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National Finalists Announced for Urban Green Council's 2014 EBie Awards

Six Awards Recognize Improvements in Existing Buildings, Which Make Up Almost 50% of Greenhouse Gas Emissions

NEW YORK — Today, Urban Green Council announced finalists from around the country eligible to receive an EBie Award™. The EBies™ will be awarded as part of a national juried competition created by Urban Green Council that celebrates significant performance improvements in Existing Buildings and the people who made them happen. The winners will be announced LIVE at an Oscar-style awards show at the Hard Rock Cafe Theatre in Times Square on June 9th.

The EBies (*EE-bees*, short for Existing Buildings) seek to recognize improved environmental performance in existing buildings among **building operators, facilities managers, owners, engineers, retro-commissioning agents and other professionals** who conceived and implemented the work. The awards put a spotlight on the leaders who have found **replicable** solutions that cut energy and water use, measurably reduce waste, make lighting more efficient, engage tenants in green initiatives, and make sustainability improvements across a building portfolio. A complete list of EBie Award categories is [here](#).

This year's finalists are listed below:

All-Rounder: *Performance Excellence in Multiple Categories*

- Sammie Baker, Senior Property Manager, Parkway Properties, Austin, TX.
- Chris Pinelli, Real Estate Manager, CBRE, Pittsburgh, PA.
- John Smith, Operations Manager, CommonWealth Partners, Los Angeles, CA.

Smooth Operator: *Operations and Maintenance Excellence*

- Brad Collins, Property Manager, CommonWealth Partners, San Francisco, CA.
- Gary Sechler, Engineering Manager, Winthrop Management, Pittsburgh, PA.
- Heidi Silveira, Property Manager, Parkway Properties, Sacramento, CA.

Power to the People: *Exceptional Energy Savings*

- Ryan Merkin, Vice President, Steven Winter Associates, Bronx, NY.

- Steven Post, Executive Director, Hebrew SeniorLife, Revere, MA.

Verdant Brainiac: *Green Renovation Innovation*

- Vicki Sando, Environmental Science Program Developer, PS41, New York, NY.
- Gary Sechler, Engineering Manager, Winthrop Management, Pittsburgh, PA.

Shine a Light on Me: *The Best Lighting Retrofit*

- Robert Best, Executive Vice President, Jones Lang LaSalle, Miami, FL.
- Nana Wilberforce, VP – Energy Manager, The PNC Financial Services Group, Pittsburgh, PA.

Take Me to the River: *Winning Water Savings*

- Steven Post, Executive Director, Hebrew SeniorLife, Revere, MA.
- John Smith, Operations Manager, CommonWealth Partners, Los Angeles, CA.

For each winning entry, Urban Green Council will award an EBie to the individual most responsible for implementing the project, as well as recognize his or her key team members. Complete details are at www.ebies.org including an inspiring video that explains how the program works and why it is so important.

This year, Urban Green Council is delighted to have the support of the US Green Building Council, who shares their deep commitment to improving existing buildings, along with sponsors Carrier Corporation and Otis Elevator Company.

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