



THE AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES DIVISION PROUDLY ANNOUNCES THE

SIXTH ANNUAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABILITY

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

November 2019

American Planning
Association Sustainable
Communities Division
6th Annual Awards for
Excellence in Sustainability
INFORMATION PACKET



1 WHO + WHAT + WHY

The American Planning Association Sustainable Communities Division supports planners and related professionals in their efforts to foster a sustainable and resilient future. These efforts encounter new and varying challenges every day, and the conversations surrounding sustainability become ever more complex due to an evolution of a range of factors, including global climate change, social equity, and political leadership. The APA Sustainable Communities Division continues to promote and celebrate all efforts related to planning for a sustainable future during this challenging time, and is happy to announce the Sixth 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 2019 award categories include:

- Community Sustainability or Resilience Plan
- State or Regional Sustainability or Resilience Plan
- Sustainable Policy, Law, or Tool
- Sustainable Park, Recreation, or Open Space Plan or Project
- Sustainable Green Infrastructure Plan or Project
- Sustainable Transportation Plan or Project
- Sustainable Urban Design Plan or Development Project
- Leadership in Sustainability

Deadline for submission: 5:00 p.m. (EST) on Friday, January 11, 2019. All nominations will be submitted using a web form. More information about the awards, including previous winners, can be found at planning.org/divisions/sustainable/awards/ or on the SCD blog, apascd.wordpress.com/awards/

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.



2019 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.
- Projects or plans need not incorporate titles that explicitly label them as a "sustainability" or "resilience" focused; they need only incorporate the principles of sustainability/resilience.

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

3 EVALUATION CRITERIA

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



Category: Community Sustainability or Resilience Plan

This award honors efforts to plan for sustainability and/or resilience at a neighborhood, small area, or citywide scale.

Examples of plans eligible for this category may include (but are not limited to): plans that explicitly define strategies for resilience or sustainability at the community level, comprehensive plans that were guided by sustainability principles (for example, the Comprehensive Plan Standards for Sustaining Places), local climate change mitigation or adaptation plans, local economic resilience plans, etc.

Criteria (maximum of 2000 characters per category, i.e., per number below)

1. Project Background

- Summary of the entry, including a description of the need for this plan and the issues it sought to address.

2. Creativity + Innovation

- Describe how your entry addressed different aspects of sustainability (e.g., environment, economy, social equity) and incorporated sustainable principles, with emphasis on any unique strategies or methods that were used. (Note: we recognize that each plan or project seeks to address different needs, and that you may address the elements of sustainability in varying amounts.)
- Describe any innovative and/or creative solutions that arose from the plan.

3. Compatibility

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

4. 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 or will be measured, as well as the effectiveness your entry has and can have over time.

5. Collaboration + Engagement

- Describe which stakeholders and interests were involved, and how.
- Describe how you worked with competing or dissenting interests to resolve issues or conflicts.

6. 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, resilience, and/or sustainable planning.



Category: State or Regional Sustainability or Resilience Plan

This award honors efforts to plan for sustainability and/or resilience at a state or regional scale.

Examples of plans eligible for this category may include (but are not limited to): plans that explicitly define strategies for resilience or sustainability at the state/regional level, including climate change mitigation or adaptation plans, economic resilience plans, etc.

Criteria (maximum of 2000 characters per category, i.e., per number below)

1. Project Background

- Summary of the entry, including a description of the need for this plan and the issues it sought to address.

2. Creativity + Innovation

- Describe how your entry addressed different aspects of sustainability (e.g., environment, economy, social equity) and incorporated sustainable principles, with emphasis on any unique strategies or methods that were used. (Note: we recognize that each plan or project seeks to address different needs, and that you may address the elements of sustainability in varying amounts.)
- Describe any innovative and/or creative solutions that arose from the plan.

3. Compatibility

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

4. 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 or will be measured, as well as the effectiveness your entry has and can have over time.

