

## SUSTAINABILITY AWARD PROGRAM EXAMPLES

June 27, 2013

### STATE/REGIONAL PROGRAMS

#### [California Sustainability Alliance Sustainability Showcase Awards](#)

- Award recipients demonstrated exemplary leadership in holistically advancing sustainability goals in their operations and communities. Local governments, water agencies, multi-family housing and commercial buildings are examples of the types of organizations that have been recognized for their leadership.
- Awardees are recognized on their website – for each awardee there is an overview page and highlights in the areas of policies, programs, technologies, features, and in some cases – videos.
- Example awardees –
  - City of Riverdale is one example of an awardee. The [video](#) is a great public relations piece a range of sustainability related programs is highlights and elected officials, program managers, residents and businesses are interviewed.
  - Other jurisdictions and water agencies/districts, such as the [City of Chula Vista](#), have been recognized specifically for their climate change, energy, and greenhouse gas emission reduction programs.
- In 2009 only, they recognized a small, medium and large local government.

#### [Atlanta Regional Commission CREATE Community Awards](#)

- Awards local government members for implementing projects, programs and services that work collectively to achieve regional goals.
  - Any city or county in the 10-county Atlanta region is eligible to apply. Applications must be submitted by a city or county. However, joint applications demonstrating collaborative partnerships with chambers of commerce, school systems, neighborhood organizations, community improvement districts, nonprofits and other community organizations are strongly encouraged.
- The awards recognize local government leadership, excellence and innovation in each of these five categories: Community Involvement and Collaboration, Regional Prosperity and Economic Development, Environmental Sustainability, Application & Innovation in Technology, and Educational Excellence
- Environmental Sustainability Award: recognizes outstanding contributions to reduce community's environmental footprint in any of the following areas: energy, water, green purchasing, facility or site design/green buildings, electronic stewardship, fleet and transportation and waste prevention/recycling.
- The online application asks 100-150 words each on the following: brief description of the program, primary objectives of the program, innovation, specific achievement, and partners or community involvement. Up to 5 supporting documents can be submitted such as fact sheets, photos, videos, and promotional material.

- Applications are judged on the following criteria: Innovation, transferability, community commitment, and measured objectives.

## **NATIONAL PROGRAMS**

### [ICLEI Sustainability Leadership Awards](#)

- ICLEI hosts the Local Action Summit Sustainability Leadership Awards ceremony to honor the efforts of 9 cities/towns/counties and 2 individuals for their creativity, leadership and results.
- There are 3 categories of awards: Energy Efficiency Implementation Innovation Awards, Planning Innovation to Institutionalize Sustainability Awards, and Community Outreach Innovation Awards. For each award there are 3 categories or awardees –small, medium and large community categories.
- The energy efficiency recognizes some of the most compelling examples of these programs that are fighting climate change and achieving energy independence. The long-term sustainability award recognizes some of the best examples of local governments institutionalizing sustainability into their planning decisions. The community outreach award recognizes those that are finding more effective and creative ways to engage constituents in decision-making and on-the-ground initiatives.

### [National Association of Environmental Professionals \(NAEP\) National Environmental Excellence Awards](#)

- Award Categories: Best Available Environmental Technology, Conservation Program(s), Education Excellence, Environmental Management, Environmental Stewardship, NEPA Excellence, Planning Integration, Public Involvement/Partnership
- Eligibility Criteria: (1) Represents a national or major achievement involving national organizations, Federal, State, local agencies or companies; (2) National or International contribution to the environment with verifiable evidence; (3) Achieves innovation in compliance methodology and/or integration of decision making with environmental regulatory processes; (4) Nomination material should be submitted in hard copy and in complete sets or packages; materials may also be submitted in electronic/digital format but only as background/support.
  - It is not necessary for you or your organization to be a member of NAEP to apply for awards.
- In the [submission form](#), applicants must respond in 100-200 words each to questions related to creativity, evidence of achievement, beneficiaries, and public/private collaboration. Supporting documentation also needs to be submitted such as an abstract describing the program/project/achievement, information on process or methodology, relevance to criteria, stakeholder references, reports/agreements/publications, and letters of support.

