



American Planning Association Sustainable Communities Division
4th Annual Awards for Excellence in Sustainability
Information Packet

**The American Planning Association
Sustainable Communities Division
proudly announces the**

**FOURTH ANNUAL AWARDS
FOR EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABILITY**

*Honoring projects, plans, policies, individuals, and
organizations whose work is dedicated to supporting
and growing sustainable communities*



1 WHO + WHAT + WHY

Sustainability and Sustainable Planning mean different things to different people. As our work in this area continues to grow and deepen, we encounter a wide range of organizations, individuals, and efforts with varying focuses in the sustainability field. At its core, sustainability is defined by its three pillars: People (Social Equity), Planet (Environment), and Profit (Economics). However, the conversations surrounding sustainability continue to become more complex due to an increased focus on issues such as global climate change and social equity as well as changes in political culture in the United States and throughout the world. The APA Sustainable Communities Division (APA-SCD) continues to promote, lead, and celebrate all efforts related to Sustainability Planning during this challenging time, and is happy to announce the Fourth Annual Awards for Excellence in Sustainability.

The Awards for Excellence in Sustainability honor those projects, policies, plans, and people who show exemplary leadership and inspiration in sustainability planning and implementation. The 2017 award categories include:

- Sustainability or Resiliency Plan or Project
- Sustainable Policy, Law, or Tool
- Sustainable Urban Design Plan or Development Project
- Sustainable Building Project
- Sustainable Park, Recreation, or Open Space Project
- Sustainable Transportation Project
- Sustainable Green Infrastructure Project
- Leadership in Sustainability

The goal of the APA Sustainable Communities Division is to help planners engage in and collaborate on innovative approaches to sustainability. APA-SCD supports planners who are committed to integrating all aspects of sustainability into our work through the combined economic, social, and ecological factors that shape our communities.

Deadline for submission: 8:00 p.m. (EST) on Tuesday, February 28, 2017. See page 12 for instructions.



2017 AWARDS FOR
EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABILITY

2 ELIGIBILITY

What can be entered?

- Any plan, project, program, tool, process, report, or ordinance entered must have been published, implemented, or completed within three years of the date of submission. Published drafts of plans are not acceptable.
- Any plan, project, program, tool, process, report, or ordinance may only be entered in one award category per award year.
- Projects or plans may have occurred within the United States or internationally.

Nominations for the Leadership in Sustainability Award

- Open to APA members and non-members.
- An individual may not nominate himself/herself (the individual) for the Leadership in Sustainability Award, but an individual employed by the government, firm, or other organization, may nominate the entity in which they are employed.
- Nominators may not be related by blood or marriage to any individual they wish to nominate.
- Recipients (whether an individual, government, firm, or other organization) of the Leadership in Sustainability Award are ineligible to receive the same award for 10 years following its receipt.
- Members of the APA-SCD Awards Jury, APA staff, APA Board of Directors, and AICP Commission are not eligible to make nominations or to receive individual awards.

Nominations for all other awards

- Anyone working on a plan, project, program, tool, process, tool, report, or ordinance may nominate it for an award.
- Members of the APA-SCD Awards Jury, APA staff, APA Board of Directors, and AICP Commission are not eligible to make nominations or to receive individual awards.
- Any entity that employs APA members currently serving in national leadership positions is ineligible to be nominated.

3 AWARDS CRITERIA

The following pages contain a set of criteria for each award category. Please make sure to explicitly address how your project meets each criterion.



Category: Sustainability or Resiliency Plan

This award honors efforts to plan for sustainability or resiliency at a neighborhood or larger scale. We acknowledge the synergies between resiliency and sustainability, and also recognize that both disciplines encompass many different topics that require a systems approach to planning.

Examples of plans eligible for the Sustainability or Resiliency Plan Award of Excellence may include but, not be limited to: plans that explicitly define strategies for resilience or sustainability at the community/state/regional level, comprehensive plans that were guided by sustainable principles (including the Comprehensive Plan Standards for Sustaining Places), climate change mitigation or adaptation plans, economic resiliency plans.

A. Creativity + Innovation

- Document how your plan addressed the pillars of sustainability (social equity, environment, economy) and incorporated sustainable principles, with emphasis on any unique strategies, methods, or tools that were used.
- Describe any innovative and/or creative solutions that arose from the plan.

