2014

Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards

Co-Sponsored by

State of New Jersey
Department of Environmental Protection

New Jersey Corporation for Advanced Technology

www.nj.gov/dep/eeawards/index.html

INTRODUCTION

We are pleased to announce the application process for the 2014 Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards (GEEA). This program was established by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in 2000 to recognize outstanding environmental performance, programs and projects in the state. Since its inception, over 135 entities have been recognized including individuals, businesses, educators, institutions, communities, and youth.

All winners of the 2014 Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards will be invited to an awards ceremony and press event hosted by State officials in December.

The DEP and the New Jersey Corporation for Advanced Technology (NJCAT) co-sponsor this program.

ELIGIBILITY

Nominations will be accepted from individuals, organizations, institutions or businesses. You may nominate yourself or your employer, as well as another company, individual, institution, or organization that you believe is worthy of recognition. However, self nominations in the **Environmentalist of the Year** category will not be accepted. Applicants in this category must be nominated by someone else. In addition, all applicants/projects must:

1) Be located in New Jersey; 2) Be active within the past year, and; 3) Agree to have their project shared with others through a written description to appear in the awards program, press materials and on the GEEA website.

Third party nominations must be accompanied by a written authorization from the nominated party agreeing to consideration for the award. The DEP, other State agencies and State employees are not eligible for awards.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND JUDGING CRITERIA

All applicants must address the following five judging criteria. The answer to each criterion may not exceed one typewritten page.

1. DOCUMENTED ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFIT (30 Points)

Quantify the overall environmental benefits of this program/project or individual accomplishment over the past year or most recent 12-month period for which data exists. For example: amount of pollution prevented; resources or energy conserved; acres preserved; tonnage recycled; etc. It is to the applicant's benefit to be as specific and thorough as possible.

2. MEETING NEEDS (20 points)

Describe how this program/project or individual accomplishment contributes to the environmental needs of the state. Reference such issues as originality, effectiveness, risks that were overcome, and whether or not the project is a component of a larger comprehensive plan.

3. LEADERSHIP/INNOVATION (15 points)

Describe how this program/project or individual shows leadership and has taken steps beyond "traditional" environmental protection efforts.

4. COVERAGE AND REPLICABILITY (20 points)

Describe how this program, project or individual has impacted the business, community, school/district, region or state, long-term. Describe how easily the project can be replicated in other locations or by other people.

5. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH (15 points)

Describe what education and/or outreach activities were undertaken in association with this project for affected individuals, employees, students/faculty, stakeholders, contractors, consultants, community, etc.

SCORING/EVALUATING

Groups of reviewers comprised of professionals from the Department of Environmental Protection will evaluate the applications. Each of the judging criteria has an associated point value identified in the section above. The total number of points possible for each applicant is 100. Applications will only be scored on the answers to the five judging criteria. Please do not submit extraneous materials such as articles, letters and photos.

The Department reserves the right not to give an award in any category if no outstanding nominations are received. All decisions of the judges are final.

ABOUT THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The Department of Environmental Protection is committed to providing a high quality of life for the residents of New Jersey. It is our mission to assist the residents of New Jersey in preserving, sustaining, protecting and enhancing the environment to ensure the integration of high environmental quality, public health and economic vitality. We will accomplish our mission in partnership with the general public, business, environmental community and all levels of government. For more information about the Department, please visit **www.state.nj.us/dep**.

ABOUT THE NEW JERSEY CORPORATION FOR ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY

The New Jersey Corporation for Advanced Technology (NJCAT) is a private/public partnership that pools the best talents and diverse resources of business and industry, entrepreneurs, university research centers, utilities and government to promote the development and commercialization of exciting, new energy and environmental technologies. For more information about NJCAT, please visit **www.njcat.org**.

SUBMISSIONS AND DEADLINES

Applications must be received by DEP staff by Wednesday, September 17 at 5:00 p.m. Applications can be submitted by email or mail.

