

City of Lakewood

SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS

2019

BRUCE PEOPLES ECO-EMPLOYEE AWARD

**Eco-Encourager, Animal Advocate,
Waste Wizard**

Mary Ann Valeska



City of Lakewood Business Specialist Mary Ann Valeska is a living example of how global issues can be addressed at all scales, even at the office. Mary Ann channels her passion for animals and our planet into tangible workplace activities like educating co-workers on the impacts of our food system, volunteering at zero waste events, and organizing recycling challenges. In the course of just a few months, Mary Ann co-led a cross-departmental plastic bag recycling challenge that diverted 387 pounds of plastic from the landfill and led to other departments continuing to recycle their plastic bags. She regularly volunteers to help make employee events zero waste and encourages her co-workers to recycle and compost in their office kitchens.

Mary Ann also educates co-workers on the environmental impacts and animal cruelty issues related to animal farming operations. In 2018, she invited a representative from a local animal sanctuary to speak to employees and is the office expert on vegan living. Her positivity and energy has led to significant waste reduction and behavioral changes that make the City of Lakewood a greener organization.

Achievement Areas

- Zero Waste
- Natural Systems



Lakewood.org/green

