



2012

Governor's Environmental Stewardship Awards

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation
Office of Sustainable Practices
Attn: Kathy Glapa
8th Floor, L&C Tower
401 Church Street
Nashville, TN 37243
Ges.awards@tn.gov or Kathy.Glapa@tn.gov



Categories



Building Green

Recognizes significant innovation in siting, structure design and use, deconstruction and construction techniques, supply chain and materials sourcing, operational efficiency (water use, energy efficiency), longevity, flexibility of use, Special consideration will be given to use of in-fill, brownfields, and repurposing of existing structures protecting occupant health and productivity, and reduction in overall carbon footprint. Special consideration will be given to use of in-fill, brownfields, and repurposing of existing structures.

Clean Air

Recognizes significant improvements to the air quality of Tennessee by demonstrating measureable progress in reducing hazardous air pollutants, volatile organic compounds, acid rain precursors and greenhouse gases, outdoor exposure to toxic air contaminants, and air deposition loading to land and water. (Cap and trade activities will not be considered.) Nominations may include programs and projects that incorporate input change, product reformulation, production process redesign, implementing conservation techniques, and reuse of materials.

Energy and Renewable Resources

Recognizes programs and projects that further the widespread use and adoption of alternative fuels; conservation strategies; innovative devices, techniques and strategies; and creation of domestic fuel sources. Nominations may include programs and projects that increase the energy efficiency of buildings or equipment, the use of environmentally-benign energy production technologies, developing advanced energy technologies, and using renewable energy resources and the use of innovative technologies that will reduce dependence upon traditional fossil-fuel-based energy sources. Special consideration will be given to nominations that demonstrate a comprehensive approach and highlight the relationship between the environmental benefits and the associated social and economic benefits.

Environmental Education and Outreach

Recognizes outstanding education and/or outreach programs that promote environmental stewardship, increase citizen awareness and results in enhanced environmental protection. Nominations may include demonstration projects, awareness campaigns, programs that allow citizens and communities to address environmental issues such as non-point source pollution, classroom curricula and demonstration projects.

Environmental Education and Outreach - Schools

Recognizes outstanding education and/or outreach programs that promote environmental stewardship, increase citizen awareness and results in enhanced environmental protection. Nominations may include demonstration projects, awareness campaigns, programs that allow citizens and communities to address environmental issues such as non-point source pollution, classroom curricula and demonstration projects. (Higher Education and K-12)

Land Use

Recognizes projects that incorporate innovative and effective methods or practices to preserve or improve land use in Tennessee. Nominations may include the revitalization of underutilized or contaminated land, the preservation of green space, the reduction of sprawl, brownfield's redevelopment, creative reuse and/or preserving farmland. Special consideration will be given to nominations that demonstrate significant progress in furthering the protection or development of Tennessee's greenways; involvement of neighboring communities; and collaboration with regional or statewide initiatives.

Materials Management

Recognizes exemplary achievements in conserving and protecting natural resources and reducing costs through waste prevention, reducing toxicity, reuse, recycling, composting, environmentally-preferable purchasing, supply chain dynamics, as well as product design and stewardship. Nominations may include programs and projects addressing input change, product reformulation, and production process redesign, conservation techniques, material reuse and beneficial land application. Special consideration will be given to nominations that demonstrate a comprehensive approach and highlight the relationship between the environmental benefits and the associated social and economic benefits.

Natural Heritage

Recognizes achievements in protecting, preserving, restoring or enhancing Tennessee's natural landscape and native flora and fauna. Nominations may include programs and projects that address Tennessee's natural, geologic or ecological resources including open space, viewsheds, wetlands, estuaries, biological diversity, and endangered species. Special consideration will be given for integrated efforts relating to adjacent land use and nominations that focus on particularly significant river corridors, scenic trails, and other areas of cultural value.

