

**For more information, please contact:**

Marianne Griffith, Executive Director  
[marianne@londonenvironment.net](mailto:marianne@londonenvironment.net) (226) 977-1139

or

Kaitlin Creighton, Hub Manager  
[kaitlin@londonenvironment.net](mailto:kaitlin@londonenvironment.net), (289) 400-3713

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - October 2022**

**Photo Opportunity:** Thursday, October 13th, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

**Location:** RBC Place London, 300 York St, London, ON N6B 1P8

Award presentations and photo opportunities @ 5:00 PM. [Register as media here.](#)

Hors D'oeuvres and a drink ticket included with registration.

*Celebrating business and community leaders in the environmental sector.*

**LONDON, ON** - On October 13th, Green Economy London and the London Environmental Network gathered with businesses and individuals in the community to recognize and celebrate the commitment to sustainability and climate action that is done by Green Economy London members, London Environmental Network organizations, community members, and dedicated volunteers.

The 2022 Green Leader Awards is the third annual awards celebration recognizing business and community leaders in London who are prioritizing the environment in their operations, business practices, and day to day lives. These businesses and individuals are proving that reducing emissions and taking environmental action positively impacts the local community, can improve the bottom line, mitigate business risks, help develop a credible brand, and improve the ability to attract and retain consumers, shareholders, and top tier employees.

We will recognize the London Environmental Network's member organizations that have worked hard to protect the environment and promote sustainable practices in our community. We will also celebrate our dedicated volunteers for their support with the London Environmental Network's programming, as well as the founding organizations that make our program possible and strengthen the network of sustainability leaders.

Green Economy London supports businesses to increase their competitive advantage by providing the right resources, expertise, and networks to decrease carbon and create a sustainable economy in London. Launched in May 2019, this Green Economy Hub has grown to 55 organizations who are making sustainability part of their operations.

"We're proud to recognize the strong and collaborative network of organizations taking meaningful climate action and prioritizing sustainability in their operations. For the benefit of the

environment, community and their business. Together we're proving a more sustainable economy is possible." says Kaitlin Creighton, Green Economy London Hub Manager

**For the 3rd Annual Green Leader Awards, there are 10 business and community winners:**

**The London & District Construction Association is the winner for the Emissions Reduction Project of the Year Award.** They are being recognized for the installation of their net-metering solar array, which has 93 modules and covers 100% of the LDCA's electricity. Producing approximately 39,64 kWh of electricity per year, the array results in reducing 1.6 tonnes of CO2 emissions per year. They also installed two level 2 EV chargers to demonstrate leadership in the construction sector and help reduce the emissions of their customers. Both of these are projects that will help them reach their 50% GHG emissions reduction targets by 2031.

**Graphenstone is the Rookie of the Year winner.** Graphenstone has been highly engaged with the Green Economy London program since joining. They participated as a speaker in the Sustainable Finishing webinar that Green Economy London and another London Environmental Network program, Greener Homes London hosted. They effectively engaged with residential and business audiences about sustainable building and home options, as well as demonstrated how their business is based on an innovative and sustainable product, carbon sequestering paints.

**Play Away Indoor Park has won the Environmental Steward of the Year award.** They continue to implement a number of environmental stewardship initiatives that positively impact the environment, their customers and the community. Through replacing fluorescent lights with LED bulbs they expect to see a 64% reduction in annual electricity usage (approx. 24,000 kWh). Play Away also reinstated a composting program where they divert up to 120L of organics each week, and use 100% compostable plates, cutlery and coffee cups. They've also effectively engaged with employees to carpool and use EVs for commuting to reduce scope 3 emissions from employee commuting, and also engage with children with nature-based programs, and a vegetable garden to donate food to the London Food Bank.

**Heeman's has won the Green Innovation Award** for the installation of three level 2 EV charging stations in their parking lot. This allows for up to 6 EVs to be charged at once, with the potential for up to 18 thanks to the installation of underground cables to expand charging infrastructure in the future. The power used at the stations is tied to their solar panel installation from 2021.