B. Compatibility

- Describe how your entry was integrated into other relevant planning efforts.
- Describe how your entry contributes to larger community/development goals.

C. Effectiveness + Results

- Describe how your entry has made or can make a difference in the lives of the people, place, and environment affected.
- Describe how the effectiveness of any sustainability-focused efforts are being measured, as well as the effectiveness your entry has and can have over time.

D. Collaboration + Engagement

- Describe which stakeholders and interests were involved, and how.
- Describe how you collaborated within your team and/or with other competing or dissenting interests to resolve issues or conflicts.

E. Transferability

- Explain how the sustainability-focused aspects of your entry and/or process are transferable to other projects.
- Describe aspects of your entry, if any, which increase public awareness for sustainability and/or sustainable planning.



Category: Sustainable Policy, Law, or Tool

This award honors a policy, law, or tool that utilizes sustainable principles in its planning and/or implementation.

Examples of projects eligible for the Sustainable Policy, Law, or Tool Award of Excellence may include (but are not limited to): zoning codes and subdivision and land development ordinances that exemplify green or sustainability principles, design guidelines, municipal/county/state laws that exemplify green or sustainable principles, unique financing strategies for sustainability-focused work, tools for calculating performance related to sustainability.

A. Creativity + Innovation

- Document how your entry addressed the pillars of sustainability (social equity, environment, economy) and incorporated sustainable principles, with emphasis on any unique strategies or methods that were used.
- Describe any innovative and/or creative solutions that arose from the project.

B. Compatibility

- Demonstrate how your entry integrates and supports the overall sustainable planning and implementation goals of the project.
- Describe how your entry has been integrated into other planning efforts.

C. Effectiveness + Results

- Describe how your entry has made or can make a difference in the lives of the people, place, and environment affected.
- Describe how the effectiveness of any sustainability-focused efforts are being measured, as well as the effectiveness your entry has and can have over time.

D. Collaboration + Engagement

- Describe which stakeholders and interests were involved, and how.
- Describe how you collaborated within your team and/or with other competing or dissenting interests to resolve issues or conflicts.

E. Transferability

- Explain how the sustainability-focused aspects of your entry and/or process are transferable to other projects.
- Describe aspects of your entry, if any, which increase public awareness for sustainability and/or sustainable planning.



Category: Sustainable Building Project

This award honors an individual building project that utilizes sustainable principles in its construction, redevelopment, revitalization, and/or operation.

Examples of projects eligible for the Sustainable Building Project Award of Excellence may include (but are not limited to): infill development, historic preservation, green building, adaptive reuse, retro-fit projects.

Sustainable building projects are limited to a single building or structure on one lot or parcel. Multiple building projects should apply for the Sustainable Urban Design Plan or Development Project Award.

A. Creativity + Innovation

- Document how your project addressed the pillars of sustainability (social equity, environment, economy) and incorporated sustainable principles, with emphasis on any unique strategies, methods, or tools that were used.
- Describe any innovative and/or creative solutions that arose from the project.

B. Compatibility

- Describe how your entry was integrated into other relevant planning efforts.
- Describe how your entry contributes to larger community/development goals.

C. Effectiveness + Results

- Describe how your entry has made or can make a difference in the lives of the people, place, and environment affected.
- Describe how the effectiveness of any sustainability-focused efforts are being measured, as well as the effectiveness your entry has and can have over time.

D. Collaboration + Engagement

- Describe which stakeholders and interests were involved, and how.
- Describe how you collaborated within your team and/or with other competing or dissenting interests to resolve issues or conflicts.

E. Transferability

- Explain how the sustainability-focused aspects of your entry and/or process are transferable to other projects.
- Describe aspects of your entry, if any, which increase public awareness for sustainability and/or sustainable planning.



Category: Sustainable Park, Recreation, or Open Space Project

This award honors a park, recreation, or open space project that utilizes green or sustainable principles in its planning and/or implementation.

Examples of projects eligible for the Sustainable Park, Recreation, or Open Space Award of Excellence may include (but are not limited to): sustainably designed parks/plazas/open spaces, trails or greenways that encourage recreational use, redevelopment of vacant or secondary places into park or recreation spaces, viewshed and landscape preservation efforts, repurposing of floodplain lands into public parklands, revitalization of active recreation spaces utilizing green principles, programs that improve access to parks/recreation/open space facilities, public health projects focused on parks/recreation/open space.

