

# 2020

## GOVERNOR'S ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS APPLICATION



Co-sponsored by

State of New Jersey  
Department of Environmental Protection  
New Jersey Infrastructure Bank  
New Jersey Corporation for Advanced Technology

[www.nj.gov/dep/awards](http://www.nj.gov/dep/awards)



## INTRODUCTION

We are pleased to offer the application process for the 2020 Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards during this milestone, year-long celebration of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's 50th Birthday. The awards program was established by the DEP in 2000 to recognize outstanding environmental performance, programs, and projects in the state. Since its inception, 189 entities have been recognized, including individuals, businesses, educators, institutions, communities, and youth.

All winners of the 2020 Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards will be invited to an awards ceremony and press event hosted in-person or virtually by state officials in early December. In addition, award winners will be publicly recognized statewide and nationally by the DEP as environmental leaders.

## AWARD CATEGORIES (select one)

One award will be presented in each of the categories listed below. You must identify the category of your nomination on the attached application form.

**CLIMATE CHANGE AND 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, clean energy vehicles, technologies and infrastructure, or green power purchases to reduce climate change
- Reducing air deposition loading to land and water

**WATER RESOURCES:** Nominees in this category should demonstrate a commitment to and experience in one or more of the following areas and activities:

- Improving surface or ground water quality and reducing pollution through stormwater and wastewater management strategies and technologies
- Reducing children's exposure to lead in homes/schools or addressing emerging drinking water contaminants
- Ensuring sufficient quantities of water through reuse and conservation techniques and infrastructure
- Promoting or developing land use policies, watershed management approaches and green infrastructure projects to improve protection of water sources or to reduce the impacts of flooding and sea level rise

**HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS AND HABITATS:** Nominees in this category should demonstrate a commitment to and experience in programs or techniques that have resulted in the restoration, protection, and resiliency of the state's ecological resources. These include forests, wetlands, estuaries, and coastal areas, as well as habitats for non-game and/or threatened and endangered species and areas prone to sea level rise and flooding.

**LANDOWNER OF THE YEAR:** Nominees in this category should demonstrate a commitment to and experience in the conservation of open space that protects public or private land from future development and/or demonstrates the improvement, enhancement and preservation of wildlife populations and habitat on the property.

**HEALTHY & SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES and HEALTHY & SUSTAINABLE BUSINESSES:** Nominees in these two categories should demonstrate a commitment to and experience in one or more of the following areas and activities:

- Any activity addressing issues such as pollution or waste reduction, recycling, land use, local purchasing, sustainability and resiliency, resource conservation, green infrastructure, habitat restoration, public access and product stewardship
- Innovative practices or technologies that have resulted in the private or public sector cleanup and redevelopment of contaminated/brownfields sites

- ❑ Creation of community-based initiatives that foster involvement, action and effective solutions to the adverse effects of industrial pollution and climate change on overburdened and low-income communities.

Municipalities participating in the Sustainable Jersey™ Program should note this involvement in their 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, and focuses on climate change or one of the six categories above. 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).

Schools or districts participating in the Sustainable Jersey for Schools™ Program, Eco-Schools USA or the U.S. Green Ribbon Schools program should note this involvement in their application.

## **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. In addition, all applicants/projects must:

- Be located in New Jersey; be active within the year prior to their application submission date (information about additional related experience is welcome); and
- Agree to have their project shared publicly, with a written description to appear in the awards program, in press materials and on the excellence awards website.

Third-party nominations must be accompanied by written authorization from the nominated party agreeing to consideration for the award. The DEP, other state departments and agencies, as well as state employees are ineligible for consideration and cannot submit award applications. Only one application per nominee will be accepted for consideration each year. Previous award recipients are invited to apply again, provided they choose an award category for which they have not been recognized and the activities in the nomination do not include those already recognized.

## **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. Include, when necessary, how COVID-19 requirements restricted, impacted, or enhanced your efforts.

### **1. DOCUMENTED ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFIT (30 Points)**

Quantify the overall environmental benefits of this program/project or individual accomplishment during 2018-2019 or the most recent 12-month period for which data exists. For example: amount of pollution prevented; resources or energy conserved; acres preserved; tonnage recycled; emissions reduced, etc. It is to the applicant's benefit to be thorough. Inclusion of information or data from previous years to bolster the application is also welcome.

### **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, how it reached audiences and whether the project is a component of a larger comprehensive plan.

### **3. COVERAGE AND REPLICABILITY (20 Points)**

Describe the long-term impacts of the program/project or individual accomplishment to the business, community, school or state. Describe how the project can be replicated in other locations or by other people.

#### **4. LEADERSHIP/INNOVATION (15 Points)**

Describe how this program/project or individual accomplishment shows leadership and collaboration, and demonstrates how steps beyond “traditional” environmental protection efforts have been taken.

#### **5. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH (15 Points)**

Describe what education and/or outreach activities were undertaken in association with this program/project or individual accomplishment to reach or educate affected individuals, employees, students/faculty, stakeholders, contractors, consultants, community members, etc.

### **SCORING/EVALUATING**

Groups of reviewers, comprised of professionals from the DEP, will evaluate the applications. Each of the judging criteria has an associated point value identified in the previous section. The total number of points possible for each application is 100. Applications will only be scored on the answers to the five judging criteria. A maximum of three additional pages of supporting materials — such as articles, letters, diagrams, maps and photos — will be accepted. The application, cover form and supporting materials cannot exceed nine pages.

The DEP reserves the right not to give an award in any category if the total number of points of any nominee does not meet the DEP’s threshold for excellence. All decisions of the judges are final.

### **SPONSORS**

#### **ABOUT THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

As a national leader in environmental protection, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection uses the best science available to protect public health, support its diverse natural resources and create vibrant and sustainable communities that provide economic opportunity for all. For more information, visit [www.nj.gov/dep](http://www.nj.gov/dep).

#### **ABOUT THE NEW JERSEY INFRASTRUCTURE BANK**

The New Jersey Infrastructure Bank is an independent state-financing authority that partners with peer agencies to provide low-interest-rate financing for infrastructure projects in New Jersey. The I-Bank, in partnership with the DEP, jointly administers the New Jersey Water Bank to make low-interest-rate loans to governmental and public water systems for wastewater, stormwater and drinking water infrastructure projects that preserve and protect water quality and public health and support sustainable economic development in the process. The I-Bank also partners with the NJ Department of Transportation to make low-interest-rate loans to government entities for local transportation infrastructure projects. For more information, visit [www.njib.gov](http://www.njib.gov).

#### **ABOUT THE NEW JERSEY CORPORATION FOR ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY**

The New Jersey Corporation for Advanced Technology 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, visit [www.njcat.org](http://www.njcat.org).

## **SUBMISSIONS AND DEADLINES**

Applications must be received by **Friday, October 23 at 5 p.m.** Applications and any questions about the program should be emailed to Marc Rogoff at **Marc.Rogoff@dep.nj.gov**.

### **ADDITIONAL NOTES:**

- All applications become public information.
- Applicants will be notified about award decisions in late November or early December.
- The awards ceremony will take place in early December and will be conducted virtually or held at a location in the Trenton area.

# GOVERNOR'S ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS APPLICATION

Award Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Nomination Submitted By \_\_\_\_\_

Preparer's Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Is this a third-party nomination? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ (If yes, attach written authorization from nominee)

Category of the nomination (select one):

Climate Change & Clean Air

Water Resources

Healthy Ecosystems & Habitats

Landowner of the Year

Healthy & Sustainable Communities

Healthy & Sustainable Businesses

Environmental Education (Educator-Led)

Environmental Education (Student-Led)

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

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