

U.S. EPA 2009 NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS IN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AWARDS PROGRAM



DO YOU KNOW A GREAT ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP?

EPA will recognize multi-stakeholder partnerships that undertake environmental justice (EJ) initiatives to make a positive impact in a community. Environmental justice means that all people are entitled to a clean and healthy environment where they live, work, and play.

The goals of the Environmental Justice Awards Program include promoting positive behavior on environmental justice issues by all stakeholder groups, documenting EJ models of success for others to emulate, encouraging achievement of environmental results in communities having EJ issues, and fostering collaborative problem-solving by all stakeholder organizations to address significant EJ concerns.

EPA IS LOOKING FOR APPLICATIONS RECOGNIZING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ACHIEVEMENTS BY MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS MADE UP OF THREE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF ORGANIZATIONS:

- Academic Institutions
- Business and Industry Organizations
- Community-Based Organizations (*must be included*)
- Non-Governmental and Environmental Organizations
- State and Local Government Organizations
- Tribal Government and Indigenous Organizations

APPLICANTS WILL BE EVALUATED BASED ON THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- Partnerships and Collaboration
- Innovation
- Community, Equity, and Public Involvement
- Integration
- Leveraged Resources/Capacity Building/Sustainability
- Demonstrated Results/Effectiveness



**APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY MAY 13, 2009
(SEE NEXT TWO PAGES FOR DETAILS)**

EPA NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT IN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AWARDS PROGRAM

EPA's Office of Environmental Justice sponsors the Environmental Justice (EJ) Achievement Awards Program. The Awards Program was recommended by the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council, a senior-level federal advisory committee that provides advice to EPA on environmental justice issues. Collaborative Problem Solving, in the context of environmental justice, involves proactive, strategic, and visionary community-based processes that bring together multiple parties from various stakeholder groups to develop solutions for local public health and/or environmental issues. Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships bring together diverse organizations with multiple perspectives and interests to address these issues. Such partnerships refer to arrangements in which stakeholders work together to achieve common goals. The EJ Achievement Awards program focus will foster improvements in affected communities disproportionately burdened by environmental harms and risks, such as low income and/or minority communities. In 2009, EPA Environmental Justice Achievement Awards will recognize outstanding Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships that have implemented effective collaborative approaches addressing environmental justice issues in affected communities which have resulted in positive impacts to the community. Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships must consist of at least three (3) Principal Members from the following stakeholder categories: Academic Institutions; Business and Industry Organizations; Community-Based Organizations; Non-Governmental and Environmental Organizations; State and Local Government Organizations; and Tribal Government and Indigenous Organizations. **At least one of the Principal Members of a Multi-Stakeholder Partnership must be a Community-Based Organization.**

How to Enter the Awards Competition

Applications may be submitted by any member of the Multi-Stakeholder Partnership, or any other member of the public on behalf of a partnership. There is no entry fee or standard entry form, but applications must meet certain requirements. Applications must be on 8.5 x 11-inch paper when printed, with 1 inch margins, maximum five pages, single-spaced, and font size 11 point or higher.

Principal Members of a Multi-Stakeholder Partnership with Federal or State environmental permits (if applicable) must provide, on a separate sheet of paper, a list of all regulatory permit numbers (e.g., National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System), and a statement that the organization is "in compliance with all permits" or provide justification. EPA will not award to organizations with permits in non-compliance. EPA will only recognize Partnerships based in the United States. Each Partnership applying for an award must have reached a significant EJ milestone or accomplishment within the past 5 years (2004-2008). Applications must be post-marked or E-mailed by **no later than May 13, 2009**. Stakeholder organizations must have made real significant contributions to be deemed a Principal Member. Each application submitted should briefly explain why each Principal Member deserves this designation. For Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships involving State, Local and/or Tribal governments, EPA's evaluation will also include an assessment of the government agency's efforts to integrate EJ considerations into applicable government agency programs, policies, and activities. 2008 EJ Achievement Award winners may be included as part of a 2009 Multi-Stakeholder Partnership application only if the EJ achievement is significantly different from what was previously recognized. Within three pages maximum, all six award selection criteria below must be addressed in applying for an award. In addition to the application, EPA must receive the following, which does not count toward the 5-page application limit:

1. Three letters of endorsement for the Multi-Stakeholder Partnership application. These three letters of endorsement should reflect three different stakeholder

categories, e.g., a community organization, a government agency, and an industry organization.

2. Three high-quality, color photos illustrating Partnership activities; a caption describing activities in each photo; and the identification of Partnership members included in each photo.
3. A list of complete names, titles, organizations, and addresses of all elected or appointed officials for each Principal Member who should receive a notification of an EPA EJ Achievement Award (e.g., Mayor, Board Chair, Commissioner, Governor, U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative, University President). Do not include media contacts.

