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South Shore Clean Cities lauds sustainable transportation leaders

Emissions reductions celebrated at annual conference and expo

MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA — South Shore Clean Cities honored Indiana's sustainable transportation leaders at the nonprofit's Annual Conference and Expo Tuesday.

"Our members continue to serve as shining examples of innovation and dedication to sustainable transportation, right here in Indiana," South Shore Clean Cities Executive Director Carl Lisek said. "Their efforts continue to highlight the incredible work taking place in our state and I could not be more proud of their accomplishments."

The awards presented at the South Shore Clean Cities Annual Conference & Expo Tuesday, Aug. 10 at the Blue Chip Stardust Event Center in Michigan City, Indiana celebrated the successes of South Shore Clean Cities members in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and gasoline gallon equivalents in 2020. All winners were selected from among South Shore Clean Cities members.

Family Express, headquartered in Valparaiso, Indiana, was named 2020 Member Organization of the Year. The award is given to the South Shore Clean Cities member with the largest amount of greenhouse gas emissions and gasoline gallon equivalents reduced the previous year.

Runners up in the 2020 Member Organization of the Year category were the City of South Bend Solid Waste Department; Ozinga, headquartered in Mokena, Illinois; Homewood Disposal, headquartered in Homewood, Illinois and South Bend Transpo.

The 2020 South Shore Clean Cities Champion Award was presented to Matt Chlebowski, retiring chief administration officer for the City of South Bend Central Services. The award is presented to an organization or individual that supports the South Shore Clean Cities mission and works as a partner and leader to educate, inform and inspire others to take action toward greater sustainable practices.

In 2020, South Shore Clean Cities managed the Green Fleet programs for two Northern Indiana metropolitan planning organizations, the Michiana Area Council of Governments (MACOG) and the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC). With South Shore Clean Cities' expansion statewide in February 2021, the program is also now statewide.

The goal of the program is to significantly improve the environmental performance of government fleets by implementing sustainable transportation strategies. Green Fleet members

receive professional consultation including a fleet assessment and emissions quantification report.

The 2020 MACOG Green Fleet Member of the Year Award was presented to South Bend Central Services. The MACOG Green Fleet Member of the Year Award recognizes the MACOG South Shore Clean Cities Green Fleet member that stands as an example for others in their actions and commitments to sustainable practices. MACOG serves Elkhart, Kosciusko, Marshall and St. Joseph counties in Indiana.

The 2020 NIRPC Green Fleet Member of the Year Award was presented to the School City of Hammond. The NIRPC Green Fleet Member of the Year Award recognizes a NIRPC South Shore Clean Cities Green Fleet member that stands as an example for others in their actions and commitments to sustainable practices. NIRPC serves Lake, Porter and LaPorte Counties in Indiana.

Belinda Puetz, director of business and brand management for CountryMark, was honored as the 2020 Empowering Woman of the Year. The award recognizes a woman affiliated with South Shore Clean Cities who is passionate about sustainable transportation solutions and has demonstrated measurable impacts related to her efforts. Puetz also serves on the South Shore Clean Cities board of directors.

The 2020 Sustainability Leadership Award was presented to Cummins. The Sustainability Leadership Award recognizes outstanding members who have shown extraordinary leadership over the past year aimed at making significant impacts in the sustainable transportation and/or energy sectors.

The Muncie Police Department was honored with the 2020 Leadership in Law Enforcement Award. The award recognizes an outstanding law enforcement fleet member which has shown great strides over the past year in supporting sustainable transportation and energy conservation within their department.

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Cutline: South Shore Clean Cities Executive Director Carl Lisek presents the 2020 Member Organization of the Year Award to Spiro Olympidis of Family Express at the South Shore Clean Cities Annual Conference and Expo Tuesday at the Blue Chip Stardust Event Center in Michigan City, Indiana.

About South Shore Clean Cities: South Shore Clean Cities is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization managed by Legacy Environmental Services, Inc., an Indiana Certified Women's Business Enterprise. Designated as the 71st Clean Cities coalition on June 15, 1999, South Shore Clean Cities is one of the U.S. Department of Energy's more than 75 Clean Cities coalitions and is the only Clean Cities coalition in the state of Indiana. The organizations support the nation's energy and economic security by building partnerships to advance affordable domestic transportation fuels, energy efficient mobility systems and other fuel-saving technologies and practices. Learn more at www.southshorecleancities.org.