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Sunnyvale's Applied Materials among those winning water conservation awards

By Matt Wilson

Sunnyvale based Applied Materials and 10 other winners were announced at the first Silicon Valley Water Conservation Awards held March 23 at the Kirsch Center for Environmental Studies on the DeAnza College campus in Cupertino.

Applied Materials won in the overall business category by reducing water use by 16 percent and saving more than 40 million gallons of water per year. The Kirsch Center won the small organization category.

The platinum LEED certified campus building dramatically reduced indoor water use, and its native plants cut landscape irrigation by half. The city of San Jose Environmental Services Department received the large government agency and utility award for the Water Efficient Technologies (WET) program which provides financial incentives for conservation.

The program saves 1.6 million gallons of water per day. Other winners included California Native Plant Society, Redwood City, First Community Housing, former Assemblyman John Laird, L-3 Communications, Montara Water and Sanitary District, Stanford University and Valley Crest Landscape Maintenance.

The Silicon Valley Water Conservation Awards recognize businesses and organizations with innovative plans in water conservation. Other award categories include large organization, education, innovation, program, multiple benefit, small government agency and an individual award.

The event was put on in conjunction with World Water and the awards were presented by a coalition of 10 organizations.

For more information about the awards go to www.waterawards.org.