

Groups receive honors for going green

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Green groups, fun in the sun, Solano scholarships and singing students are among the good news from around the region this week.

Green groups get honor

Four local organizations – an apartment building, a business group, a store and a school – earned **Green Business Awards** from the city of **Fairfield** and **Republic Services** – formerly **Solano Garbage Co.** – this week.

The awards went to **Birchwood Apartments**, the **Fairfield Main Street Association**, **Solano Napa Habitat ReStore** and **Travis Elementary School**.

The awards were presented at Tuesday's meeting of the Fairfield City Council.

Birchwood, located at 1890 Dover Ave., started its recycling program in March 2013 and 80 percent of residents participate.

Margaret Manzo, executive director of the Fairfield Main Street Association, created **Operation Green Tomato** in 2011 to recycle and divert waste from downtown events. The association hired the "Green Tomatoes" and trained them to educate the public about recycling, food waste and water runoff into storm drains. The Green Tomatoes created games, quizzes and gave out prizes to involve visitors. The Green Tomatoes diverted more than 70 percent of waste from going to the landfill in 2013.

Napa Solano Habitat for Humanity ReStore diverted 260 tons of materials from the landfill in fiscal year 2013-14.

Travis Elementary School started its first **Food Waste Recycling Program** in October 2013. The school principal held mini school assemblies where children learned to separate their food waste from recyclables and landfill materials. Travis Elementary's diversion rate for March was 49 percent.