



PRESS RELEASE
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Contact: June Blotnick
Executive Director, Clean Air Carolina
704-877-6405 or june@cleanaircarolina.org

Airkeeper Award Winners Honored

Charlotte, NC – Individuals and companies working to improve air quality were recognized last month at a special **Airkeeper Awards** reception at UNC Charlotte Center City. Clean Air Carolina’s annual tradition of recognizing individuals and organizations for their leadership in air quality protection highlighted the contributions of a diverse group including a retired physician in Greenville, NC responsible for a city-wide no-idle campaign, a Charlotte community organizer working on climate justice issues, and three companies taking action to reduce toxic diesel emissions at two health care construction sites in Mecklenburg County.

In addition, NC Attorney General Roy Cooper received an Airkeeper Award at the NC BREATHE Conference on April 8 for his leadership in overseeing the implementation of North Carolina’s Clean Smokestacks legislation and his successful petitioning of the federal government to require Tennessee Valley Authority to clean up its coal plants polluting Western North Carolina.

Representatives from the medical community, environmental organizations, government and universities gathered to honor the work of Dr. James Kenny of Greenville, NC, Nakisa Glover of Charlotte, Novant Health, Rodgers Leeper and Vannoy Construction.

Joe Fiorenza, Director of Construction Operations for Novant Health remarked, “Novant Health Construction Operations fully supports and contributes to Clean Air Carolina in its efforts to use cleaner construction practices that can reduce construction vehicle diesel emissions that will benefit our patients, staff, construction workers, and the environment”.

The clean air initiative coordinated by Novant Health was the first time a hospital in North Carolina has taken proactive steps to protect the health of individuals impacted by construction operations by prioritizing the use of less-polluting equipment and posting no-idle signage.

The awards were presented by Clean Air Carolina's Executive Director June Blotnick with special remarks by June Lambla of Lambla Artworks and curator of the Keeping Watch on Air exhibit at the UNC Charlotte's Projective Eye Gallery in uptown Charlotte. "We are delighted to honor these individuals whose professional leadership and personal commitment to the cause of clean air is resulting in healthier communities across our state," said Blotnick.

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Clean Air Carolina is a nonprofit organization based in Charlotte, NC with a satellite office in Chapel Hill. Our mission is to ensure cleaner air quality for all North Carolinians through education and advocacy and by working with our partners to reduce sources of pollution.