

*Applications and Nominations are now being accepted for...*

**The 2007 - 2008  
Vermont Governor's Awards  
for Environmental Excellence  
& Pollution Prevention**



Those honored have chosen to see the world of possibilities and achieved excellence in pursuit of a preferred future. We can learn from their experiences and share in the joy of their achievement.

## Introduction

The Vermont Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence in Pollution Prevention were established in 1993 to honor Vermont individuals, organizations, institutions, public agencies, businesses, and industry using innovative approaches that reduce or eliminate the generation of pollutants and wastes at the source. Award categories have been expanded over the years to recognize the efforts of Teachers and Students as well as to encompass the broader meaning of what it means to preserve and protect the environment.

Award recipients will be recognized by the Governor at an awards ceremony in the Spring of 2009. The deadline for receipt of applications and nominations is Friday, October 31, 2008.

## Eligibility

Applications and Nominations for Governor's Awards are encouraged from:

- o Business, Industry, and Trade or Professional Organizations
- o Environmental, Community, and Non-Profit Organizations
- o Individual Citizens
- o Public Agencies and Institutions (such as schools, hospitals, and municipalities)
- o Teachers and Students

Applicants and Nominees with a formal enforcement action within three years of the application, a current enforcement referral, or substantial non-compliance issues at the time of submittal or when award recipients are selected will be ineligible for an award.

## Award Categories

Vermonters may submit application or nomination for a Governor's Award for Pollution Prevention & Environmental Excellence in the award category most consistent with the nature of the project:

- Environmental Excellence in Pollution Prevention - Projects that reduce or eliminate the generation of pollutants and wastes at the source. The award category also includes toxics use reduction (TUR) efforts.
- Environmental Excellence in Environmental Stewardship & Resource Protection - Projects with measurable and direct benefits to air, land or water - or fish, wildlife and human communities dependent upon a clean and healthy environment.
- Environmental Excellence in Land Use & Land Use Planning - Projects that preserve or conserve land to create ecological and environmental benefits or that advance smart growth alternatives.
- Environmental Excellence in Resource Conservation - Projects that conserve resources and protect the environment by minimizing resource consumption or by applying the strategies of reuse or recycling.
- Environmental Excellence in Education & Outreach - Projects that inform and educate others about environmentally responsible practices or that empower citizens to enhance the quality of the environment for local, regional or global communities.
- Contribution to a More Sustainable Future - Projects that achieve greater environmental/economic justice and/or efficiency by helping Vermonters to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- Special Youth Environmental Citizenship Award - Projects accomplished by a young person or young people (21 years or younger) that achieve significant positive environmental outcomes.

## Selection Criteria

Entries will be evaluated by a panel of judges selected by the Agency of Natural Resources' Environmental Assistance Division. The panel will include representatives from industry, environmental organizations, academia, and government. Judges will evaluate projects, programs and activities using the following criteria:

- Benefits to the environment:** Describe how the project, program or activity serves to advance environmental protection by preventing pollution at its source. Please be specific about what aspect of the environment is being protected, preserved or conserved. Estimated weights, volumes or percentages of waste or emissions prevented or reduced should be provided, to the greatest extent possible. Use measures of waste generated or emissions normalized to unit of production or dollars of revenue where possible. Describe any reduction in the use of toxic substances resulting from an input substitution, a process change, product reformulation or procedural change.
- Health & Safety Benefits:** Where appropriate, describe how has the project, program or technology reduced occupational exposures and/or improved workplace and community safety?
- Use of innovative approaches, techniques, and/or technologies:** Describe features that make the project, program or activity outstanding and how it represents or advances a unique or different approach, technique and/or technology to manufacture something, to provide a service, or to work with others to solve environmental problems.
- Level of commitment and leadership:** Describe how the project reflects the leadership and commitment an applicant or nominee brings to the project, program or activity. Commitment and leadership is often evidenced by duration of the project, program or activity; by outreach to others; and, for businesses, systemic investments in strategic environmental management into their operations (i.e. implementation of an environmental management system, pollution prevention and resource efficiency considerations, effective community involvement, environmental accounting, life cycle assessments or performance measures).
- Ability of program or activity to serve as a model for other efforts:** Describe how the project, program or activity might be replicable by others, how other individuals, organizations or companies could implement a similar project or program, and what efforts have been made to share key findings/innovations with others.
- Economic efficiency:** Describe the economic savings realized and projected as a result of implementing the pollution prevention project, program or activity. Include dollar savings as well as savings related to reduced insurance liability, creation of new markets or increased market share, reduced regulatory responsibility (due to a change in regulatory status), and/or increases in productivity.

For Teacher and Student applications and nominations, the following criteria are used: [Note: Applicants and nominees are encouraged to strengthen project summaries by using the other selection criteria (previously listed) to the extent that they allow the applicant/nominator to convey the essentials of the project, program or activity.]

- Advancement of Educational Excellence:** Describe features that make the project, program or activity outstanding. Indicate the audience reached; how the project, program or activity provided useful information or changed the way people treated the environment; and how it increased awareness of environmental issues (and the role of prevention as the strategy of first choice).

- **Impact:** Describe how the project, program or activity influenced the environment or other's understanding of it. Explain how it achieved energy savings, resource conservation, emission or waste reductions, etc. by providing charts, graphs, photographs, special event attendance records, participant survey results or other indicators that would assist judges in efforts to determine effectiveness.
- **Environmental Results:** Describe how the project, program or activity served to protect or restore environmental conditions by preventing pollution at its source.
- **Transferability:** Describe how the project, program or activity might be replicable by others, how other students, teachers or parent groups could implement a similar project or program, and what efforts have been made to share key findings/innovations with others.

## Application/Nomination Process

Any Vermonter or Vermont-based organization, property or facility may apply for a Governor's Award. Multiple applications (more than one project from the same applicant) are permitted. Each application will be considered separately. Joint applications for collaborative efforts are encouraged.

Nominations by second parties are also encouraged. In such cases, completion of the application could be either the responsibility of the nominating party or the nominee. The nominee, however, must be notified and consent to the nomination.

Applications and nominations should, wherever possible, be submitted digitally to avoid paper waste. The Application and Nomination Form is available for either downloading or reprinting by clicking on the hyperlink provided. More specific information about the application and nomination process is provided there.

To go to the Application page, please click here: <http://www.eaovt.org/gap/gaapply.htm>

Applications and nominations for the Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence & Pollution Prevention should be submitted by Friday, October 31, 2008 to:

Governor's Environmental Awards  
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources  
Department of Environmental Conservation  
Office of Environmental Assistance  
103 South Main Street  
Waterbury, VT 05671-4911  
Attn: Doug Kievit-Kylar

phone: (802) 241-3628  
FAX: (802) 241-3273  
[doug.kievit-kylar@state.vt.us](mailto:doug.kievit-kylar@state.vt.us)

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