

## Recycling Equipment Innovator Award Application

This award is open to recycling equipment designers and manufacturers that have successfully challenged and advanced recycling operations through equipment innovation. Applicants must be NWRA members to be eligible. The award celebrates innovation in design and manufacturing that increases the effectiveness or efficiency of recycling equipment and operations. Applicants should provide data that validates improved outcomes as a result of their innovation.

**Nomination Fee:** \$150

### 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 application deadline of July 31<sup>st</sup> for your application to be considered.
- Use the online [Awards Application](#) to submit your complete application by or before July 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Questions?** Please contact Sara Bixby, [sbixby@wasterecycling.org](mailto:sbixby@wasterecycling.org)

### Application Guidelines

Your application for Recycling Equipment Innovator should provide the information necessary for NWRA's Recycling Committee and awards judges to understand how and why the nominated equipment is innovative and deserving of this recognition.

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 name or short description of the innovation. This is the name/description we will use in press releases and in developing artwork for the trophy.
- Contact information (name, email, phone number) for the person preparing the award application and responsible for answering questions, ensuring completion, and invoice payment.
- Confirm the nomination is being submitted by an NWRA member.
- A list of people (with titles and companies) that were pivotal to the successful development and deployment of the equipment.

- A logo for each of the identified companies. All logos should be submitted as an EPS, .ai, or high-resolution PDF.

## 2) **Qualifying Criteria:**

NWRA's Recycling Committee and awards judges will evaluate award applications based on how the Recycling Equipment Innovator of the Year has improved and advanced recycling.

- **Background and goals – 40 points:** Provide a narrative about the Recycling Equipment Innovator's history and background. Include details about the material(s) intended to be handled, the process or approach being replaced or upgraded, and how the innovation is a key step forward in doing so. Describe any major barriers to success that were resolved.
- **Program effectiveness and metrics – 45 points:** Identify where the Innovation is currently being utilized and how long it has been in use. Provide and explain measurable results (e.g., changes in costs, throughput, recovery, etc.). 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 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.

## Recycling Equipment Innovator of the Year Award – JotForm Questions Overview

### Section 1: Primary Applicant Information

- Innovation Name or Short Description of the Innovation
- Organization or Company Name
- Full Name
- Title
- Email Address
- Phone Number

### Section 2: Applicant Type

- Confirm nomination is submitted by an NWRA member (Yes/No)

### Section 3: Key Contributors Information

- List of individuals (name, title, company) pivotal to development and deployment of the equipment.
- 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

- Upload or enter a narrative describing the equipment's history, its intended purpose (including materials handled or processes replaced/improved), and why this innovation represents a meaningful step forward. Include any barriers that were overcome. (PDF, DOC, or enter text)

### Section 6: Program Effectiveness and Metrics

- Where is this innovation currently in use?
- What are the measurable results (e.g., changes in cost, throughput, recovery)?
- Upload supporting documents or visuals such as charts, graphs, photos, or schematics that demonstrate the equipment's impact (PDF, 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 the equipment or team has 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.