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

The American Planning Association Sustainable Communities Division (SCD) supports planners and related professionals in their efforts to foster a sustainable and resilient future. 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 2020 Award categories (described further within this packet) are:

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

Deadline for submission: 5:00 p.m. (EST) on Saturday, January 18, 2020. 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 7th Annual Awards for Excellence in Sustainability will be presented during the 2020 National Conference of the American Planning Association in Houston. Award recipients need not be in attendance to recieve an award. 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.

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.
2 ELIGIBILITY

NOMINATION GUIDELINES

- Any nominated effort must have been adopted, implemented, or completed, as relevant, within three years of the deadline for submission of nominations. Published drafts are not acceptable.
- A nominee may only be entered in one award category per award year.
- Projects or plans may be located 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 principles of sustainability or resilience.
- Competition entries are not eligible for nomination, unless they have been fully adopted as a plan or are moving forward into implementation.

NOMINATIONS FOR ALL AWARD CATEGORIES OTHER THAN LEADERSHIP IN SUSTAINABILITY

- Open to both APA members and non-members.
- Current 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.
- Any other individuals may submit nominations.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE LEADERSHIP IN SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

- Open to both APA members and non-members.
- Individuals may not nominate themselves for the Leadership in Sustainability Award, but an individual employed by the municipality, agency, firm, or other organization, may nominate an entity with which they are involved.
- Nominators may not be related to any individual they wish to nominate.
- Recipients of the Leadership in Sustainability Award are ineligible to receive the same award for 10 years following its receipt.
- Current 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.

If you are unsure about eligibility, please contact SCD Awards Coordinator: Jennifer Koch, AICP, jenniferk@rhiplaces.com.
The 2020 Excellence in Sustainability Awards Jury will consist of leaders and experts in the area of sustainability. The following stipulations apply to the jury review process:

- Each nomination which meets all submission requirements will be reviewed by at least three jurors.
- The jury may select up to one entry in each category to receive an award.
- Jurors have the right to move an award nomination into a category other than the one under which it was submitted.
- Jurors may elect to not present an award in any particular category, or several categories, regardless of the number of submissions in that category.
- Contact with members of the jury to discuss an award nomination will result in disqualification.
- The Awards Coordinator will notify the nominator of the status of their award submission by the end of February 2020.

Please make sure to explicitly and directly address how your project meets each criterion. Jurors will award each criterion response a score between 0-5, using the guidelines below, for a total score out of 25 or 40 points, depending on the category.

- Includes no information addressing this set of criteria = 0 points
- Addressed some criteria but demonstrated few accomplishments = 1 point
- Addressed most criteria and demonstrated some accomplishments = 2 points
- Clearly addressed all criteria and demonstrated average accomplishments = 3 points
- Clearly addressed all criteria and demonstrated above average accomplishments = 4 points
- Clearly addressed all criteria and demonstrated exceptional accomplishments = 5 points
**CATEGORY: COMMUNITY PLAN**

This award honors efforts to plan for sustainability and/or resilience at a neighborhood or small-area 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 small area level, neighborhood-scale climate change adaptation plans, plans focused on improving neighborhood health, etc.

Responses are limited to 1500 characters for each response to a criterion (i.e., 2A, 2B, etc., each have a 1500 character limit, including spaces).

**Criteria**

1. **Project Background (scored out of 5 points)**
   1A Provide a summary of the entry, including a description of the need for this effort and the issues it sought to address, as well as any frameworks or standards that were utilized in its creation (for example, APA’s Comprehensive Plan Standards for Sustaining Places).

2. **Contextual Creativity + Innovation (scored out of 15 points)**
   Describe how this entry addressed the elements described below, with emphasis on any unique/innovative strategies or methods that were used to address the specific needs of this effort. Where relevant, please note how positive interactions and/or negative conflicts between these elements were addressed. (Note: we recognize that each effort seeks to address different needs, and that you may address the elements below in varying amounts.)

