

# **Ski Vermont Announces Third Annual Winners of the Green Mountain Awards**

## ***Stowe Mountain Resort Named Greenest Overall Resort in Vermont***

**Montpelier, VT (May 19, 2015)** - The Vermont Ski Areas Association is excited to announce the winners of the third annual Green Mountain Awards for Environmental Excellence at Vermont Ski Resorts. Judged by Alan Hebert of Efficiency Vermont, Melinda Vieux, President of 'Green Up Vermont,' and VSAA President Parker Riehle, resorts competed to win awards in environmental stewardship. Categories looked closely at improvements made to waste reduction, water consumption, carbon footprint, Green Up Day participation and combined environmental efforts.

"Sustainability is a key aspect of the Vermont brand," said judge Alan Hebert of Efficiency Vermont. "These resorts have shown they are fully committed to the snow sports industry, the guests they serve and the beautiful mountains they call home."

The winner of the 2015 Green Mountain Awards for Overall Environmental Excellence is Stowe Mountain Resort. Late in 2014 Stowe retained its designation as a "Certified Audubon Sustainable Community" through the Audubon International Sustainable Communities Program. Spruce Peak at Stowe Mountain Resort was designated as a Certified Audubon Sustainable Community in 2010 and is one of 4 communities in the world and the only ski resort to receive the honor.

"Stowe Mountain Resort has shown a strong commitment to its environmental program. They are to be commended for preserving the natural heritage of the area by protecting the local watershed and providing a sanctuary for wildlife in the community," said Joanna Nadeau, Associate Director of Environmental Programs at Audubon International.

Food composting, 'Leave No Trace' classes for guests and installing an electric vehicle charging station are just very recent examples of why Stowe is widely considered a leader in sustainability. Stowe Mountain Resort's accomplishments have also been recognized by the Governor of Vermont's Environmental Award for Energy Efficiency Efforts, as well as the Silver Eagle Award from the National Ski Areas Association.

Audubon International members maintain certification status in the Sustainable Communities Program by demonstrating continuous progress towards goals in the plan under fifteen specific focus areas. Communities go through a recertification process every two years. For more information on about sustainable community efforts, visit [www.auduboninternational.org/sustainable-communities-program](http://www.auduboninternational.org/sustainable-communities-program).

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