

July 15, 2004

## WORKING



**Michael Ellenbecker, left, and Eileen Gunn, both from the Toxics Use Reduction Institute, presented a certificate to Vithal Deshpande, center, project leader for the Somerville Environmental Protection Office, for his efforts of introducing alternative building materials to homeowners and contractors.**

## Somerville wins green award

The Toxics Use Reduction Institute recognized the accomplishments of Somerville's Environmental Protection Office for its Lively Somerville Project at the annual State House ceremony on June 15. TURI awarded a community grant to Somerville in the 2003 to introduce practical green building principles to businesses, residents and local government officials.

"The grant is helping the city of Somerville to initiate public education on green building concepts and the health impacts of poor indoor air quality associated with toxics in building material," said Vithal Deshpande, project leader. Specific initiatives include introducing safer alternatives and communicating through brochures, a Web site and training sessions for homeowners and contractors.

The State House ceremony recognized the accomplishments of the champions of the Toxics Use Reduction Institute's five community grant projects as well as leaders and planners of toxics use reduction in five Massachusetts companies.

TURI is now seeking proposals for its 2005 Toxics Use Reduction Networking Grant Program from municipal departments and nonprofit community organizations. The application is available at [www.turi.org/community](http://www.turi.org/community), and the deadline is Aug. 26.

For more information about the Lively Somerville Project, call Deshpande at the Somerville Environmental Protection Office at 617-625-6600. For more information about the grant program, visit [www.turi.org/community](http://www.turi.org/community) or call Eileen Gunn at 978-934-4343.