Applications must include the following:

On the cover page, as a subject or title line, name the Multi-Stakeholder Partnership, if established, or short description on how the team is to be identified.

- Provide a list of each Principal Member in the Partnership.
- Provide a short description on one significant milestone, with date(s), that the Partnership has reached within the past five years.
- A complete name (with title as appropriate), address, telephone number, and email address (if available) for a contact person, who is responsible for communicating with EPA, and date of application.

On the second page, provide an executive summary on the Partnership's environmental justice accomplishments.

The remaining three pages should explain in detail how the Partnership has addressed environmental justice issues in accordance with the six award selection criteria.

All entries received will be considered public information. No material will be returned. Program sponsors are not responsible for lost or damaged entries. EPA, through its contractor, MDB, Inc., will acknowledge receipt of applications, usually by e-mail. If you have not received an acknowledgement by the end of May 2009, please contact Tim Fields at tfields@michaeldbaker.com.

Submit an electronic copy of the application with the Partnership's name in the file name. It may be to your advantage to submit your application as a PDF file to minimize possible reading errors, but EPA will accept files in MS Word or Rich Text Format (RTF). The electronic copy may be e-mailed to Tim Fields at tfields@michaeldbaker.com or sent on a floppy disk or CD, clearly labeled with the file name. Hard copy may be submitted, also. The application **must be post-marked by May 13, 2009** to:

EPA 2009 Achievement in Environmental Justice Award
Application
c/o Tim Fields
MDB, Inc.
1101 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Suite 550
Washington, DC 20036

Note: Irradiation of federal mail may damage electronic media.

Judging Applications

Award recipients are chosen through a multi-step judging process. EPA staff will conduct an initial technical screening of all applications. Selected applications are then reviewed by an external Environmental Justice Stakeholder Panel, which will review the award candidates and will make recommendations to EPA on the best candidates. The Panel will consist of the following:

- 2 representatives of community-based organizations
- 2 representatives of community-based organizations
- 2 representatives of business and industry organizations
- 1 representative of an academic institution
- 1 representative of a non-governmental organization
- 1 representative of a state government organization
- 1 representative of a non-governmental organization
- 1 representative of a local government organization
- 1 representative of an indigenous organization

EPA Headquarters will conduct appropriate EPA Regional, enforcement, grants, and other internal reviews of award finalists prior to making final award decisions. The EPA Assistant Administrator for Enforcement and Compliance Assurance will make the final award decisions.

Selection Criteria

Award Selection Criteria--Explain in detail how the Multi-Stakeholder Partnership addressed EJ issues in accordance with each of the criteria below.

1. Partnerships and Collaboration (25 Points): What collaboration occurred to create and implement this Partnership? Explain how the Partnership has made a difference in preventing air, water, and land pollution, and furthering the goals of environmental justice.

- 2. Innovation (10 Points):** What innovative approaches were used to further the Partnership's efforts in addressing environmental justice concerns in the affected communities? Why was the accomplishment unique? What demonstrable successes in the prevention of air, water, and land pollution (e.g., pollution reduction) have occurred due to the innovative approaches?
- 3. Community, Equity, and Public Involvement (20 Points):** What steps were taken by the Partnership to equitably and successfully involve the community and the public in working to prevent air, water, and land pollution? Has the Partnership made a lasting and positive difference in the community in preventing air, water, and land pollution?
- 4. Integration (15 Points):** What efforts have been made to institutionalize environmental justice in the Multi-Stakeholder Partnership's processes and procedures for preventing air, water, and land pollution? For example, does the Partnership or any of its Principal Members have any of the following: an environmental justice policy, workgroup, or task force; an environmental justice training program; or an environmental justice guidance or manual that captures relevant experiences, successes and lessons learned?
- 5. Leveraged Resources/Capacity Building/Sustainability (10 Points):** Describe the Partnership's major accomplishments in leveraging resources or building capacity to carry out its environmental justice goals? What strategies have proven successful in leveraging resources or building capacity to address environmental justice concerns? What procedures and policies have been put in place to ensure the long-term viability or sustainability of the Partnership?
- 6. Demonstrated Results/Effectiveness (20 Points):** Has the Partnership's activities resulted in the prevention of air, water, and land pollution, and the furtherance of environmental justice goals? How are such pollution prevention results measured? How can this Partnership be replicated elsewhere? What steps have ensured that pollution prevention was equitably distributed or that low-income and minority communities, which were previously burdened, benefited from the pollution prevention efforts of the Partnership?

Notification of Winners

The 2009 EJ Achievement Awards will be presented at an EPA Awards Ceremony in the Fall of 2009. Awards are honorary and do not include monetary recognition. The winners will be notified by EPA prior to the official public awards program announcement.

Additional Information

Questions about eligibility, application procedures, or the Achievement in Environmental Justice Awards program should be directed to Lisa Hammond at (202) 564-0736 or hammond.lisa@epa.gov.