A. Creativity + Innovation

- Document how your project addressed the pillars of sustainability (social equity, environment, economy) and incorporated sustainable principles, with emphasis on any unique strategies, methods, or tools that were used.
- Describe any innovative and/or creative solutions that arose from the project.

B. Compatibility

- Describe how your entry was integrated into other relevant planning efforts.
- Describe how your entry contributes to larger community/development goals.

C. Effectiveness + Results

- Describe how your entry has made or can make a difference in the lives of the people, place, and environment affected.
- Describe how the effectiveness of any sustainability-focused efforts are being measured, as well as the effectiveness your entry has and can have over time.

D. Collaboration + Engagement

- Describe which stakeholders and interests were involved, and how.
- Describe how you collaborated within your team and/or with other competing or dissenting interests to resolve issues or conflicts.

E. Transferability

- Explain how the sustainability-focused aspects of your entry and/or process are transferable to other projects.
- Describe aspects of your entry, if any, which increase public awareness for sustainability and/or sustainable planning.



Category: Green Infrastructure Project

This award honors a green infrastructure project that utilizes sustainable principles in its planning and/or implementation.

Examples of projects eligible for the Green Infrastructure Project Award of Excellence may include (but are not limited to): stormwater management projects designed to improve water quality, green streets projects, impervious to pervious surface transition projects, innovative green roofs.

Parks, recreation, and open space projects should apply for the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Project Award of Excellence.

A. Creativity + Innovation

- Document how your project addressed the pillars of sustainability (social equity, environment, economy) and incorporated sustainable principles, with emphasis on any unique strategies, methods, or tools that were used.
- Describe any innovative and/or creative solutions that arose from the project.

B. Compatibility

- Describe how your entry was integrated into other relevant planning efforts.
- Describe how your entry contributes to larger community/development goals.

C. Effectiveness + Results

- Describe how your entry has made or can make a difference in the lives of the people, place, and environment affected.
- Describe how the effectiveness of any sustainability-focused efforts are being measured, as well as the effectiveness your entry has and can have over time.

D. Collaboration + Engagement

- Describe which stakeholders and interests were involved, and how.
- Describe how you collaborated within your team and/or with other competing or dissenting interests to resolve issues or conflicts.

E. Transferability

- Explain how the sustainability-focused aspects of your entry and/or process are transferable to other projects.
- Describe aspects of your entry, if any, which increase public awareness for sustainability and/or sustainable planning.



Category: Transportation Project

This award honors a transportation infrastructure project that utilizes sustainable principles in its planning and/or implementation.

Examples of projects eligible for the Transportation Project Award of Excellence may include (but are not limited to): sidewalk and pedestrian connectivity projects, cooperative multi-modal projects, transit facilities, road diet projects, bicycle or multi-use facility projects (not exclusively associated with parks, recreation, or open space facilities).

Parks, recreation, and open space projects, in addition to trail or greenway projects, should apply for the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Project Award of Excellence.

A. Creativity + Innovation

- Document how your project addressed the pillars of sustainability (social equity, environment, economy) and incorporated sustainable principles, with emphasis on any unique strategies, methods, or tools that were used.
- Describe any innovative and/or creative solutions that arose from the project.

B. Compatibility

- Describe how your entry was integrated into other relevant planning efforts.
- Describe how your entry contributes to larger community/development goals.

C. Effectiveness + Results

- Describe how your entry has made or can make a difference in the lives of the people, place, and environment affected.
- Describe how the effectiveness of any sustainability-focused efforts are being measured, as well as the effectiveness your entry has and can have over time.

D. Collaboration + Engagement

- Describe which stakeholders and interests were involved, and how.
- Describe how you collaborated within your team and/or with other competing or dissenting interests to resolve issues or conflicts.

E. Transferability

- Explain how the sustainability-focused aspects of your entry and/or process are transferable to other projects.
- Describe aspects of your entry, if any, which increase public awareness for sustainability and/or sustainable planning.



Category: Sustainable Urban Design Plan or Development Project

This award honors an urban design plan or development project that utilizes sustainable principles in its planning and/or implementation, and seeks to create a sense of place through sound land use and sustainable development or redevelopment.

