



## Friend of the Environment Award 2016 Individual Winner: Eric Williams

Eric has a wide range of environmental interests, including clean energy and active transportation. Eric is also a strong advocate for measures to reverse the effects of climate change.

Eric has a strong focus on community and dedicates his time to tasks or organizations that help to build and empower individuals within our community. He has participated and led a number of environmentally-focused organizations, including:

- Served as the past chair of Earth Day Omaha
- Current President and founder of Omaha Biofuels Coop
- Current President of Nebraskans for Solar
- Board member for Dundee Community Garden
- Board member for Mode Shift Omaha
- Board member for the Green Omaha Coalition.

Professionally, he has also shown his commitment to the environment. He works for the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District and previously worked at Repower Nebraska and the reEnergize Program through the City of Omaha Office of Sustainable Development.

Eric works for positive change in the environment not only professionally and through his volunteer service, but in every day demonstration projects:

- He drives an all-electric vehicle, which gets electricity from the solar panels on the roof of his home. Previously, he drove both a VW Jetta and Golf which were powered by biodiesel made from recycled cooking oil, to show that there are better and cleaner fuels than gasoline and petroleum diesel.
- In addition to his home, he has installed solar panels on the tool shed at the Dundee Community Garden, and on a clubhouse project from Goodwill YouthBuild. He regularly hosts tours at his home to demonstrate the technology to others.
- Eric works with individuals to help them reduce their energy footprint, including providing calculations to people looking to upgrade their lighting to LEDs or install solar power on their home or business.

Through his current work with the NRD and as a founder and board member of Mode Shift Omaha, he has helped to increase the trails and transportation options in our community.



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