

# THE TYLER PRIZE IS AWARDED TO RECOGNIZE THE SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS AND LEADERSHIP OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEM SOLVERS, AND TO INSPIRE OTHERS TO FOLLOW IN THEIR FOOTSTEPS.

In the 1960s and early 70s, the world was slow to react to the growing levels of pollution and ecological imbalance faced by humanity. The environmental debate was still in its infancy and still contested by many, and the concept of sustainable practice had not yet been developed. In the spring of 1972 leading nations of the world were only just beginning their search for answers when the United Nations organized the first Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm. Critically concerned for the state of their beloved natural environment, dedicated conservationists, philanthropists and animal-lovers, John and Alice Tyler were compelled to make a difference.

They found there was promising research underway by university scientists and administrators – but this critically important work was not yet being recognized. They wanted the world to see the progress that was being made, and to inspire others to do the same – so they endeavoured to shine a spotlight on the achievements of the world’s top environmental scientists with an international award.

They assembled academics from the nation’s leading universities: California Institute of Technology, Harvard, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, Baylor University, the University of Southern California and others, and delegated them to select the most deserving honorees.

In 1973, President Ronald Reagan, then Governor of California, helped inaugurate the John and Alice Tyler Prize. The Prize was an accomplishment that reflected the Tyler’s incredible foresight and dedication. During its 46-year history, this spark of inspiration has recognized passionate environmental science dedication across a spectrum of environmental research fields, including environmental policy, environmental health, air and water pollution, ecosystem disruption, loss of biodiversity, population, energy and food resources.

The Tyler Prize remains the premiere international award for environmental science, and is often referred to as the “Nobel for the Environment.” It has been administered by the University of Southern California since 1981.



**TYLER PRIZE**  
for Environmental Achievement