5. Collaboration + Engagement

- Describe which stakeholders and interests were involved, and how.
- Describe how you worked with competing or dissenting interests to resolve issues or conflicts.

6. 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, resilience, and/or sustainable planning.



Category: Sustainable Policy, Law, or Tool

This award honors a policy, law, or tool which encourages or assists in the use of sustainable principles in the planning, design, and/or implementation phases of various efforts.

Examples of policies, laws, or tools eligible for this category may include (but are not limited to): zoning codes, design guidelines, subdivision and land development ordinances, and laws that exemplify green or sustainability principles; unique financing strategies for sustainability-focused work; tools for calculating performance related to sustainability; etc.

Criteria (maximum of 2000 characters per category, i.e., per number below)

1. Project Background

- Summary of the entry, including the need for this policy, law, or tool, and the issues it sought to address.

2. Creativity + Innovation

- Describe how your entry addressed different aspects of sustainability (e.g., environment, economy, social equity) and incorporates or encourages use of sustainable principles, with emphasis on any unique strategies or methods used. (Note: we recognize that each plan or project seeks to address different needs, and that they may address the elements of sustainability in varying amounts.)
- Describe any innovative and/or creative solutions that arose from the project.

3. Compatibility

- Describe how your entry was integrated into other relevant efforts.
- Describe how your entry contributes to any relevant sustainability goals or efforts.

4. 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 or will be measured, as well as the effectiveness your entry has and can have over time.

5. Collaboration + Engagement

- Describe which stakeholders and interests were involved, and how.
- Describe how you worked with competing or dissenting interests to resolve issues or conflicts.

6. 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, resilience, and/or sustainable planning.



Category: Sustainable Park, Recreation, or Open Space Plan or Project

This award honors a park, recreation, or open space effort that utilizes the principles of sustainability in its planning and/or implementation.

Examples of efforts eligible for this category may include (but are not limited to): sustainably-designed parks/plazas/open spaces, redevelopment of vacant or secondary places into park or recreation spaces, viewshed and landscape preservation efforts, repurposing of floodplain lands into public parklands, plans or programs that improve access to parks/recreation/open space facilities, public health plans or projects focused on parks/recreation/open space, greenways and trails, etc.

Criteria (maximum of 2000 characters per category, i.e., per number below)

1. Project Background

- Summary of the entry, including the need for this effort and the issues it sought to address.

2. Creativity + Innovation

- Describe how your entry addressed different aspects of sustainability (e.g., environment, economy, social equity) and incorporated sustainable principles, with emphasis on any unique strategies or methods that were used. (Note: we recognize that each plan or project seeks to address different needs, and that they may address the elements of sustainability in varying amounts.)
- Describe any innovative and/or creative solutions that arose from the project.

3. Compatibility

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

4. 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 or will be measured, as well as the effectiveness your entry has and can have over time.

5. Collaboration + Engagement

- Describe which stakeholders and interests were involved, and how.
- Describe how you worked with competing or dissenting interests to resolve issues or conflicts.

6. 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, resilience, and/or sustainable planning.



Category: Sustainable Green Infrastructure Plan or Project

This award honors a green infrastructure effort that utilizes the principles of sustainability in its planning and/or implementation.

Examples of projects eligible for this category may include (but are not limited to): stormwater management plans or projects designed to improve water quality, green streets efforts, impervious-to-pervious surface transition projects, innovative green roofs, etc.

Parks, recreation, and open space projects, in addition to trail or greenway projects, should be nominated in the Parks, Recreation and Open Space category.

Criteria (maximum of 2000 characters per category, i.e., per number below)

1. Project Background

- Summary of the entry, including the need for this effort and the issues it sought to address.

2. Creativity + Innovation

- Describe how your entry addressed different aspects of sustainability (e.g., environment, economy, social equity) and incorporated sustainable principles, with emphasis on any unique strategies or methods that were used. (Note: we recognize that each plan or project seeks to address different needs, and that they may address the elements of sustainability in varying amounts.)
- Describe any innovative and/or creative solutions that arose from the project.