Sustainable Performance

Recognizes entities that have implemented holistic approaches to achieve sustainability and integrate environmental values and conservation of natural resources into comprehensive, long-term decision making and management of businesses and facilities. Nominations must demonstrate achievement in multiple operational areas such as facility lifecycle, supply chain management, community engagement, employee involvement, and product or service design and delivery.

Roberts Sparks Walker Lifetime Achievement

Recognizes an individual who has devoted at least 25 years of effective and valuable service to Tennessee's environmental protection or conservation stewardship; posthumous awards not made. Notable personal achievements in areas such as natural resource management, conservation, education, public service, and political support toward Tennessee's conservation and/or environmental protection.



Robert Sparks Walker

Criteria

Results (25 Points)

Describe how the program or project makes a significant contribution to improving the environment, economy and community (project or program has lasting and sustainable impact; magnitude of impact is described, quantifiable, significant, and cost benefits). Nominees may reference attachments or supporting documentation.

Innovation and Leadership (20 Points)

How does this program/project or individual show leadership and take steps beyond “traditional” environmental protection efforts? Does the project contribute new information or methods in protecting or enhancing the environment? Projects contribute creative methods to improve and protect the environment. Has it ever been executed successfully before? Is this the first time a project like this is being used in Tennessee? Describe how the project incorporated practices that achieve an environmental benefit beyond what could be achieved using standard techniques.

Addressing Environmental Issues (15 Points)

How does this program/project or individual accomplishment contribute to the environmental needs of the state of Tennessee? How does the scope of the project compare to the size and resources of the sponsoring organization(s)? Nominees may address this issue by describing such issues as originality, effectiveness in improving existing methods of meeting this need and the risks that were overcome. Why the project was initiated, the goals of the project, how the project was accomplished, how the project was funded, and/or whether the project addresses an environmental issue that is particularly sensitive in the region where it is implemented. Projects are ambitious relative to the size and resources of the nominee.

Transferability (10 Points)

How does this program, project, or individual have a long-term impact on their business, community, region or the state? How replicable is the project to other areas i.e., across media areas, into other locations, industries or states? Describe how the project demonstrates transferability to others. Indicate whether the program/project lends itself to replication by other organizations or individuals. Indicate whether any project activities or results are currently being shared with others.

Education and Outreach (10 Points)

What education and/or outreach activities were undertaken for affected individuals (employees, stakeholders, contractors, consultants etc.)? Does the project promote public awareness regarding environmental issues? Nominees may address this by describing any educational, training, or outreach components to the project including brochures, videos, manuals, classes, seminars, or mentoring programs. Projects promote public awareness, student education, or employee/volunteer training. Does it include employee training or technology transfer? Does it encourage other environmental efforts?

Exceptional Commitment (10 Points)

Does the project solicit an exceptional commitment from those involved in the effort? Nominees may address this issue by describing any sustained efforts that were instrumental in achieving the project’s goals; formal agreements reached with key stakeholders such as land developers, local governments or communities; or any change in management practices and/or written policies that may have occurred as a result of the project. Projects demonstrate a sustained commitment to environmental stewardship. Is the project self-sustaining or ongoing? Does it go significantly beyond legal requirements? Does it address other social needs, such as environmental equity? Does it solve a serious environmental problem or result in a significant positive impact on the environment? Does your project take place in a critical region? Does it address high-priority environmental need? Does it address worker or community safety concerns? Describe funding sources for the project, including any creative financing techniques or examples of how additional funds were leveraged. Does it tackle a difficult task?

Environmental Justice (5 Points)

Demonstrates commitment to mitigation of unfair distribution of environmental risks and resources to low-income communities and/or communities of color; uses environmental education to foster culturally and economically diverse community participation to address local environmental concerns; encourages engagement of culturally and economically diverse community in collaborative and/or cooperative environmental initiatives; and advocates for sustainable development of historically disenfranchised communities.

Cooperation (5 Points)

Does the project involve a collaborative effort among various entities? Does this project involve a cooperative effort between multiple entities or organizations (city/state government, industries, civic groups, schools, citizens, associations)? Were partnerships created or strengthened by the project?