

## Game Changing Partnerships in Sustainability Award Application

This is NWRA's premiere award in Sustainability. It celebrates a program, service or policy that delivers at a level so high it changes the standard for service delivery, the way people think about material recovery or environmental protection, or how sustainability is communicated – literally, a Game Changer for that community or audience. The award equally celebrates the unique Partnership on which the program, service, or policy relies.

Applications are open to partnerships including municipal and county governments, regulatory agencies, community organizations and the private industry working to deliver game-changing sustainability in their community.

Sustainable programs deliver in the areas of environmental protection, economic viability, and accessibility. Examples of improved sustainability may include, but are not limited to, increased recycling participation, targeted recycling or reuse campaigns, innovative organics collection and management efforts, carbon emissions reductions, repurposing closed landfills, or the preservation of biodiversity.

Applicants must demonstrate how the partnership and collaboration among one or more entities, or the general public, resulted in a game-changing sustainability outcome or breakthrough. The application must identify meaningful and quantifiable objectives and document progress toward those objectives.

**Application Fee \$300**

### How to Enter:

- Notify NWRA via email (Lyndsi Hicks, [lhicks@wasterecycling.org](mailto: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](mailto:sbixby@wasterecycling.org)

### Nomination Guidelines:

Applications will be considered by NWRA's Awards judges based upon the qualifying criteria and examples of innovations, contributions and excellence accomplished by the partnership.

#### 1) Applicant Information:

- The public name of the Partnership and Project.

- Contact information (name, email, phone number) for the person preparing the award application. This is who NWRA will contact as needed to answer questions, ensure application completion, and pay the application fee.
- At least one member of the Partnership must be an NWRA member. Identify that company or organization.
- Please provide contact information (partner name, contact name, contact email) for each of the partners involved in the program.
- If the Partnership has a single identifying logo, please include it with the application, along with the corporate logo for each Partner.

## 2) **Qualifying Criteria:**

- **Program background and goals – 40 points:** Include a narrative explaining what the Partnership was formed to do (sustainability objective). How was the Partnership conceived and organized? Describe the role(s)/contributions of each Partner and the goals and approach of the Partnership overall. What were the original planned metrics of success and timeline for deployment? Have they been accomplished and if so, will the Partnership continue to work together in the future? What are its new goals and objectives?
- **Program effectiveness and metrics – 45 points:** Explain the Partnership's major accomplishments, the beneficiaries of those accomplishments, and how they have contributed to an innovative and game-changing sustainability breakthrough. Why is this important? Include 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**  
The application fee must be paid by the July 31<sup>st</sup> deadline to be considered.

## **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.

## **Sustainability Partnership Award – JotForm Questions Overview**

### **Section 1: Primary Applicant Information**

- Partnership and Project Name
- Organization or Company Name
- Full Name
- Title
- Email Address
- Phone Number

### **Section 2: NWRA Membership Confirmation**

- Is at least one of the partners an NWRA member? (Yes/No)
- Name of NWRA Member Organization (if applicable)
- Describe the NWRA member's role in the partnership

### **Section 3: Partner Contact Information**

- Name, title, and organization of each partner involved (multiple entries allowed)
- A 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**

- How was the partnership conceived and organized?
- Describe the roles of each partner.
- What are the overall goals and approach of the partnership?

- What were the planned metrics of success and the timeline for deployment?
- How will the partnership work together in the future?
- What are the new goals and objectives?

#### **Section 6: Program Effectiveness and Metrics**

- Describe the major accomplishments of the partnership
- Who were the beneficiaries, and how did they benefit?
- Describe the innovative and game-changing elements.
- Why is this work important?
- Include measurable results and costs
- Upload charts or graphs (PDF, JPG, PNG — multiple files allowed)
- Upload photographs, drawings, or schematics (JPG, PNG — 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.