Examples of projects eligible for the Sustainable Urban Design Plan or Development Award of Excellence may include (but are not limited to): land development plans that exemplify green or sustainability principles, brownfield redevelopment projects, historic commercial district revitalization projects, suburban re-visioning plans, transit-oriented development.

Sustainable development projects must include more than one building or structure. Individual building projects should apply for the Sustainable Building Project Award.

A. Creativity + Innovation

- Document how your plan or project addressed the pillars of sustainability (social equity, environment, economy) and incorporated sustainable principles, with emphasis on any unique strategies, methods, or tools that were used.
- Describe any innovative and/or creative solutions that arose from the project.

B. Compatibility

- Describe how your entry was integrated into other relevant planning efforts.
- Demonstrate how your sustainable development project integrates and supports the overall sustainable planning and development goals of the neighborhood, community, and environment.

C. Effectiveness + Results

- Describe how your entry has made or can make a difference in the lives of the people, place, and environment affected.
- Describe how the effectiveness of any sustainability-focused efforts are being measured, as well as the effectiveness your entry has and can have over time.

D. Collaboration + Engagement

- Describe which stakeholders and interests were involved, and how.
- Describe how you collaborated within your team and/or with other competing or dissenting interests to resolve issues or conflicts.

E. Transferability

- Explain how the sustainability-focused aspects of your entry and/or process are transferable to other projects.
- Describe aspects of your entry, if any, which increase public awareness for sustainability and/or sustainable planning.



Category: Leadership in Sustainability

The Leadership in Sustainability Award of Excellence honors individuals, governments, firms, and organizations whose vision, leadership, and commitment have been fundamental to the evolution of sustainability planning, and have helped improve awareness of sustainability.

Eligible applicants for the Leadership in Sustainability award are true innovators and by their practice and professionalism inspire others, and promote new techniques or technologies, collaboration among other disciplines, advances in practice, and progress in the art and science of sustainability planning.

A. Quality

- Demonstrate consistent quality of the individual's, government's, firm's, or organization's work and its recognition by the general public or those who practice or sponsor sustainability planning, teach planning, or develop sustainable communities.

B. Influence

- Detail the individual's, government's, firm's, or organization's positive influence on the direction and professional advancement of sustainability planning.
- Identify the number of planners on staff and if any members hold specific certifications.

C. Innovation + Inspiration

- Demonstrate innovation and originality in the planning and implementation of plans, policies, and projects that exemplify or incorporate the principles of sustainability.

D. Outreach + Engagement

- Demonstrate the individual's, government's, firm's, or organization's efforts and skills in engaging stakeholders and/or resolving community conflicts with sustainable outcomes.
- Demonstrate responsiveness to the community during the planning process and willingness to incorporate ideas and suggestions from the community.

4 SELECTION

The 2017 Excellence in Sustainability Awards Jury will consist of leaders in the field of sustainability. The following stipulations apply to the process:

- Jurors have the right to move an award nomination into a different category.
- Jurors may elect to not present an award in any category.
- Contact with members of the jury to discuss an award nomination is prohibited.
- The jury may select up to one entry in each award category to receive an Excellence Award.

The Excellence in Sustainability Awards will be presented during the 2017 National Conference of the American Planning Association in New York City. Award recipients will:

- Receive a formal award (with certificates for partners)
- Be featured in the Sustainable Communities Division's newsletter and promotional materials
- Be given the opportunity to participate in a webinar to discuss their award-winning project
- Be honored on the APA- SCD webpage throughout the following year

5 ENTRY

Please read the following carefully. These submittal requirements are necessary to be eligible for an Excellence in Sustainability Award.

- All entry nominations shall be submitted digitally.
- Entries will be accepted no later than 8:00 p.m. (EST) on Tuesday, February 28, 2017.
- Each application should not exceed 10 letter-sized (8.5x11") pages in length, exclusive of the following forms, which should be submitted with the application.
- Each application should be prepared as a single PDF not to exceed 10MB.
- **The following should be included in your application packet.**
 - » The following forms, completed.
 - » A written description of how the nomination meets or exceeds the criteria established for that specific awards category, as described on the previous pages. The written description shall not exceed 1,000 words.
 - » A minimum of three photographs or graphics should be provided in the document. Award winners may subsequently be asked to provide additional higher resolution photographs.
- **Upload your application to the Dropbox folder found at this link: <http://tinyurl.com/SCD2017>.**
 - » Your application file will only be visible to the Awards Coordinator and the Awards Jury.