   2A Social equity
   2B Environmental protection
   2C Economic resilience
   2D (Optional) Other creative/innovative strategies

3. **Compatibility (scored out of 5 points)**
   3A Describe how this effort was integrated into other relevant planning efforts and contributes to larger community/development goals.

4. **Effectiveness + Results (scored out of 5 points)**
   4A Describe how the effectiveness of this effort is being (and/or will be) measured, and how your entry has made or can make a difference in the lives of the people, place, and environment affected.

5. **Collaboration + Engagement (scored out of 10 points)**
   5A Describe which stakeholders and interests were involved, and how this effort planned for and integrated representative, authentic participation in the process.
   5B Describe how this effort addressed competing or dissenting interests to resolve issues or conflicts.
**CATEGORY: MUNICIPAL, STATE, OR REGIONAL PLAN**

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

Examples of plans eligible for this category may include (but are not limited to): comprehensive plans that were guided by sustainability principles (for example, APA’s Comprehensive Plan Standards for Sustaining Places), local climate change mitigation or adaptation plans, plans that explicitly define strategies for resilience or sustainability, including economic resilience plans, etc. Regions may be intrastate, including counties, or interstate.

Responses are limited to 1500 characters for each response to a criterion (i.e., 2A, 2B, etc., each have a 1500 character limit, including spaces).

**Criteria**

1. **Project Background (scored out of 5 points)**
   1A Provide a summary of the entry, including a description of the need for this effort and the issues it sought to address, as well as any frameworks or standards that were utilized in its creation (for example, APA’s Comprehensive Plan Standards for Sustaining Places).

2. **Contextual Creativity + Innovation (scored out of 15 points)**
   Describe how this entry addressed the elements listed below, with emphasis on any unique/innovative strategies or methods that were used to address the specific needs of this effort. Where relevant, please note how positive interactions and/or negative conflicts between these elements were addressed. (Note: we recognize that each effort seeks to address different needs, and that you may address the elements below in varying amounts.)
   
   2A Social equity
   2B Environmental protection
   2C Economic resilience
   2D (Optional) Other creative/innovative strategies

3. **Compatibility (scored out of 5 points)**
   3A Describe how this effort was integrated into other relevant planning efforts and contributes to larger community/development goals.

4. **Effectiveness + Results (scored out of 5 points)**
   4A Describe how the effectiveness of this effort is being (and/or will be) measured, and how your entry has made or can make a difference in the lives of the people, place, and environment affected.

5. **Collaboration + Engagement (scored out of 10 points)**
   5A Describe which stakeholders and interests were involved, and how this effort planned for and integrated representative, authentic participation in the process.
   5B Describe how this effort addressed competing or dissenting interests to resolve issues or conflicts.
CATEGORY: POLICY, LAW, OR TOOL

This award honors a policy, law, or tool which encourages or assists in the employment of principles of sustainability 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.

Responses are limited to 1500 characters for each response to a criterion (i.e., 2A, 2B, etc., each have a 1500 character limit, including spaces).

Criteria

1. Project Background (scored out of 5 points)
   1A Provide a summary of the entry, including a description of the need for this effort and the issues it sought to address, as well as any frameworks or standards that were utilized in its creation.

   1B Contextual Creativity + Innovation (scored out of 15 points)
   Describe how this entry addressed the elements listed below, with emphasis on any unique/innovative strategies or methods that were used to address the specific needs of this effort. Where relevant, please note how positive interactions and/or negative conflicts between these elements were addressed. (Note: we recognize that each effort seeks to address different needs, and that you may address the elements below in varying amounts.)

   1C Social equity
   1D Environmental protection
   1E Economic resilience
   1F (Optional) Other creative/innovative strategies

2. Compatibility (scored out of 5 points)
   2A Describe how this effort was integrated into other relevant efforts and contributes to larger community/development goals.

3. Effectiveness + Results (scored out of 5 points)
   3A Describe how the effectiveness of this effort is being (and/or will be) measured, and how your entry has made or can make a difference in the lives of the people, place, and environment affected.

