health and combating lung disease. Through initiatives like the Silicon Valley Clean Cities Coalition, Breathe California promotes advanced technology vehicles and alternative fuels, particularly in communities of color with lower EV adoption rates, aiming to improve air quality and health outcomes through targeted EV education and outreach efforts. Collaborating with organizations like San Jose Clean Energy and Pacific Gas and Electric, Breathe California delivers educational campaigns and supports EV adoption, contributing to significant reductions in petroleum use and greenhouse gas emissions.

# 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.

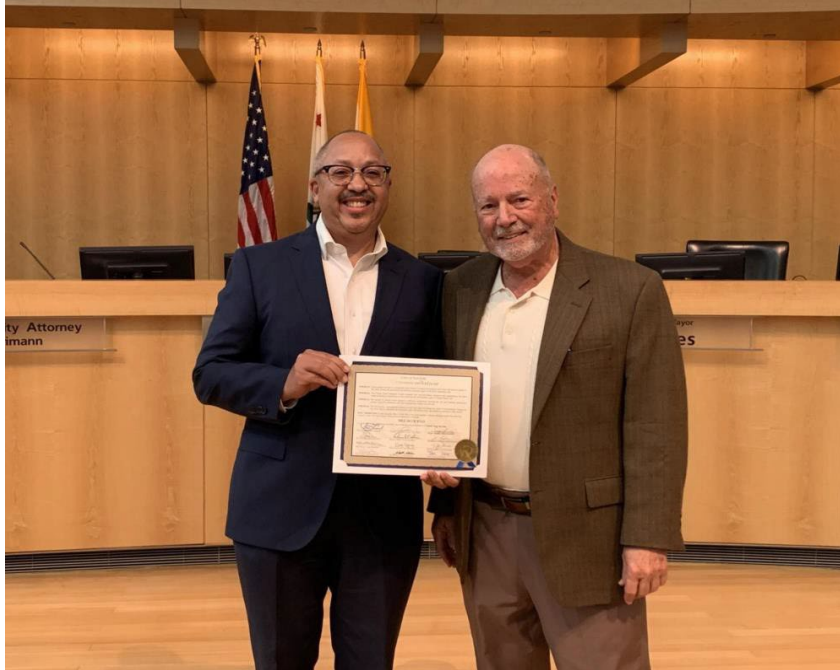
- **Climate Smart Equity Champion:** ZEN Pilot Community Partners, McLaughlin Area Tenants (MAT) Neighborhood Association and Project Hope

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.

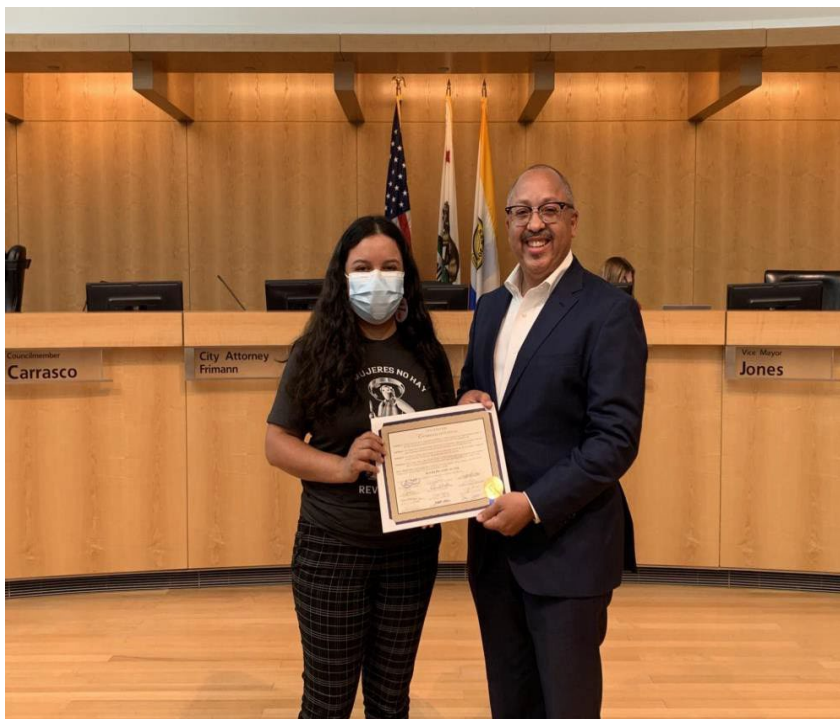
### 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Climate Smart Champions Awards 2021

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

## 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

## **1<sup>st</sup> 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