**Charlotteville Brewing is the Green Project Implementation Award winner** for their inspiration, educational and effective environmental projects across a variety of focus areas. The brewery located in Norfolk County installed bike racks to support employee and visitor cyclists and implemented a 'Green Discount' given to those who bike to the brewery instead of drive. The cleaning and bathroom products are made from recycled paper, in reusable containers, and ECO certified. They also source locally and work with local producers and farmers to manage spent grain waste and get ingredients, and use certified organic hops. Charlotteville Brewing has implemented energy efficiency projects such as installed Energy Star boiler and appliances, LED lighting, and water efficiency practices.

This year's **Youth Leader Award winners are Allison Pert and Cogie Cogan**. **Allison Pert** has exemplified many of the qualities needed to be a successful environmental leader with the Western Sustainability Leaders Program (WSLP). She has guided and planned many events on campus, demonstrating how sustainability integrates everywhere. She taught students the importance of saving seeds and planting native plants on campus by helping implement a community garden along with other environmental groups, and educated the student population about the role of the campus garden. She took on the role of Coordinator for London Bug Day, a day with various events to educate children and adolescents about the role of bugs in environmental health and sustainability, and has offered career guidance to other youth wanting to learn more about how to get involved with London's environmental sector.

**Cogie Cogan** has shown great environmental leadership by representing youth in many impressive roles. As a first year student they started Western Environmental Business (WEB) because they saw a lack of opportunities on campus to bring sustainability into Western's business program. Cogie's environmental leadership has been recognized nationally and internationally as they were selected to represent Canada at the United Nations in March of this year, they served as the Vice-President of the Experiences Canada Youth Advisory Committee and the Jane Goodall Youth Advisory Committee, traveling to Ottawa and Halifax to participate in board meetings. As an Ocean Bridge Youth Ambassador and Huron Sustainability Commissioner they worked to make Huron a Blue Community, thus ending the commodification and sales of water on their university campus.

**The Community Impact Award goes to Indwell and Climate Action London** for implementing The Indwell Bike Share Program, which aims to provide bikes, infrastructure, and cycling gear for tenants at Woodfield Gate. The bikes provide low carbon transportation options and outdoor activity possibilities for the tenants, as well as support relationship building between staff and tenants. This pilot project is a great model that could be applied to other residential buildings and rentals in London to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation. In 2021, Indwell purchased 2 bikes and helmets for Indwell tenants at Woodfield Gate to borrow for their commutes and leisurely trips. There were an estimated 68 bike trips taken by tenants.

**Thames Talbot Land Trust is the winner of the Environmental Impact Award** for their continued support on land conservation by working with nature preserves in order to protect the land and wildlife that exists in the London and surrounding area. They currently protect more than 1900 acres of land across Southwestern Ontario. They run a number of community programs to get Londoners involved with environmental projects such as Diversifying Conservation, Biodiversity Boss and Education for Youth. They host many events throughout the year that offer Londoners a free opportunity for people to learn and experience the importance of Southwestern Ontario's landscapes.

**The Sustainability Solutions and Innovation Award winner goes to Reforest London** for their dedication to Improve London's environmental health through planting trees and shrubs in

natural areas, parks, yards and streets. This year they celebrated planting half a million trees in their Million Tree Challenge. They recently upgraded the Westminster Ponds Centre facility to utilize geothermal heating and cooling to dramatically reduce their GHG emissions and lead by example to showcase emerging technologies. They also pivoted during COVID to provide a virtual Signal Boost Initiative to highlight environment work and elevate the sector.

These awards recognize the important sustainability work being done in the community by local businesses, nonprofit organizations and community leaders.

**For more information, please contact:**

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## Media Backgrounder

### Award Categories:

1. **Emissions Reduction Project of the Year-** This award recognizes a Green Economy London member that has implemented a project over the past year that has/ will have a significant impact on reducing their GHG emissions.

**Winner: London & District Construction Association:** For their innovative solar panel installation and two Level 2 EV chargers resulting in 1.6 tonnes of CO2 emissions reduced per year.