4. Collaboration + Engagement (scored out of 10 points)
   4A Describe which stakeholders and interests were involved, and how this effort planned for and integrated representative, authentic participation in the process.

   4B Describe how this effort addressed competing or dissenting interests to resolve issues or conflicts.
CATEGORY: ENERGY PLAN OR PROJECT

This award honors an energy-focused effort that utilizes principles of sustainability in its planning and/or implementation.

Examples of projects eligible for this category may include (but are not limited to): climate action plans, renewable or alternative energy plans, large-scale energy efficiency efforts, EV charging station projects, community solar panel initiatives, home weatherization programs, green jobs plans which focus on ties to energy, etc.

Responses are limited to 1500 characters for each response to a criterion (i.e., 2A, 2B, etc., each have a 1500 character limit, including spaces).

Criteria

1. **Project Background (scored out of 5 points)**
   1A Provide a summary of the entry, including a description of the need for this effort and the issues it sought to address, as well as any frameworks or standards that were utilized in its creation.

2. **Contextual Creativity + Innovation (scored out of 15 points)**
   Describe how this entry addressed the elements listed below, with emphasis on any unique/innovative strategies or methods that were used to address the specific needs of this effort. Where relevant, please note how positive interactions and/or negative conflicts between these elements were addressed. (Note: we recognize that each effort seeks to address different needs, and that you may address the elements below in varying amounts.)
   2A Social equity
   2B Environmental protection
   2C Economic resilience
   2D (Optional) Other creative/innovative strategies

3. **Compatibility (scored out of 5 points)**
   3A Describe how this effort was integrated into other relevant efforts and contributes to larger community/development goals.

4. **Effectiveness + Results (scored out of 5 points)**
   4A Describe how the effectiveness of this effort is being (and/or will be) measured, and how your entry has made or can make a difference in the lives of the people, place, and environment affected.

5. **Collaboration + Engagement (scored out of 10 points)**
   5A Describe which stakeholders and interests were involved, and how this effort planned for and integrated representative, authentic participation in the process.
   5B Describe how this effort addressed competing or dissenting interests to resolve issues or conflicts.
CATEGORY: PARK, RECREATION, OR OPEN SPACE PLAN OR PROJECT

This award honors a park, recreation, or open space effort that utilizes 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, etc.

Responses are limited to 1500 characters for each response to a criterion (i.e., 2A, 2B, etc., each have a 1500 character limit, including spaces).

Criteria

1. **Project Background (scored out of 5 points)**
   1A Provide a summary of the entry, including a description of the need for this effort and the issues it sought to address, as well as any frameworks or standards that were utilized in its creation.

2. **Contextual Creativity + Innovation (scored out of 15 points)**
   Describe how this entry addressed the elements listed below, with emphasis on any unique/innovative strategies or methods that were used to address the specific needs of this effort. Where relevant, please note how positive interactions and/or negative conflicts between these elements were addressed. (Note: we recognize that each effort seeks to address different needs, and that you may address the elements below in varying amounts.)
   
   2A Social equity
   2B Environmental protection
   2C Economic resilience
   2D (Optional) Other creative/innovative strategies

3. **Compatibility (scored out of 5 points)**
   3A Describe how this effort was integrated into other relevant efforts and contributes to larger community/development goals.

4. **Effectiveness + Results (scored out of 5 points)**
   4A Describe how the effectiveness of this effort is being (and/or will be) measured, and how your entry has made or can make a difference in the lives of the people, place, and environment affected.

5. **Collaboration + Engagement (scored out of 10 points)**
   5A Describe which stakeholders and interests were involved, and how this effort planned for and integrated representative, authentic participation in the process.
   5B Describe how this effort addressed competing or dissenting interests to resolve issues or conflicts.
CATEGORY: GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN OR PROJECT

This award honors a green infrastructure effort that utilizes 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, green streets efforts, impervious-to-pervious surface transition projects, innovative green roofs, etc. Unless a primary focus of the facility is provision of green infrastructure, parks, recreation, and open space projects should be nominated in the Parks, Recreation and Open Space category.