- Electronic submissions should be sent to Caroline Kirkland at Caroline.Kirkland@dep.nj.gov; OR
- One copy of the application should be mailed to:

Attn: Caroline Kirkland
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Mail Code: 401-07
401 East State Street
P.O. Box 402
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

If you have questions about the application or awards program, please contact:

- Tanya Oznowich at 609.984.9802 or send email to **Tanya.Oznowich@dep.nj.gov**
- Caroline Kirkland at 609.633.7024 or send email to **Caroline.Kirkland@dep.nj.gov**

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

- All applications become public information
- Applicants will be notified regarding award decisions in November
- The awards ceremony will take place in early December in Trenton
- Award winners will be asked to bring a poster display to the ceremony that showcases their efforts and to submit 3 slides that can be used during the ceremony

AWARD CATEGORIES (select one)

Awards are available in each of the categories listed below. You must identify the category of your nomination on the attached application form.

CLEAN AIR: Nominees in this category should demonstrate a commitment to, and experience in, one or more of the following areas and activities:

- ❑ Reducing air pollution emissions and/or reducing outdoor exposure to toxic air contaminants;
- ❑ Reducing greenhouse gas emissions or equivalents through energy efficiency projects or green power purchases; and
- ❑ Reducing air deposition loading to land and water.

WATER RESOURCES: Nominees in this category should demonstrate a positive influence in one or more of the following areas and activities:

- ❑ Improving surface or ground water quality;
- ❑ Ensuring sufficient quantities of water through reuse and conservation techniques; and
- ❑ Promoting or developing progressive land use policies and watershed management approaches to improve protection of surface and groundwater sources.

HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS: Nominees in this category should demonstrate a commitment to, and experience in, programs or techniques that have resulted in the restoration, protection and enhancement of the State's ecological resources. These include wetlands, estuaries and coastal areas, as well as non-game and/or threatened and endangered species.

INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY: Nominees in this category should demonstrate the use or deployment of a new or alternative method, procedure, process, system or facility, which results in greater environmental protection than other technologies in current practice or comparable results at lower costs in terms of energy, natural resources or environmental impacts.

LAND CONSERVATION: Nominees in this category should demonstrate a commitment to, and experience in, the preservation of open space that protects land from future development.

HEALTHY & SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES and HEALTHY & SUSTAINABLE BUSINESSES: Nominees in these two categories should demonstrate a commitment to and experience in any of the following activities:

- ❑ Any activity addressing issues such as pollution/waste reduction, recycling, land use, local purchasing, sustainability, resource conservation or product stewardship;
- ❑ Innovative practices or technologies that have resulted in the private or public sector clean up and redevelopment of contaminated/brownfields sites; and
- ❑ Creation of community-based initiatives that foster involvement, action and effective solutions to the adverse effects of industrial pollution in overburdened and low-income communities.

For municipalities that are participating in the Sustainable Jersey™ Program, please note this in your application.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION / EDUCATOR-LED and STUDENT-LED PROJECTS: Nominees in these two categories should demonstrate implementation of a program or project that has measurable positive impacts in environmental protection and education. One award will be given to an adult educator and one will be given to students/youth in grades K-12 (student involvement must be emphasized).

ENVIRONMENTALIST OF THE YEAR: Nominees in this category should demonstrate committed values toward the environment and an appreciation of it and their accomplishments should contribute to the conservation, restoration and protection of New Jersey's natural resources and environmental quality.

GOVERNOR'S ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS APPLICATION

Name of Applicant _____

Person responsible for preparing application _____

Title _____

Preparer's Mailing Address _____

Daytime Phone # _____ Evening Phone # _____

Email Address _____

Is this a third party nomination? Yes _____ No _____

Category of the nomination (select one):

____ Clean Air ____ Innovative Technology ____ Environmental Education (Adult)

____ Water Resources ____ Land Conservation ____ Environmental Education (Youth)

____ Healthy Ecosystems ____ Healthy & Sustainable Communities ____ Environmentalist of the Year

____ Healthy & Sustainable Businesses

Provide a brief biographical sketch of the applicant and project description (no more than 200 words). This description is not judged but will be used by DEP for any press releases, printed materials, etc., for this awards program.

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