3. Compatibility

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

4. 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 or will be measured, as well as the effectiveness your entry has and can have over time.

5. Collaboration + Engagement

- Describe which stakeholders and interests were involved, and how.
- Describe how you worked with competing or dissenting interests to resolve issues or conflicts.

6. 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, resilience, and/or sustainable planning.



Category: Sustainable Transportation Plan or Project

This award honors a transportation infrastructure effort that utilizes the principles of sustainability in its planning and/or implementation.

Examples of projects eligible for this category may include (but are not limited to): sidewalk and pedestrian connectivity plans or projects, cooperative multi-modal projects, sustainably-designed transit facilities, road diet efforts, bicycle or multi-use facility projects (not exclusively associated with parks, recreation, or open space facilities), etc.

Parks, recreation, and open space projects, in addition to trail or greenway projects, should be nominated in the Parks, Recreation and Open Space category.

Criteria (maximum of 2000 characters per category, i.e., per number below)

1. Project Background

- Summary of the entry, including the need for this effort and the issues it sought to address.

2. Creativity + Innovation

- Describe how your entry addressed different aspects of sustainability (e.g., environment, economy, social equity) and incorporated sustainable principles, with emphasis on any unique strategies or methods that were used. (Note: we recognize that each plan or project seeks to address different needs, and that they may address the elements of sustainability in varying amounts.)
- Describe any innovative and/or creative solutions that arose from the project.

3. Compatibility

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

4. 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 or will be measured, as well as the effectiveness your entry has and can have over time.

5. Collaboration + Engagement

- Describe which stakeholders and interests were involved, and how.
- Describe how you worked with competing or dissenting interests to resolve issues or conflicts.

6. 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, resilience, and/or sustainable planning.



Category: Sustainable Urban Design Plan or Development Project

This award honors an urban design plan or development project that utilizes the principles of sustainability 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 this category 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, etc. Development projects may be planned (unbuilt) or built.

Criteria (maximum of 2000 characters per category, i.e., per number below)

1. Project Background

- Summary of the entry, including the need for this plan or project and the issues it sought to address.

2. Creativity + Innovation

- Describe how your entry addressed different aspects of sustainability (e.g., environment, economy, social equity) and incorporated sustainable principles, with emphasis on any unique strategies or methods that were used. (Note: we recognize that each plan or project seeks to address different needs, and that they may address the elements of sustainability in varying amounts.)
- Describe any innovative and/or creative solutions that arose from the project.

3. Compatibility

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

4. 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 or will be measured, as well as the effectiveness your entry has and can have over time.

5. Collaboration + Engagement

- Describe which stakeholders and interests were involved, and how.
- Describe how you worked with competing or dissenting interests to resolve issues or conflicts.

6. 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, resilience, 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.

Criteria (maximum of 2000 characters per category, i.e., per number below)

1. Background

- Please provide a biography/description of the individual/organization being nominated for the award.

2. Quality

- Detail how the individual's, government's, firm's, or organization's work demonstrates consistent quality and describe any recognition by the general public or those who practice or sponsor sustainability planning, teach planning, or develop sustainable communities.

3. Influence

- Detail the individual's, government's, firm's, or organization's positive influence on the direction and professional advancement of sustainability planning.

4. Innovation + Inspiration

- Detail the individual's, government's, firm's, or organization's originality in the planning and implementation of plans, policies, and projects that exemplify or incorporate the principles of sustainability.

5. Outreach + Engagement

- Detail the individual's, government's, firm's, or organization's efforts and skills in engaging stakeholders and/or resolving community conflicts with sustainable outcomes.