Responses are limited to 1500 characters for each response to a criterion (i.e., 2A, 2B, etc., each have a 1500 character limit, including spaces).

Criteria

1. Project Background (scored out of 5 points)
   1A Provide a summary of the entry, including a description of the need for this effort and the issues it sought to address, as well as any frameworks or standards that were utilized in its creation.

2. Contextual Creativity + Innovation (scored out of 15 points)
   Describe how this entry addressed the elements listed below, with emphasis on any unique/innovative strategies or methods that were used to address the specific needs of this effort. Where relevant, please note how positive interactions and/or negative conflicts between these elements were addressed. (Note: we recognize that each effort seeks to address different needs, and that you may address the elements below in varying amounts.)
   2A Social equity
   2B Environmental protection
   2C Economic resilience
   2D (Optional) Other creative/innovative strategies

3. Compatibility (scored out of 5 points)
   3A Describe how this effort was integrated into other relevant efforts and contributes to larger community/development goals.

4. Effectiveness + Results (scored out of 5 points)
   4A Describe how the effectiveness of this effort is being (and/or will be) measured, and how your entry has made or can make a difference in the lives of the people, place, and environment affected.

5. Collaboration + Engagement (scored out of 10 points)
   5A Describe which stakeholders and interests were involved, and how this effort planned for and integrated representative, authentic participation in the process.
   5B Describe how this effort addressed competing or dissenting interests to resolve issues or conflicts.
CATEGORY: TRANSPORTATION PLAN OR PROJECT

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

Examples of projects eligible for this category may include (but are not limited to): transportation master plans, Vision Zero plans, sidewalk and pedestrian connectivity plans or projects, cooperative multi-modal projects, sustainably-designed transit facilities, road diet efforts, bicycle or multi-use facility projects, etc.

Responses are limited to 1500 characters for each response to a criterion (i.e., 2A, 2B, etc., each have a 1500 character limit, including spaces).

Criteria

1. Project Background (scored out of 5 points)
   1A Provide a summary of the entry, including a description of the need for this effort and the issues it sought to address, as well as any frameworks or standards that were utilized in its creation.

2. Contextual Creativity + Innovation (scored out of 15 points)
   Describe how this entry addressed the elements listed below, with emphasis on any unique/innovative strategies or methods that were used to address the specific needs of this effort. Where relevant, please note how positive interactions and/or negative conflicts between these elements were addressed. (Note: we recognize that each effort seeks to address different needs, and that you may address the elements below in varying amounts.)
   - 2A Social equity
   - 2B Environmental protection
   - 2C Economic resilience
   - 2D (Optional) Other creative/innovative strategies

3. Compatibility (scored out of 5 points)
   3A Describe how this effort was integrated into other relevant efforts and contributes to larger community/development goals.

4. Effectiveness + Results (scored out of 5 points)
   4A Describe how the effectiveness of this effort is being (and/or will be) measured, and how your entry has made or can make a difference in the lives of the people, place, and environment affected.

5. Collaboration + Engagement (scored out of 10 points)
   5A Describe which stakeholders and interests were involved, and how this effort planned for and integrated representative, authentic participation in the process.
   5B Describe how this effort addressed competing or dissenting interests to resolve issues or conflicts.
CATEGORY: URBAN DESIGN PLAN OR DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

This award honors an urban design plan or development project that utilizes 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.

Responses are limited to 1500 characters for each response to a criterion (i.e., 2A, 2B, etc., each have a 1500 character limit, including spaces).

Criteria

1. **Project Background (scored out of 5 points)**
   1A Provide a summary of the entry, including a description of the need for this effort and the issues it sought to address, as well as any frameworks or standards that were utilized in its creation.

