

Green Business Recognition Program

December 30, 2019

Wall Township Environmental Advisory Committee/Green Team

Barlow Flower Farm and InfoAge Science and History Museums

The Wall Township Environmental Advisory Committee Green Team (WTEAC/GT) officially launched their Green Business Recognition Program in 2017. This year, the Environmental Green Team Advisory Committee was pleased to honor and certify Barlow Flower Farm and InfoAge Science and History Museums into their 3rd Annual Green Business Recognition Program.

The goal of the Green Business Recognition Program is to honor recipients in the private and agricultural sector that use strategies to reduce energy consumption and waste, use sustainable materials, offer greener products, and contribute to the local community.



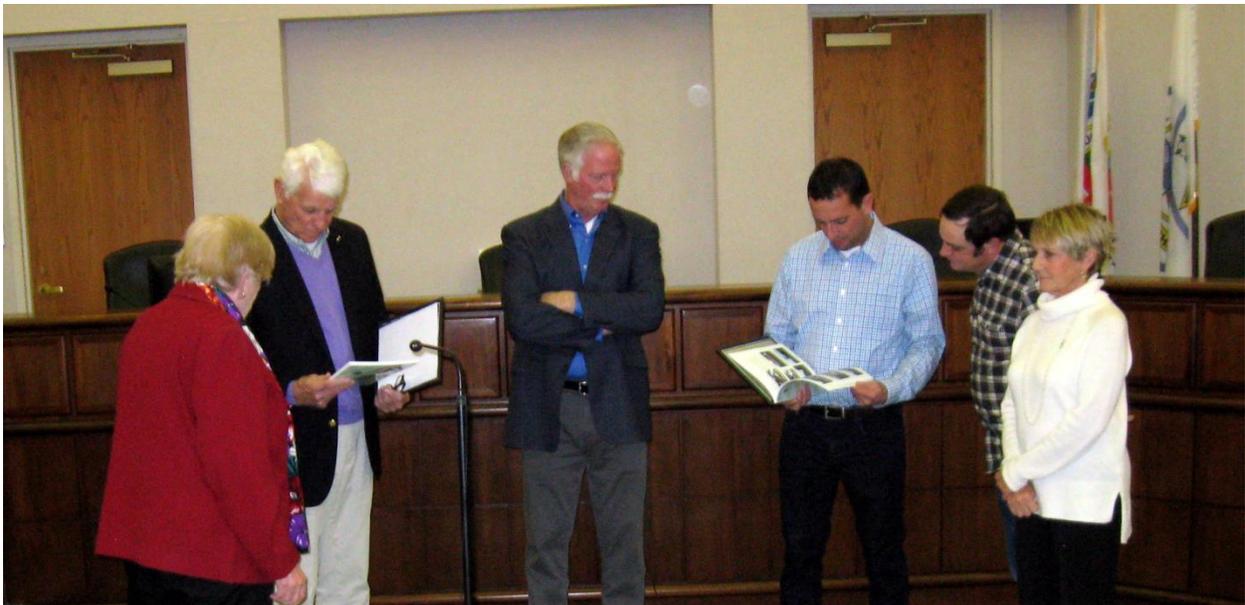
Attendees included WTEAC Vice-Chair Bob Kilmurray, Mayor Kevin Orender, InfoAge Chair Tom Crowley, Stephen Barlow of Barlow Flower Farm, Environmental Chair Wilma Morrissey, and WTEAC John Ozell.



Welcome to Tom Crowley, Mayor Kevin Orender, Stephen Barlow, his mother Leslie and brother Thomas



Presentation of Certificates and WTEAC book on "Life in Wall Township Past and Present"





Stephen Barlow, President of Operations

Founders: Leslie and Steve Barlow

Over the past 10 years Barlow Flower Farm has worked on developing several sustainable business practices to help support the environment, the employees and the community. These practices range from water collection systems to new and innovated heating systems to organic insect and disease control.