## **INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS**

### [European Green Capital Award](#)

- The European Green Capital Award is an annual event to encourage cities to improve quality of life by systematically taking the environment into account in urban planning and management.
  - Cities from the following countries with over 100,000 inhabitants are eligible to apply: EU Member States, Candidate Countries (Turkey, FYROM, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia and Iceland) and European Economic Area countries (Norway and Liechtenstein).
- Twelve environmental indicator areas - Climate change: mitigation and adaptation; Local transport; Green urban areas incorporating sustainable land use; Nature and biodiversity; Ambient air quality; Quality of the acoustic environment; Waste production and management; Water management; Waste water treatment; Eco innovation and sustainable employment; Energy performance; and Integrated environmental management.
- Application - Cities are asked to provide the following information for 12 indicator areas: (1) Describe the present situation; (2) Describe the measures implemented over the last five to ten years; (3) Describe the short and long term objectives for the future and proposed approach to achieve these; and (4) List how the above information can be documented, add links where possible.
- Evaluation Process - The Expert Panel submits their final report to the Jury, who shortlist a number of cities invited to present their vision, action plan and communication strategy. Finally, the winning city is selected on the basis of this hearing and announced at an award ceremony.

### [Banksia Foundation Local Government Sustainability Awards](#)

- 2013 marks the 25<sup>th</sup> year of the Banksia Sustainability Awards in Australia. The Banksia Awards comprise 12 Category Awards, and 5 Technical Awards to choose from in 2013.
  - Local governments are eligible to apply for many of the award categories as well as individuals, not-for-profit organizations, community groups, businesses and corporations. New in 2013 are two award categories specifically for local governments including local government sustainability and sustainable procurement.
  - The 12 category awards include land and biodiversity, water, education, built environment, large businesses leading in sustainability, small to medium businesses leading in sustainability, agriculture and food, collaboration of business and not-for-profits, innovation, local government sustainability, and local government sustainable procurement award. The technical awards include climate adaptation, energy efficiency and carbon management, soil remediation and improvement, transportation, and waste minimization.
- The Local Government Sustainability Award recognizes leadership by fully integrating sustainability principles and practices into operational activities at all levels and reducing the organization's footprint.
  - Criteria for the award include (1) WHY? Background, driving forces and implementation; (2) WHAT? Achievements and results; (3) INFLUENCE? Scale and broader impact; (4)

WHAT'S NEW? Innovative practices, technologies or standards developed or utilized; and (5) WHO WITH? Partnerships formed and stakeholders engaged.

#### [New South Wales Government Local Government Sustainability Award](#)

- The Local Government Sustainability Award is one of several categories of awards that New South Wales offers under its Green Globes Awards Program. This award honors a NSW local council that has successfully developed and integrated environmental management and sustainable practices into strategy, planning, operations and service delivery.
  - Other categories include: Energy Efficiency, Water Efficiency, Waste and Recycling, Business Sustainability, Small Business Sustainability, Public Sector Sustainability, Built Environment Sustainability, Community Sustainability, Sustainability Champion, Climate Change Leadership, Environmental Innovation, Regional Sustainability, and more.
  - Eligible types of organizations are identified for each category. The Local Government Award category is open only to local councils. Public agencies are also eligible to apply for some of the other award categories.
- A judging panel of experts review and score nominations against judging criteria. Judges may select more than one award per category.
  - Each entry is judged on four equally weighted criteria: leadership, market transformation, outcomes and benefits, and engagement. UP to 500 words can be submitted per section. A media package of achievements is also expected to be submitted.
  - Nominations are submitted via an online nominations system. The [Nomination Guide](#) provides additional details.
  - An independent judging panel of experts will review and score nominations against the judging criteria to determine award winners. The judges may elect to present more than one award per category to represent the diversity of achievements in the award category.