

2016 Cincinnati Earth Day Awards



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Volunteer - Nominee must be nominated for work done as a citizen/volunteer, not paid by a Business or Agency.

[Chuck Lohre](#) –

Volunteer with several non profits organizations working to improve our earth. As a long time volunteer with the GCEC and Green Building council he is known as a long standing voice for nature and the sustainability movement. His contributions are innovative and countless.

Business/Organization - Nominee work must be for a business as an employee or consultant.

[Cohen USA:](#)

Cohen Electronics Recycling is the region's top electronic waste recycler. They hold a unique combination of third party certifications including, E-Stewards, R2/RIOS and NAID, for environmental protection, worker health and safety, data privacy and facility security. Cohen has been an integral part of bringing the electronic waste issue to the forefront of our community. They work with many non-profits, for profits and municipalities to offer free e-waste events to residents and businesses alike. Last year, the Players for the Planet event diverted nearly 200,000 lbs. of e-waste from our regional landfills in a 3-day period. Due to the high volume of e-waste that was brought in, Cohen was able to write a check for \$17,000 to the Reds Philanthropy Fund.

In addition to their commitment to the community, Cohen is dedicated to the growing electronic waste issue, locally and globally. They are set to open their new electronic waste recycling center this spring. Their new sorting and shredding center will be one of the largest in North America, with the ability to process up to 20,000 pounds of e-waste each hour.

Given our current recycling market, where it is legal and much cheaper to ship toxic e-waste internationally to places where markets are not regulated, finding a company that focuses on doing the right thing is difficult. Luckily, we in the greater Cincinnati region have a company like Cohen, one that drives awareness, environmentalism, and social responsibility. That is why I am nominating Cohen USA for the Greater Cincinnati Environmental Award.

Student - Nominee must be enrolled in K-12th grade or college. Work must be performed as student; clubs are acceptable.

Name of Nominee: *Kelsey Reichenbach* **Email:** reichekl@mail.uc.edu **Phone:** 330 419 0944

Kelsey is a Mechanical Engineering Student at UC. She is an excellent student with a passion for sustainability. She planned the 2015 UC Sustainability summit and is one of the leaders of the campaign Fossil Free UC. She is very actively involved in student government and recycling initiatives on campus. She is a leader and ambassador for sustainability!

Government - Nominee must work for a government agency.

Gerald Checco, Director of the Metropolitan Sewer District

225 W Galbraith Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45215 (513) 352-4900 gerald.checco@cincinnati-oh.gov

Gerald is an inspiring government employee. He was just received the Xavier University Sustainability Heroes Award. Gerald started his career with the Parks Department and installed over 20 solar panel installations in the parks. His next position was with Public Services but when the MSD was faced with scrutiny, Mayor Cranley called on Gerald to bring his "common sense" approach to problem solving. MSD has a very challenging role to play in mitigating the combined sewer overflows into the Ohio River and we should be glad that Gerald is in charge during this important time.

Teacher - Nominee must be a teacher for K-12th grade, college, home school or day care.

Name of Nominee: *Ishi Buffam*

Address: RIEVESCHL 731H 318 College Dr Cincinnati OH 45221 0006

Email: ishi.buffam@uc.edu **Phone:** (513)556-9745

He is an Assistant Professor in Biology and Environmental Studies. He is an Ecosystem Ecologist who does research ranging from climate change to green roofs. He uses a combination of field vegetation and soil surveys, lab-based water and soil chemistry/biogeochemistry analysis, empirical modeling and GIS-based modeling to evaluate the relationship between landscape/watershed characteristics and surface water chemistry and biotic communities. He uses many tools to educate and excite students about urban environmental issues such as, CSO's and green roofs.