2. **Rookie of the Year Award-** Given to the most active and accomplished new member over the past year. \*Joined since October 2021

*Winner: Graphenstone*, for their engagement with the residential and business audiences about sustainable building and home options, demonstrating how their business is based on a sustainable product

3. **Green Innovation Award:** This award recognizes a business that embraces innovation to prioritize sustainability initiatives in order to improve and meet their sustainability goals and targets.

*Winner: Heeman's* is being recognized for installing three level 2 EV charging stations, allowing for six EVs to be charged at once. They also included cables for future charging infrastructure expansion to power up to eighteen EV's, they leverage the power generated from their solar panel installations installed in 2021.

4. **Environmental Stewards of the Year Award-** This award recognizes a member's involvement, participation, and leadership in projects and actions that positively impact the community and ecosystems of London and surrounding area.

*Winner: Play Away Indoor Park*, for their ongoing commitment to implementing environmental projects around the workplace. Including replacing fluorescent lights with LED, composting program that diverts up to 120L of organics per week, using 100% compostable single use plates, cutlery and coffee cups, sustainable transportation initiatives for staff, vegetable garden, and engaging children with nature-based activities.

5. **Green Project Implementation Award-** Recognizes a member who has implemented project(s) at their facility that are inspirational, educational, effective (or all of the above) that relates to reducing the environmental impacts of their organization.

*Winner: Charlotteville Brewing* - Recognized for installing a number of projects including installing bike racks and giving 'green discount' to customers to support sustainable transportation, using recycling and eco certified products like cleaners and paper towels, sourcing local, installed Energy Star appliances, water-efficient faucets and toilets, certified organic hops for their beer, no plastic bottle zone for staff and guests, and more.

6. **Community Impact Award-** The Community Impact Award goes to an organization or community group that implemented a project that benefited the environment and community within the past year. This includes projects supported through the Environmental Action Incubator program from 2021-2022

*Winner: Indwell and Climate Action London* for implementing their Bike Share Program, which allows residents at Woodfield Gate to borrow bikes and helmets. Most residents do not have cars, so the bikes provide low carbon transportation options and outdoor activity possibilities for the tenants, as well as support relationship building between staff and tenants.

7. **Youth Leader Award (2 winners)**- The Youth Leader Award recognizes an individual (25 & under) that demonstrates environmental leadership and a commitment to sustainability in their personal lives.

*Winner:* Allison Pert for her leadership with the Western Sustainability Leaders Program (WSLP). She has helped to guide and plan many events on campus such as London Bug Day, she encourages students on the importance of sustainable living, saving native seeds, helped implement a community garden and has offered career guidance to many in this area.

*Winner:* Cogie Cogan has exemplified leadership through their continuous efforts to promote sustainability to youth throughout London. As only a first-year student they started Western Environmental Business (WEB) to bring sustainability into Western's business program, helped make Huron a Blue Community, and has represented Canada on numerous environmental Youth Committees.

8. **Environmental Impact Award** - Recognizes a non-profit group that has had a significant impact on the local environment through emission reduction, biodiversity conservation, waste reduction, water conservation, or educating the public. The impact should be accessible to everyone in our community and be a lasting impact.

*Winner:* Thames Talbot Land Trust for their continued support on land conservation by working with nature preserves in order to protect the land and wildlife that exists in the London and surrounding area. They currently protect more than 1900 acres of land across Southwestern Ontario, and run a number of community programs and events throughout the year that offer Londoners a free opportunity to learn and experience the importance of Southwestern Ontario's landscapes.

9. **Sustainability Solutions and Innovation** - Recognizes a non-profit group that has made a local impact on the environment by developing a local solution or furthering sustainability innovation in technology or program delivery by creative thinking and adapting to the changing needs of the community.

*Winner:* ReForest London for their dedication to Improve London's environmental health through planting trees and shrubs in natural areas, parks, yards and streets. This year they celebrated planting half a million trees in their Million Tree Challenge, upgraded the Westminster Ponds Centre facility to utilize geothermal heating and cooling to dramatically reduce their GHG emissions, and pivoted during COVID to provide a virtual Signal Boost Initiative to highlight environment work and elevate the sector.