A water collection was installed for 10,000 square feet of greenhouse. This system irrigates the plants by filling tables up with water tables. The plants will then take up the water as needed through holes in the bottom of containers. The water that the plants do not use is drained into a storage tank where it is held for the next irrigation. This system is a 95% closed system where almost no water is lost. The advantages to this are that fertilizers are not being lost in the ground through leaching, all the water is recycled and the quality of irrigation for the plant produces a superior product.

With rising gas and electric costs Barlow Flower Farm knew that finding alternative sources of heat would be key to using less energy while still producing a high-quality product. This was accomplished by installing naturally vented systems in the greenhouses. In the past large fans were used to cool the greenhouses. These fans used large amounts of electricity. Over the past 10 years a passive ventilation system has been installed where the natural trade winds help to cool the greenhouses by opening up the walls with low voltage motors to allow the wind to cool the greenhouses. With this system nearly 50% reduction in electricity has been seen. Barlow Flower Farm is also currently installing radiant (in floor) heating systems that will focus on heating the root zone of the plant and not the air. When the air is heated, there is a lot of energy loss. A root zone heating system will put the heat right where it is needed and thus reduce energy consumption.

Another key component to Barlow Flower Farm's sustainable practices has been its transition away from harmful pesticides and increases its use of biological controls. Over the past ten years Barlow Flower Farm has completely stopped the use of harmful pesticides. This has been accomplished by the introduction of beneficial insect. These beneficial insects are released into the greenhouses each week. They live off the harmful insects thus reducing the need to spray chemicals. Barlow Flower Farm has seen 75% reduction in chemical usage due to this program.

A final piece of Barlow Flower Farm's commitment to the environment and community is its recycling program. Plastics are major problem for the horticulture industry. Most plants are grown in plastic pots and most greenhouses are covered with plastic coverings. Barlow Flower Farm has been able to combat this growing problem by working with a company in Michigan that manufactures pots. Barlow Flower Farm packages all containers that have been used and are no longer available to grow in. These packages of containers are then shipped to Michigan where they are recycled into growing containers. The greenhouse film that covers the greenhouses is also sent to a recycling center in Mount Holly where it is reused to make decking material.

These are a few of the ways in which Barlow Flower Farm strives to become a sustainable business.

As new technologies and systems are developed Barlow Flower Farm hopes to adopt them and continue their vision of making the environment better for all.

Thomas Crowley, Chairman representing InfoAge Science and History Museums



InfoAge realizes that as good citizens we also have to be good stewards of the environment. In its own small way, InfoAge has been striving over the past ten years to reduce its environmental footprint commensurate with our available funding. Due to the Army leaving Camp Evans in extremely poor condition, almost all our funding is dedicated to restoring, repairing and renovating the buildings of this National Historic site. However, we have been able to make inroads into lowering our footprint.

Building Maintenance and Repair: During the past year we have painted the exterior of two buildings and the interior first floor of the Marconi Hotel with low VOC paints. This year two cottages, five garages and the interior of one of our museums are scheduled to be painted using VOC paints. In addition, we are using almost 400 feet of Versatex PVC to replace the rotted wood on the base of one of our wooden buildings that houses several of our museums. In order to comply with US Department of Interior and NJ Historic Preservation Office requirements the Versatex had to be cut several times to match the existing lumber.

Administration: We reduce paper usage by copying to both sides of the paper and reusing paper if at all feasible. We use local contractors and suppliers wherever possible for all our needs.

Energy and Waste Reduction: Several years ago New Jersey Natural Gas provided a grant for an energy audit where we changed our high usage T12 fluorescent bulbs to T8 bulbs. We are currently changing our T8 bulbs to very low energy LED bulbs as funding becomes available. When purchasing office equipment we always check for energy usage and purchase accordingly and we attempt to avoid products packaged in Styrofoam. We recycle paper and plastics and this past year have recycled over ten dumpsters of metal materials.

Human Resources: We only have two full-time and two part-time employees. One full-time and one part-time employee telecommute at least one day a week. Regarding hiring practices, InfoAge has had an Affirmative Action Policy since 2005 and an ADA Accommodation Policy since 2006.

