

Excellence in Recycling or Sustainability Public Education Award Application

This award is open to public, private and non-governmental organizations that exemplify **excellence in recycling or sustainability public education programs**. Applicants should submit program materials, methodologies, and data that quantify the objectives and successes of the program.

Application Fee: \$150

How to Enter:

- Notify NWRA by email (Lyndsi Hicks, lhicks@wasterecycling.org) as soon as possible that you intend to apply. Include the name of the award in your email. NWRA will prepare and send an invoice to you. The invoice **MUST** be paid by the awards application deadline of July 31 for your application to be considered.
- Use the online [Awards Application](#) to submit your complete application by or before **July 31, 2026**.

Questions? Please contact Sara Bixby, sbixby@wasterecycling.org

Application Guidelines:

Your application should provide the information NWRA's Recycling Committee and judges need to understand how the program meets the standard of Excellence in recycling or sustainability public education programs.

Please submit the following information via NWRA's online Awards Application. The complete document should not exceed 20 pages, including all photos, figures, and attachments.

1) Applicant Information:

- The campaign or program name.
- Contact information (name, email, phone number) for the person responsible for the award application. This is who NWRA will contact as needed to answer questions, ensure application completion, and for payment of the application fee.
- Identify whether the nomination is being submitted by 1) an NWRA member or 2) a public sector/non-governmental organization not eligible for NWRA membership.
- A list of people (with names, titles, companies) pivotal to the successful development and deployment of the public education program or campaign.
- A logo for each of the identified companies or organizations.

2) Qualifying Criteria:

NWRA's Recycling Committee and awards judges will evaluate award applications based on how the Recycling or Sustainability Public Education Program or campaign has improved performance of the program or system it supports.

- **Program background and goals – 40 points:** Include a narrative that provides details about why the program was conceived, its goals, its approach, and how it was deployed.
- **Program effectiveness and metrics – 45 points:** Discuss where the education program is currently being used, who it is serving, costs, and measurable results. Data can be presented in the narrative or through charts and graphs. A picture is worth a thousand words. Please include color photographs, drawings, or schematics that illustrate your innovation and accomplishment.
- **Additional information and recognition – 10 points:** Include additional information including letters of recommendation, copies of brochures and print ads, links to social media or videos, etc. Discuss any awards, honors, or recognition already received.
- **Application quality – 5 points**

Submission Format Options

All applications must be completed using the Jotform application. Applicants will be asked to select one of the following two methods to provide their responses to the **Qualifying Criteria**:

- **Upload a complete submission** as a single PDF that includes all required responses to the *Qualifying Criteria* section, along with any photos, figures, or attachments. The entire file must not exceed 20 pages.
- **Complete the application through the form** by filling in the provided fields and uploading supporting materials where prompted. A compiled PDF will be generated upon submission and must also not exceed 20 pages in total length.

Please note submissions that exceed the page limit may be disqualified.

Also, remember the application fee must be paid by the July 31 application deadline for the nomination to be considered.

Excellence in Recycling or Sustainability Public Education Award – JotForm Questions Overview

Section 1: Primary Applicant Information

- Campaign or Program Name
- Organization or Company Name
- Full Name
- Title
- Email Address
- Phone Number

Section 2: Applicant Type

Confirm nomination is submitted by an NWRA member or public sector/non-profit entity

Section 3: Contributors Contact Information

- List of individuals (name, title, company) pivotal to development and deployment of the public education program.
- Logo for each of the identified companies or organizations.

Section 4: Submission for Qualifying Criteria

Select how you would like to complete your application:

- **Option A:** Upload a complete submission as a single PDF that includes all responses to the Qualifying Criteria, plus all attachments. (Must not exceed 20 pages total)
 - You will be directed to the final Confirmation and Submission section
- **Option B:** Complete this form to provide your responses and upload supporting materials as prompted. (Must not exceed 20 pages total)

The following sections (5–7) are only required for applicants who choose Option B.

Section 5: Program Background and Goals

Upload or enter a narrative about why the program was created, its goals, how it was designed and implemented, and any unique features that supported its success. (PDF, DOC or enter text)

Section 6: Program Effectiveness and Metrics

- Where is the program used?
- Who does it serve?
- What are the costs and measurable results?
- Upload documents or visuals like charts, graphs, visuals (e.g., photos or schematics) that support your impact (PDF, JPG, PNG or DOC) — multiple files allowed

Section 7: Additional Information and Recognition

- Upload letters of recommendation (PDF, DOC) — multiple files allowed

- Upload brochures or print ads (PDF, PNG, JPG) — multiple files allowed
- Provide links to social media posts, videos, or websites
- Describe any awards, honors, or recognition received

Section 8: Confirmation and Submission

- Confirm that all information is accurate and complete
- Signature

Notification and Awards Schedule:

NWRA intends to notify winners in October and to publicize them during the 4th quarter of the calendar year.

NWRA will celebrate all Recycling Awards winners in person during the NWRA Industry Conference being held January 18-20, 2027, in Nashville, Tennessee.

Awards:

Winners will receive a single trophy and will be provided with an opportunity to purchase additional trophies if more than one is desired.