### Green Economy London

Green Economy London is a program that will transform London into a sustainable economy. Green Economy London supports businesses to increase their competitive advantage by providing the right resources, expertise, and networks to decrease carbon and create a sustainable economy in London.

Business benefits for members of London include bottom line cost savings, risk mitigation, employee attraction, and enhanced brand. As the centre of London's low-carbon economy, Green Economy London provides businesses with a full event season, support, tracking tools, and recognition of their efforts. ([www.greeneconomylondon.ca](http://www.greeneconomylondon.ca))

### Current Green Economy London Members

All Green Economy London Members have committed to tracking their environmental impacts and implementing change in their workplace focusing on one or more of the following target areas; GHG emissions reduction, waste diversion and reduction, water conservation, and environmental stewardship.

MTE Consultants,  
Heeman's,  
Dispenser Amenities,  
City of London,  
German Solar Corporation,  
RBC Place London,  
Cornerstone Architecture,  
GreenTech Painting,  
The Root Cellar,  
ReForest London,  
Pillar Nonprofit Network / Innovation Works,  
Chippewas of the Thames First Nation,  
Convertus Group,  
McCabe Promotional,  
German Canadian Club of London,  
Manzia Energy,  
London Food Bank,  
Goodlife Fitness,  
Play Away Indoor Park,  
London Brewing Co-op,

Big Bike Giveaway,  
Booch,  
OnThe Move Organics,  
StormFisher Environmental Ltd.,  
Goodwill Industries,  
YMCA St. Thomas-Elgin,  
Reimagine Co,  
Argent Electrical,  
Libro Credit Union,  
Carmina de Young,  
Western Fair District,  
New Leaf Food Truck,  
The Church Key Bistro-Pub,  
Tepperman's  
Museum London,  
Trudell Medical  
The Ice Box  
Michael + Clark Construction  
London Chamber of Commerce  
London & District Construction Association

## Subject: Media Release for Green Leader Awards



Let's Talk Science  
The Hearty Herbivore  
London St. Thomas Association of Realtors  
DHT Electrical  
N'Amerind Friendship Center  
Long Point Biosphere  
Delhi & District Chamber of Commerce  
Graphenstone Paints

Burning Kiln Winery  
Homegrown Hideaway  
Charlottetown Brewing  
Generations Marketplace  
The Gibbled Goose  
Ecodemy

Green Economy London welcomes interested organizations of all sizes in the private, public or non-profit sector in London, Elgin, Norfolk, Middlesex, Huron, Lambton, and Kent. We are currently accepting a Green Leader Cohort where organizations that join by October 30th, 2022 will receive \$500 to go towards their first sustainability project to help reach their targets.

### Partners and Sponsors of Green Economy London

Western University's Centre for Environment and Sustainability, Labatt's, MTE Consultants, Try Recycling, the London Community Foundation and the City of London have signed on to be the Founding Partners of Green Economy London and will be permanently recognized for their dedication to establishing the Hub. Other current sponsors include Libro Credit Union, Convertus, TD Bank, and the Federal Government of Canada.

### London Environmental Network

London Environmental Network is a non-for-profit organization, and a solution-based network focused on enhancing and protecting the environment. London Environmental Network brings together grassroots communities, non-profits, businesses and government to promote creative collaboration and environmental issues. Service offerings include, capacity-building workshops, member-focused networking and online communications for the sector. It is the host organization for Green Economy London.

[www.londonenvironment.net](http://www.londonenvironment.net)

### Green Economy Canada

Green Economy Canada is a national non-profit accelerating the business transition to a low-carbon economy. Green Economy Canada works with communities to launch and grow Green Economy Hubs, shares success stories of businesses going green, and engages with policymakers and experts to inform green policies and investments. Collectively, businesses in Green Economy Hubs, like Green Economy London, have reduced more than 200,000 tonnes of GHGs – the equivalent of removing 42,000 cars off the road each year – while becoming more competitive. <https://greeneconomy.ca/>