4 REVIEW AND SELECTION

The 2019 Excellence in Sustainability Awards Jury will consist of leaders in the area of sustainability. The following stipulations apply to the process:

- Only submissions which meet all requirements listed in the following section shall be reviewed.
- Jurors have the right to move an award nomination into a different category.
- Jurors may elect to not present an award in one category or multiple categories.
- Contact with members of the jury to discuss an award nomination will result in disqualification.
- The jury may select up to one entry in each category to receive an award.

The 6th Annual Awards for Excellence in Sustainability will be presented during the 2019 National Conference of the American Planning Association in San Francisco. Award recipients will:

- Receive a formal award (including 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 web page throughout the following year.

5 GENERAL SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Please read the following carefully, as the submission format and several requirements have changed from previous years. These submittal requirements are necessary to be eligible for an Excellence in Sustainability Award. There is no entry fee.

- Entries will be accepted no later than **5:00 p.m. (EST) on Friday, January 11, 2019**.
- All entry nominations shall be submitted via web form.
- Be sure to review the eligibility and criteria requirements for the specific award category for which you wish to submit a nomination.
- **The nomination form can be found at planning.org/divisions/sustainable/awards/ and on the Division's blog: apascd.wordpress.com/awards/**
- You must fill out the form all at once (i.e., you cannot save and come back). We suggest you utilize the document found on the blog (link in yellow box above) to prepare the text that you will need to provide prior to starting the form.
- If you submit the form once and would like to re-submit before the end of the nomination period, please feel free to do so. We will review only the most recently-completed form.
- **The following information is required for each submission:**
 1. Nominator information (point of contact for the submission)
 2. Nominee information (name of nominee/project, organization, address, contact information)
 3. Category of award entry
 4. Project partners (name/organization, role, contact information)
 5. Media contacts
 6. Description of how the entry satisfies the award criteria (maximum of 2000 characters per criterion category)

(Continues on the following page)



2019 AWARDS FOR
EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABILITY

5 GENERAL SUBMISSION INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

7. Letters of support (at least one, up to two) - maximum two pages each.
 - » Must be saved as a PDF file (max. 16 MB each) and included in the web form.
 - » May, but do not have to, be addressed to: Members of the 2019 SCD Awards Jury.
 - » Should offer support for the value of the nominated effort.
 - » May not be written by the nominator of the submission, by the nominated individual, or by anyone who directly worked on the project (project team, consultant team, planning department staff, or anyone that had daily interaction/oversight). APA staff may not provide a letter of support. Client letters are acceptable.
8. Digital images (jpg/jpeg format only) that are copyright-free, with captions.
 - » Please submit images in jpg/jpeg format only.
 - » Five (5) digital images are required. Images should provide context and show the nominee's positive or intended outcomes. They may be photos, graphics, etc. For the Leadership category, please include at least one (1) recent picture of the individual or representative members of the team. Please do not include photo collages.
 - » Images should supplement what exists in the written summary and criteria sections.
 - » Submit only images that are copyright-free and may be reproduced by the Sustainable Communities Division without a fee, charge, or copyright infringement.
 - » Each image must be uploaded individually.
 - » Each image is limited to a maximum of 16 MB.
 - » Each image should be at least 200 dpi with a minimum physical size of 5 inches by 7 inches.
 - » Each image must have an associated caption entered into the web form. Captions should be between 15 and 25 words each, with a maximum of 250 characters.
9. Supplemental materials (optional)
 - » Supplemental materials may add additional support to your nomination. Materials may include press clips, brochures, posters, design guidelines, fact sheets, etc. If your nomination is about a plan, be sure to include a copy of the plan. All supplemental materials must be included in your online nomination. You may either upload a document or provide a link (active through the nomination period).

Find the nomination form and more information about the awards at
planning.org/divisions/sustainable/awards/
and on the Division's blog: apascd.wordpress.com/awards/

Questions or issues related to submitting your application should be directed via email to the SCD Awards Coordinator: Jennifer Koch, AICP, jenniferk@rhodeside-harwell.com.



2019 AWARDS FOR
EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABILITY