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## Nominations for Boston's 6th annual Green Awards due March 23

Posted by Matt Rocheleau March 19, 2012 12:52 PM

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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

The city has extended the nomination period for its annual Green Awards, which recognize Boston residents and businesses for displaying leadership in sustainability and environmental awareness, officials said.

Now in its sixth year, nominations will be accepted until 5 p.m. on Friday, March 23, a one-week extension from the original deadline following requests for more time to submit nominations, city officials said.

“As the City of Boston continues to be recognized for our leadership in sustainability and green practices, I am proud to once again announce the opportunity for local environmental leaders to showcase their work during our Sixth Annual Green Awards,” said a statement from Mayor Thomas M. Menino, who will present the award winners later this spring.

“Our residents, local businesses, and community organizations are engaging in many innovative projects that are not only making Boston greener and

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healthier, but also contributing to the growth of a green and sustainable economy for the City,” Menino continued.

Organized through the Mayor’s Office of Environmental and Energy Services, the awards founded in 2007 are split into four categories: Green Business, Green Residential, Sustainable Food Leadership and Bike Friendly Businesses, the city said.

Over the past five years of award ceremonies, the more than 80 awards have been given out to businesses and residents.

Past winners have included some large organizations such as Partners Healthcare and Boston Properties, along with neighborhood businesses, such as Ula Café in Jamaica Plain, Boston Green Building in Allston and Blue Tierra Chocolate Café in South Boston, the city said. Nonprofit, academic and civic organizations such as Suffolk University, Urban Edge Housing Corporation in Roxbury and the Harvard Business School also have been honored.

Residents have been awarded for a range of efforts, including greening their rooftops, launching innovative campaigns to encourage recycling and for committing to and successfully reducing their own carbon footprint, officials said.

In the award program’s second year, the city expanded the initiative to include recognition of businesses that strived to become more bike-friendly. Since then, more than 100 businesses have been recognized for their bike-friendliness.

“We all know a neighbor or local business that is going the extra step to make our City more sustainable and livable,” Jim Hunt, the city’s Chief of Environment and Energy, said in a statement. “The Mayor’s Green Awards provide recognition to those making a difference in our community every day and hopefully inspire us all to act, and with the extension of the nomination deadline, I look forward to seeing even more impressive nominations coming in over the next week.”

Award ceremonies recognize businesses for energy efficiency management, water conservation, utility benchmarking, historic preservation and adaptive building reuse and other innovative approaches to making Boston “green.” Residents are awarded for practices such as innovative waste reduction and

reuse, renewable energy, home energy efficiency and sustainable landscaping methods.

The Green Business Awards honor companies in Boston “that implement exemplary sustainable business practices in their day-to-day operations and planning.” Businesses may apply in the following four categories: commercial, industrial, nonprofit and academic, cultural and healthcare institutions.

The Green Residential Awards honor city residents “who incorporate sustainable practices in their homes, yards and neighborhood.” Awards will be presented to residents in four categories: Climate Action Leader Award, Waste Reduction Champion Award, Green Home Renovation and Resource Conservation Award and the Sustainable Landscape/Garden/Green Roof

The Sustainable Food Leadership Award, which launched last year, recognizes businesses and/or organizations that “demonstrate extraordinary efforts to provide the freshest, local food in the most sustainable manner.”

To download and submit Green Awards nomination forms, see lists of past winners and for more information, visit [www.cityofboston.gov/environmentalandenergy/greenawards/](http://www.cityofboston.gov/environmentalandenergy/greenawards/).

For more information on the Bike Friendly Businesses Awards, visit [www.cityofboston.gov/bikes/bikebusiness/](http://www.cityofboston.gov/bikes/bikebusiness/).

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