



## News

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**CONTACT:**  
**Tom Flannigan**  
**415.749.4900**

### **New Spare the Air Leadership Award to be presented to two local winners**

**SAN FRANCISCO** – In partnership with Acterra and the 2017 Acterra Business Environmental Awards, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District has announced the newest recipients of the Spare the Air Leadership Award.

Veritable Vegetable and the Sonoma County Water Agency were selected to receive the Spare the Air Leadership Award, a new award amongst the Acterra Business Environmental Awards sponsored by the Air District. Both Bay Area organizations have demonstrated significant leadership in reducing air pollutants, greenhouse gases, and developing innovative approaches to cleaner air to achieve the honor.

“The Spare the Air Leadership award is a distinct honor that recognizes the regional leaders taking independent actions to improve the environment and air quality in our region,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “As the Bay Area tackles the challenges associated with climate change, we need to identify the organizations that are already leading the way to a better future and paving the way for other organizations to follow suit.”

Veritable Vegetable ([www.veritablevegetable.com/](http://www.veritablevegetable.com/)) is a forty-year-old business based in San Francisco that purchases, transports, and supplies organic fruits and vegetables. The company has readily adopted the newest and most efficient technologies to reduce emissions from the trucks in its Green Fleet and firmly believes in running their business based on values rather than the bottom line. By successfully targeting reductions of greenhouse gases, criteria pollutants and toxic air contaminants, Veritable Vegetable accomplishes the goals of the Spare the Air Leadership Award.

The Sonoma County Water Agency ([www.scwa.ca.gov/](http://www.scwa.ca.gov/)) produces, treats, and distributes water to more than 600,000 Sonoma and Marin County residents through its Carbon Free Water Program. The Water Agency has developed a diverse renewable energy portfolio, including a floating solar photovoltaic system, and implemented a range of efficiency measures to deliver water without a carbon footprint. As of 2015, they reduced their overall greenhouse gas emissions related to electricity use by 99% from 21,870 to 322 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent and achieved their goal of carbon free water. By implementing innovative efficiency measures and achieving a vast reduction of emissions, Sonoma County Water Agency earned the Spare the Air Leadership Award.

The Acterra Business Environmental Awards is one of the San Francisco Bay Area’s oldest and most prestigious environmental recognition programs. Initiated in 1990, it is considered a champion among award programs due to broad geographic scope, rigorous judging process and competitive pool of applicants.

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Executive Director of Acterra, Adam Stern, said, “At a time when environmental policy is being challenged at the federal level, these award winners send a powerful message that Bay Area companies, public agencies, and schools remain committed to cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable business practices. Acterra is proud to recognize the achievements of these innovative organizations.”

These awardees will be honored at the 2017 Ceremony and Reception on May 24th from 6-9 p.m. at Intuit in Mountain View. For more information about the other award categories and recipients, or the awards ceremony, visit [acterra.org/bea](http://acterra.org/bea).

Acterra ([www.acterra.org](http://www.acterra.org)) is a San Francisco Bay Area 501(c)(3) nonprofit based in Palo Alto that brings people together to create local solutions for a healthy planet.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District ([www.baagmd.gov](http://www.baagmd.gov)) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area.

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