

**For Immediate Release**

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**EarthShare North Carolina Announces 2014 Award Winners**

**Durham, NC** – At the EarthShare NC Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 7, EarthShare NC recognized outstanding campaign and community partners. Businesses partner with EarthShare NC (ESNC) to make it easy for employees to take part in keeping NC a healthy and beautiful place through learning, volunteering and giving.

Heather Beard, Executive Director of ESNC, stated, “ESNC’s success relies on the partnerships we have with workplaces, community supporters, and our network. Each year we recognize our partners who rise to the top.”

Campaign Coordinator of the Year was awarded to the **Seven Stars Strategy Team**, a team of volunteers who took ownership of the City of Durham campaign and made it a part of Durham’s culture. They met year round to develop strategy, support departments’ special events. They placed great importance on the integrity of the campaign.

Campaign of the Year was awarded to **FLS Energy** of Asheville, NC. FLS began partnering with ESNC in 2011 and include many of their favorite nonprofits in the campaign. They also worked with ESNC to engage employees in a volunteer opportunity with an ESNC member nonprofit. “They are an all-around model partner,” said David Coates, ESNC Board Chair.

Community Friend of the Year was awarded to **Philip Blumenthal of the Blumenthal Foundation**. “Philip has been a friend to the environment and supporter of many ESNC Members,” shared Coates. In addition to his many other contributions, Mr. Blumenthal is a Corporate Forum Advisor for ESNC.

The Member Representative of the Year was awarded to **Vann Pearsall of NC Coastal Land Trust**. This award was created to recognize that the ESNC coalition is fueled by the work of our Members. Mr. Pearsall was recognized for embodying the spirit of the coalition and contributing to its growth and evolution.

*ESNC was founded in 1991 to strengthen conservation work in North Carolina. Over this time, thousands of employees have learned about and taken part in programs to preserve our natural heritage, and pledged over \$8.5 million to the cause.*