



EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABILITY AWARD PROGRAM

Examples of Innovative & Sustainable Projects

This list is by no means all-inclusive; it is solely intended to be illustrative and not exclusive of the types of projects and programs that would be eligible for an Excellence in Sustainability Award. NEHA hopes this lists motivates you to find innovative ways to improve and sustain our county's environment and natural resources.

- Projects where creativity and innovation are used to promote collaboration among all levels of government, businesses and non-profit entities to improve the quality of life
- Efforts focusing on improving the environment in under-served communities, specifically minority and low-income communities, and addressing disproportionate adverse environmental impacts that may exist in those communities
- An organization facilitating stewardship resulting in actions that mutually benefit an environmentally impacted area and the parties involved
- Activities that reduce or eliminate the generation of pollutants at the source.
Note: Facilities subject to state or federal Hazardous Waste Reduction Planning requirements must demonstrate that reductions achieved were not a result of the law. Such facilities must identify hazardous waste generation and evaluate technically feasible and economically practical alternatives for reducing hazardous waste generation.
- Erosion and sediment control, flood mitigation and stormwater management practices
- Significant diversion of waste materials from the solid waste stream (that result in their reuse), without harmful effects to the environment
- A natural resource conservation project that demonstrates sustainable use of fish and wildlife resources
- Activities that help to achieve a “fishable and swimmable” designation for bodies of water
- Programs that use advanced control techniques or reduce air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions or ozone depleting substances from mobile or stationary sources
- Land conservation projects that protect water quality, natural resources (e.g., forest land, water supplies, wildlife habitat, air resources, high-quality recreational lands) or protects or enhances scenic, historic or cultural resources
- Programs that reduce the environmental and social impacts associated with the transportation of people, products and resources. Model programs that strive to:
 - Promote alternative commute programs such as ride sharing, telecommuting and use of public transportation
 - Encourage the expansion of public transportation resources
 - Use optimal facility design and location to enhance proximity to markets, employees' residences and public transportation routes
 - Use communication technologies, telecommuting and teleconferencing
 - Use fleet vehicles which run on alternative fuels

- Projects that promote greenbelts, preserve open space or protect and restore natural habitats. Model programs that strive to; 1) restore long-term health and balance to local ecosystems, 2) Preserve and/or restore natural habitats, and 3) demonstrate creative solutions to the natural-urban interface.
 - Programs that conserve natural resources and promote health and well-being for the occupants of buildings and other built environments. Model programs that strive to:
 - Incorporate green building design elements (energy efficiency, recycled and least toxic materials use, etc.)
 - Use design features such as indoor and outdoor plants, natural lighting and pleasant aesthetics, which have shown to improve health and performance
 - Utilize materials and techniques that reflect sound environmental practices
 - Go beyond compliance with Environmental Health and Safety standards
 - Reduce sprawl and creating livable cities.
 - Wind, solar and biomass projects that promote the sustainable use of domestic energy resources
 - A project promoting environmental stewardship or sustainability, that results in a significant environmental benefit or will positively contribute to a trained workforce advancing innovation and sustainability
-