Landscape Maintenance: InfoAge uses no fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides on our grassy areas. For unwanted and invasive foliage we either dig the plants up or use natural and organic means to halt their spread until we are able to remove them. Regarding landscape irrigation, we let nature water our 35 acres.

Community Involvement: InfoAge hosts the Saint Bernard Project and Volunteer Center which has and continues to support the restoration of the Jersey Shore from the aftermath of Super Storm Sandy. Groups such as AmeriCorps and faith based groups throughout the United States use InfoAge as their home away from home. InfoAge and the Volunteer Center stand ready and will shoulder the burden in the case of another catastrophic event. Our community involvement also includes supporting Wall Township and Manasquan VFW 1838 Veterans events. We work with the Boy Scouts in assisting scouts attain their Eagle Badge – over 25 so far. Our support also includes being home to the St. Vincent de Paul and Selective Seconds warehouses.

We realize that what we have outlined above are small steps towards improving the environment but it does not diminish our commitment to environmental health at InfoAge now and in the future.

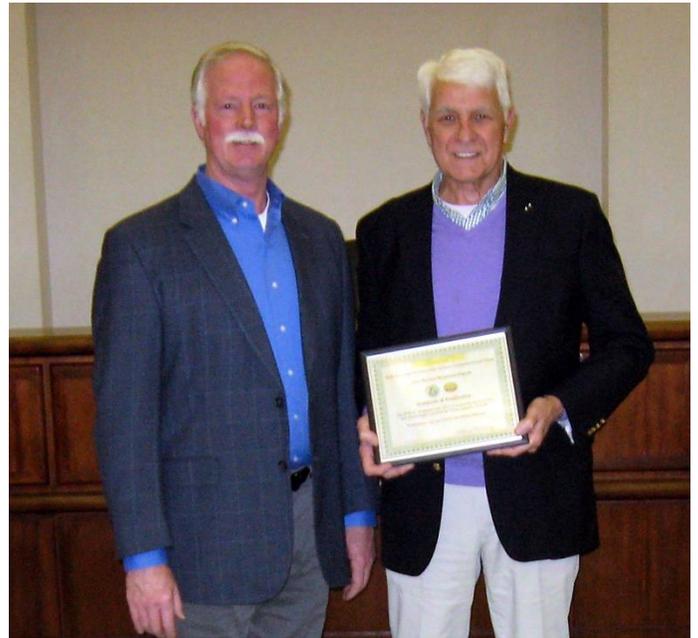


Mayor Kevin Orender reading the Barlow and InfoAge Narratives



Celebrating the honor and distinction of both Barlow Flower Farm and InfoAge receiving awards





Mayor Kevin Orender with Stephen Barlow and Thomas Crowley



Mayor Kevin Orender; Thomas Crowley, InfoAge; Stephen Barlow and Chair Wilma Morrissey

The purpose of the Green Business Recognition Program is to recognize local businesses that make environmental improvements and contributions to the community in the following categories: Waste Management, Energy Use, Water Conservation, Green Building and Landscaping, Transportation, Pollution Reduction, Social Responsibility, Commitment to Local Economy, and Goals and Reporting Assessment.

To become certified, applicants must complete the assessment check sheet application which includes 48 items in 9 categories. A minimum of 10 check mark actions is required and. In addition, the selection of whom to select is based on the narrative for entry into the program.

Green Business Recognition Program



Vice-Chair Bob Kilmurray; Mayor Kevin Orender; Thomas Crowley, InfoAge; Stephen Barlow of Barlow Flower Farm, Chair Wilma Morrissey, and WTEAC John Ozell

It is the pleasure of the Wall Township Environmental Advisory Committee/Green Team to honor our recipients in recognizing their environmental business practices and achievements.

Congratulations – Way to go!

**Photo Layout: Chair Wilma Morrissey
Photos: Vice-Chair Bob Kilmurray**