



sustainability awards

an environmental center event *e*

Frequently Asked Questions:

Here are answers to frequently asked questions. For any additional information, please contact Priscilla Calleros at 541-385-6908 x27 or priscilla@envirocenter.org.

What are the Sustainability Awards?

These awards honor businesses, organizations and individuals that are leading the way to a sustainable future in Central Oregon.

Why give awards?

By highlighting innovative and creative solutions to local sustainability challenges, we aim to recognize and celebrate the various ways in which local change agents, both individually and collectively, are advancing sustainable communities in Central Oregon. We also hope to inspire others to strengthen their own commitment to a healthier, more resilient, and more equitable community.

Who should apply for an award?

Individuals, businesses, organizations, and other community-led projects and programs are all welcome to apply.

Businesses and organizations which are taking action at the leadership and operating level, on a wide range of sustainable operating practices, and are engaged in leading their industry peers to do the same. Offering long-term, living wage opportunities for workers and supporting community through philanthropy, volunteerism and civic engagement are also beneficial to applicants.

Individuals who make a significant contribution to making sustainability real in our community, set an example for others to follow, and demonstrate a comprehensive commitment to a healthy environment, a vibrant economy, and an equitable society. Individuals should model sustainable behavior in their personal life and take action to embed sustainability into the broader community through their professional work and/or as a community volunteer, activist or leader.

Can I nominate someone else?

Yes, and we encourage you to do so! Individuals are often too modest to apply themselves. We will do our best to connect with the nominee and encourage them to complete an application, but we also highly recommend you reach out to individuals or

businesses and let them know you are nominating them, and that they should expect our team to reach out and ask them to fill out an application.

Can a business outside of Central Oregon apply for an award?

The Sustainability Awards are meant to honor activity in the Central Oregon region (Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson counties). Businesses or organizations with headquarters outside the Central Oregon region may apply but should base their application on operations conducted within the Central Oregon region only.

Will applicants get to review or update their application once it has been submitted?

No. Applications should be complete when submitted; they will be reviewed exactly as they are submitted. Environmental Center staff and members of the Sustainability Awards review committee will not conduct additional research after receipt of nomination forms. To help ensure you are prepared to fill out the application, we have included a list of information and questions that will be asked in the application at the end of this document.

Who decides the winners?

A review committee made up of community members and leaders, sustainable business owners, past winners and Environmental Center staff and Board review applications and select finalists and then winners. They focus their evaluation of which applicants best meet the criteria described above under *Who should apply for an award?*

When are applications/nominations due?

The nomination form will be open until 11:59 p.m. on August 29, 2021. Applications must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m. on September 19, 2021.

When will the winners be announced?

The winners will be announced at the awards event at Open Space Event Studios on November 4, 2021 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Where do I get tickets for the awards event?

Tickets to the awards event will be available for purchase online this fall. (Stay tuned for details.)

Who were last year's award winners?

Information about previous Sustainability Award winners can be found on our website at www.envirocenter.org/sustainabilityawards.



Application Questions and Information

The Sustainability Awards application is a Google form this year. Once you begin it, you will not be able to save it and return later. To help prepare your responses before you submit the form, we've provided the list of application questions here in advance.

Your application will be reviewed by members of a Sustainability Awards review committee, composed of our staff and board members plus other community leaders. We will not conduct additional research after receipt of applications. Please be honest and thorough - and note the word count limits!

If you have any questions, contact priscilla@envirocenter.org. Thank you for taking the time to share your story with us.

When you're ready, complete the online application form here:

<https://forms.gle/ZGWDjXrMRkuhqGtg7>

Applications must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on September 19, 2021.

1. Please indicate if you'd like to be recognized as a...
 - _ Business
 - _ Individual
 - _ Nonprofit/organization
 - _ Government or public agency
 - _ Other (For example: community project, youth or classroom program)
2. Applicant name:
3. Number of employees (if applicable):
4. Address:
5. Contact Person:
6. Contact's Phone:
7. Contact's Email:
8. Website:
9. Social media handles:
10. How did you hear about the Sustainability Awards?

Share with us how you're contributing to a sustainable community in the following three areas: a healthy environment, social equity, and a vibrant economy. The prompts below are intended to help give you a starting point. You do not need to address each one, and you can respond in a different way depending on your interpretation.



If you enjoy telling stories through video instead of written words, you're welcome to speak to these areas in a short video. You will need to provide a video link, not a file.

11. How are you contributing to a HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT? (300 words or 3 min video)

Sample prompts: How are you paying attention to resource conservation and efficiency - energy, water, and materials/waste? Have you invested in renewable energy? Are you taking action to prevent pollution? How are you advocating for or implementing environmentally-responsible policies at the city, county, state and/or federal level?

12. How are you creating SOCIAL EQUITY? (300 words or 3 min video)

Sample prompts: How are you supporting a more inclusive community where everyone has the opportunity to thrive? What barriers are you removing so that more people can benefit from what you offer? How are you being held accountable to your equity goals? How are decisions made internally, and who's at the table?

13. How are you supporting ECONOMIC VITALITY? (300 words or 3 min video)

Sample prompts: How are you reinvesting resources back into our local economy? Are you providing meaningful employment opportunities for all people, with livable wages and paid benefits? Do you offer education and training to help your workforce adjust to future needs?

14. How are you demonstrating LEADERSHIP? (200 words or 2 min video)

How are you engaging others in your work? In what ways are you pushing your sector or industry to focus more on sustainability?

15. Anything else we should know about your commitment to a sustainable future?

16. **Synopsis (60 words max):** Please include a synopsis of who you are and the impact your sustainability activities have on the community. If you are selected as a Sustainability Award winner, this synopsis may be used during the awards ceremony, on our website, and in a press release. We reserve the right to edit the final synopsis of each award winner.

17. **Images:** Please upload three images along with your application. Images may be used for Sustainability Awards media packets, promotion and event materials. If an image credit line is required, please ask the photographer to watermark or embed the credit line in the lower right corner of the image. Images should be JPEG or PNG files.

