

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



ARE YOU, OR DO YOU KNOW, AN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CHAMPION?

EPA will recognize organizations 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, but are not limited to, the following: promote positive behavior on environmental justice issues by all stakeholder groups, document EJ models of success for others to emulate, encourage achievement of environmental results in communities having EJ issues, and encourage collaborative problem solving by all stakeholder organizations to address significant EJ concerns.

EPA IS LOOKING FOR NOMINATIONS RECOGNIZING THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ACHIEVEMENTS OF ANY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF ORGANIZATIONS:

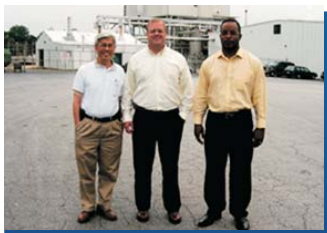
- Academic Institutions
- Community-Based Organizations
- Non-Governmental and Environmental Organizations
- State and Local Government Organizations
- Tribal Government and Indigenous Organizations

NOMINEES WILL BE EVALUATED BASED ON THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- Innovation
- Community Responsibility
- Community, Equity, and Public Involvement
- Partnerships and Collaboration
- Environmental Justice Integration
- Demonstrated Results
Effectiveness/Sustainability

**NOMINATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED
BY FEBRUARY 11, 2008***
(SEE BACK PAGE FOR DETAILS)

* Please note that the deadline for nominations has been extended and is now February 11, 2008.



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The awards will recognize organizations for their achievement in addressing environmental justice issues or achieving the goals of environmental justice in a manner that results in positive impacts to a community. National awards for achievements in environmental justice will be given to organizations in 6 categories: academic institutions, business and industry, community based organizations, non-governmental and environmental organizations, State and local government organizations, and Tribal government and indigenous organizations. (Note: EPA initiated a business and industry EJ Achievements Award Program in 2007. The nominations received are under review. No additional business and industry award nominations will be accepted at this time. The business and industry award winner will be announced at the same time as the other category award winners.)

How to Enter the Award Competition

The award competition is open to all organizations in the above 6 categories (except business and industry) within the United States. The nominated entity must have reached a significant milestone or accomplishment within the **past five years (2002-2007)**. Entries must be post-marked by **February 11, 2008**. The awards will be presented in June 2008. Nominated entities should address the six selection criteria listed in this announcement. At least one award will be made to an organization in each of the 6 categories.

Self-nominations are allowed and expected. There is no entry fee and no standard entry form, but nominations must meet certain requirements. Nominations must be single-spaced and no longer than five pages, with type no smaller than 12-point. When printed on 8-1/2-by-11-inch paper, they must have margins of at least 1 inch.

Nominations must include the following:

1. A cover page with the name of the organization, as well as the date of the nomination. In addition, the complete name (with title as appropriate), address, telephone number, and e-mail address (if available) should be provided for a contact person, who is responsible for communicating with EPA.
 - Organization name.
 - Short description of the most recent milestone(s), with date(s), that the nominated organization has reached within the past five years. Only one milestone is required.
2. The second page should contain the following information:
 - Organization name.
 - Short description of the most recent environmental justice milestone(s), with date(s), that the nominated organization has reached within the past five years. Only one milestone is required; however, more than one may be provided.
3. The third page should consist of a one-page executive summary of the organization's environmental justice accomplishments.
4. The remaining two pages should explain in detail specifically how the organization addressed environmental justice issues in accordance with the six award selection criteria.

NOTE: It is strongly suggested that all nominations include references from the impacted community or letters of support from other stakeholders. (The latter items are not part of the page count.)

There is no limit on the number of nominations that EPA will accept from any organization; however, each nomination must be submitted separately.

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, Tetra Tech EM Inc., will acknowledge receipt of nominations, usually by e-mail. If you have not received an acknowledgment by the end of February 2008, please contact Tim Fields at tim.fields@ttemi.com.

Submit an electronic copy of the nomination with the organization's name in the file name. It may be to your advantage to submit your nomination 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 tim.fields@ttemi.com or sent on a floppy disk or CD, clearly labeled with the organization and file name(s). Hard copy nominations may be submitted, also. The nomination must be post-marked by February 11, 2008, to:

Achievement in Environmental Justice Award Nomination
c/o Tim Fields
Tetra Tech EM Inc.
1881 Campus Commons Drive
Reston, VA 20191

Note: Irradiation of federal mail may damage electronic media.

Judging Entries

Prior to the review process, Tetra Tech will screen each nomination to ensure that it will meet the award selection criteria listed below. Tetra Tech will rank the nominees and then forward the top (4) finalists in each of the award categories to the appropriate EPA Regions and an EJ stakeholder panel of 10 individuals, who will include representatives from: community and indigenous groups (3); industry and trade organizations (2); state, local, and tribal government (3); academia (1); and non-government organizations (1). This panel will recommend the top two candidates in each category to EPA, who will, in turn, make the final selection in each category based upon the same criteria:

Selection Criteria:

1. **Innovation (10 points):** What innovative approaches were used to prevent community air, water, or land pollution in the organization's efforts to further environmental justice? Why was the accomplishment unique? What demonstrable successes in the prevention of air, water, or land pollution (e.g., pollution reduction) have occurred due to the innovative process?
2. **Community Responsibility (20 points):** What proactive measures, such as pollution prevention or community revitalization, have demonstrated organizational responsibility by going above and beyond the norm to prevent air, water, or land pollution and ensure the protection of public health and the environment?
3. **Community, Equity, and Public Involvement (20 points):** What steps were taken to equitably and successfully involve the community and the public in working to prevent air, water, or land pollution? What steps ensured that the pollution prevention was equitably distributed or that low-income and minority communities, which were previously disproportionately burdened, benefited from the pollution prevention efforts? Did the project make a lasting and positive difference in the community in preventing air, water, or land pollution?
4. **Partnerships and Collaboration (15 points):** What partnerships were formed to develop and implement the project? Did these partnerships make a difference in preventing air, water, or land pollution and furthering the goals of environmental justice? If so, how?
5. **Integration (15 points):** What efforts have been made to institutionalize or integrate environmental justice into the organization's or other stakeholders' processes and procedures for preventing air, water, and land pollution? While not an exhaustive list, has any effort been made to accomplish any one of the following: establish an environmental justice policy, workgroup, or task force; provide environmental justice training; or publish an environmental justice guidance or manual that details relevant experiences, successes, and lessons?
6. **Demonstrated Results/Effectiveness/Sustainability (20 points):** What has been the result of these efforts? Has the project resulted in the prevention of air, water, or land pollution and the furtherance of environmental justice goals? How are such pollution prevention results measured? Can this project be replicated elsewhere? What provisions will ensure the long-term viability of this project or sustainable development?

Notification of Winners

The winners will be notified prior to the official public announcement, which will be made in June 2008.

Additional Information

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