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## Say YES to the Environment

AIRDRIE, AB - The City of Airdrie is encouraging residents to acknowledge the successful environmental initiatives of Airdrie residents under the age of 18 with this year's Youth Environmental Stewardship Award (YES Award).

"It is important to recognize and encourage these young people who have an eco-conscious. They recognize what they are doing, buying, and using, affects the environment and their community in different ways," says Angela Brightwell, Environmental Services Coordinator, City of Airdrie. "Their effort to keep the environment healthy sets an example, encouraging more youth to become environmentally conscious."

The YES Award is given annually and challenges young people to take a proactive approach towards maintaining and enhancing our environment. It can be given to an individual or a group (under 18 years of age). Criteria for the award include projects positively affecting the environment within the past 12 months:

- purchasing decisions
- creating public awareness through videos, skits, essays, articles, etc.
- energy efficiency
- recycling, reducing, reusing or composting initiatives
- reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- garbage clean-up
- planting a community garden
- enhancing public spaces
- sustainable behaviour or activity
- relating to land, air, water, energy
- protecting wildlife, green spaces etc.

Residents can nominate someone for the YES Award (self nominations are invited) by filling out an application available at the Recycling Depot (15 East Lake Hill) or online at [www.airdrie.ca](http://www.airdrie.ca). The full criteria and guidelines are also available from the City of Airdrie web site. **Nomination deadline is March 31, 2009.** The winner will be announced Saturday, April 25, 2009, at the Airdrie Home and Garden Show.

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