Application materials will not be returned, and the applicant agrees to the use of application materials for informational and promotional purposes by the American Planning Association Sustainable Communities Division.

Questions or issues related to uploading your application should be directed via email to the SCD Awards Coordinator: Jennifer Koch, AICP, jenniferk@rhodeside-harwell.com. Other questions can be directed to info_sustain@planning.org.

BEST OF LUCK!



2017 AWARDS FOR
EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABILITY

4th Annual Awards for Excellence in Sustainability

ENTRY FORM

Applicant Information	
Name:	
Title:	
Organization:	
Street Address:	
City/Town:	
State/Province:	
ZIP/Postal Code:	
Telephone:	
Email Address:	
Website:	
Organizational Facebook:	
Organizational Twitter:	
Organizational LinkedIn:	

Awards for Excellence Category	
Mark which category you are applying for (check only one; if applying for more than one award complete a separate entry form for each award):	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sustainability or Resiliency Plan or Project
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sustainable Policy, Law, or Tool
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sustainable Urban Design Plan or Development Project
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sustainable Building Project
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sustainable Park, Recreation, or Open Space Project
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sustainable Transportation Project
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sustainable Green Infrastructure Project
<input type="checkbox"/>	Leadership in Sustainability



Media Contacts

Should your entry be selected as a 2017 Sustainability Award winner we would like to spread the word of your achievements. Please provide primary local media contacts below.

Primary Newspaper Name:	
Press Release Email:	
Primary Television Affiliate Name:	
Press Release Email:	
Other News Outlet 1 Name:	
Press Release Email:	
Other News Outlet 2 Name:	
Press Release Email:	
Other News Outlet 3 Name:	
Press Release Email:	

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

List all partners involved. This includes:

- Funding entities that made the project or plan possible (e.g., grantors, developers)
- All consultants and professionals involved in the creation of the plan or project (credited by firm/organization)
- Any community partners, neighborhood groups, or critical individuals involved in making the project or plan a success
- All government entities involved in making the plan or project a success

All partners will be contacted should your entry be selected for an award. Use as many additional sheets as necessary to list all partners.

Partner 1 Information	
Name of Partner Organization:	
Role of Partner Organization in Plan or Project:	
Contact Name:	
Title:	
Street Address:	
City/Town:	
State/Province:	
ZIP/Postal Code:	
Telephone:	
Email Address:	
Website:	
Organizational Facebook:	
Organizational Twitter:	
Organizational LinkedIn:	



Partner 2 Information	
Name of Partner Organization:	
Role of Partner Organization in Plan or Project:	
Contact Name:	
Title:	
Street Address:	
City/Town:	
State/Province:	
ZIP/Postal Code:	
Telephone:	
Email Address:	
Website:	
Organizational Facebook:	
Organizational Twitter:	
Organizational LinkedIn:	

Partner 3 Information	
Name of Partner Organization:	
Role of Partner Organization in Plan or Project:	
Contact Name:	
Title:	
Street Address:	
City/Town:	
State/Province:	
ZIP/Postal Code:	
Telephone:	
Email Address:	
Website:	
Organizational Facebook:	
Organizational Twitter:	
Organizational LinkedIn:	

Partner 4 Information	
Name of Partner Organization:	
Role of Partner Organization in Plan or Project:	
Contact Name:	
Title:	
Street Address:	
City/Town:	
State/Province:	
ZIP/Postal Code:	
Telephone:	
Email Address:	
Website:	
Organizational Facebook:	
Organizational Twitter:	
Organizational LinkedIn:	

Additional Partner Information	
Name of Partner Organization:	
Role of Partner Organization in Plan or Project:	
Contact Name:	
Title:	
Street Address:	
City/Town:	
State/Province:	
ZIP/Postal Code:	
Telephone:	
Email Address:	
Website:	
Organizational Facebook:	
Organizational Twitter:	
Organizational LinkedIn:	

Additional Partner Information Please attach additional pages if necessary	
Name of Partner Organization:	
Role of Partner Organization in Plan or Project:	
Contact Name:	
Title:	
Street Address:	
City/Town:	
State/Province:	
ZIP/Postal Code:	
Telephone:	
Email Address:	
Website:	
Organizational Facebook:	
Organizational Twitter:	
Organizational LinkedIn:	