2. **Contextual Creativity + Innovation (scored out of 15 points)**
   Describe how this entry addressed the elements listed below, with emphasis on any unique/innovative strategies or methods that were used to address the specific needs of this effort. Where relevant, please note how positive interactions and/or negative conflicts between these elements were addressed. (Note: we recognize that each effort seeks to address different needs, and that you may address the elements below in varying amounts.)

   2A Social equity
   2B Environmental protection
   2C Economic resilience
   2D (Optional) Other creative/innovative strategies

3. **Compatibility (scored out of 5 points)**
   3A Describe how this effort was integrated into other relevant efforts and contributes to larger community/development goals.

4. **Effectiveness + Results (scored out of 5 points)**
   4A Describe how the effectiveness of this effort is being (and/or will be) measured, and how your entry has made or can make a difference in the lives of the people, place, and environment affected.

5. **Collaboration + Engagement (scored out of 10 points)**
   5A Describe which stakeholders and interests were involved, and how this effort planned for and integrated representative, authentic participation in the process.
   5B Describe how this effort addressed competing or dissenting interests to resolve issues or conflicts.
CATEGORY: LEADERSHIP IN SUSTAINABILITY

The Leadership in Sustainability Award of Excellence honors individuals, governments, firms, organizations, and programs 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.

Responses are limited to 1500 characters for each response to a criterion (i.e., 2A, 3A, etc., each have a 1500 character limit, including spaces).

Criteria

1. Background (scored out of 5 points)
   1A Please provide a biography/description of the individual/organization/program being nominated for the award.

2. Quality (scored out of 5 points)
   2A Detail how the nominee'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 (scored out of 5 points)
   3A Detail the nominee's positive influence on the direction and professional advancement of sustainability planning.

4. Innovation + Inspiration (scored out of 5 points)
   4A Detail the nominee's innovation in the planning and implementation of plans, policies, and projects that exemplify or incorporate the principles of sustainability.

5. Outreach + Engagement (scored out of 5 points)
   5A Detail the nominee's efforts and skills in engaging stakeholders and/or resolving community conflicts with sustainable outcomes.
5 SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED THROUGH 5:00 P.M. (EST) ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 2020.

- All entry nominations shall be submitted via web form. The form can be found at apascd.wordpress.com/awards/
- Be sure to review the eligibility and criteria requirements for the relevant award category.
- You must fill out the form all at once (i.e., you cannot save and come back). We suggest you utilize the submission template document found on website listed in the first bullet 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. The jury will review only the most recently-completed form.
- There is no entry fee.

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, contact information)
3. Category of award entry and responses to the relevant award criteria
4. Project partner information (name/organization, role, contact name and email)
5. 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 2020 SCD Awards Jury.
   - May not be written by the nominator, by the nominated individual, or by anyone who directly worked on the project (project team, consultant team, planning department staff, client, or anyone that had daily interaction/oversight). APA staff may not provide a letter of support.
6. Digital images (jpg/jpeg format only, copyright-free, with captions).
   - Five (5) digital images are required. They may be photos, graphics, etc. Please do not include photo collages.
   - Images should provide context and show the nominee's positive or intended outcomes.
   - For categories other than Leadership, please include at least one image of the project plan or a context map.
   - For the Leadership category, include a recent picture of the individual or representative members of the team.
   - Submit images which may be reproduced by SCD without a fee, charge, or copyright infringement.
   - Each image must be uploaded individually, and each 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, including spaces.
7. Supplemental materials
   - Supplemental materials may add additional support to your nomination.
   - May be included in your online nomination via upload or link (which must remain active through 2/15/20).
   - Uploaded files must be saved as a PDF file (max. 16 MB) and included in the web form.
   - Where relevant, be sure to include a copy of the plan, or a link to the plan. Other materials are optional, and may include up to five letter-sized pages of press clips, brochures, posters, design guidelines, fact sheets, etc.

Questions or issues related to your submission should be directed via email to the SCD Awards Coordinator: Jennifer Koch, AICP, jenniferk@rhiplaces.com.
Thank You to the 2019-2020 Sustainable Communities Division Sponsors!