

2016 Sustainable Eau Claire Awards

The Sustainable Eau Claire Awards recognize individuals, businesses, and organizations that are committed to creating a more sustainable Eau Claire. By sponsoring these awards, the City of Eau Claire hopes to encourage all residents, businesses, community groups, and non-profits to implement similar projects. The award ceremony is held annually in the City of Eau Claire City Council Chambers around Earth Day.



Sustainable Eau Claire Award categories* include:

- ❖ **Clean-up or Beautification** – *Honoring individuals, businesses, and organizations that demonstrate a commitment to the improvement of the Eau Claire community environment and beautification of our surroundings.*
- ❖ **Energy: Renewables, Efficiency or Conservation** – *Honoring individuals, businesses, and organizations that undertake efforts to reduce energy consumption or increase renewables. Consideration is given to the level of investment, documented reduction/generation of energy, and/or greenhouse gas emissions.*
- ❖ **Environmental Education** – *Honoring programs that effectively teach children and adults how to learn about and investigate their environment and to make intelligent, informed decisions about how to take care of it.*
- ❖ **Exceptional Natural Resources Steward** – *Honoring individuals, businesses, and organizations that demonstrate their commitment to the improvement of the Eau Claire community by replanting, restoring, and reclaiming the urban environment into opportunities for social and physical renewal.*
- ❖ **Green Building Design** – *Honoring the design, development, construction, or renovation of green buildings that set an example and/or exceed standard energy efficiency, healthy indoor conditions, etc.*
- ❖ **Green Products or Practices** – *Honoring individuals, businesses, and organizations that develop or use innovative products or practices that reduce toxicity, prevent pollution, and lower environmental impact overall.*
- ❖ **Local, Sustainable, Healthy Food** – *Honoring individuals, businesses, and organizations that demonstrate outstanding commitment to producing or promoting local, sustainable, healthy food.*
- ❖ **Sustainable City Staff** – *Honoring City employee(s) who have gone above and beyond their normal duties to incorporate sustainable practices into their everyday work activities.*
- ❖ **Transportation Innovations** – *Honoring individuals, businesses, and organizations that are improving fleets, alternative fuels, car-sharing, transit, biking, etc. on a day-to-day basis or in long-term efforts.*
- ❖ **Waste Reduction, Composting or Recycling** – *Honoring individuals, businesses, and organizations that contribute to waste reduction, the development of composting, or increasing recycling and its related infrastructure.*
- ❖ **Water Quality or Conservation** – *Honoring individuals, businesses, and organizations that demonstrated outstanding commitment to responsible water management and conservation of water resources.*
- ❖ **Student Leadership Award** – *Honoring an individual student, school club or group, class, or community youth group that demonstrated excellence in sustainability efforts. Examples of nominees in this category are:*
 - *An individual who is passionate about the environment;*
 - *A one-time sustainable activity that took place in the school, college or community;*

- *An ongoing activity scheduled regularly throughout the year;*
- *An activity that supplemented an established educational curriculum;*
- *An environmental action program.*

**Award categories may or may not be given out each year, depending on nominations received. Usually up to five awards are given out each year. If there is a sustainable project/initiative that does not fit well under a specific category above, you may suggest an award category. The application will have an "Other" option.*

Sustainability Awards Eligibility and Criteria

To be eligible, at minimum, the nominee must:

- ❖ Have a positive impact helping to protect or restore the environment in Eau Claire;
- ❖ Go above and beyond the minimum required operations or expectations (*for example, the actions are not the minimum required by law, ordinance, or statute; not completed by paid staff as required in a job description, etc.*);
- ❖ Operate within the City if the nominee is a business or organization, or must be an Eau Claire resident or student if the nominee is an individual (criterion does not apply to Sustainable City Staff Award);
- ❖ Submit a complete application by March 4, 2016, 5 p.m.

Please note that individuals, businesses, and organizations can nominate themselves or be nominated by another party.

Preferences will be given to individual(s)/business(es)/organization(s) that:

- ❖ Demonstrate successful partnerships with other community or business stakeholders;
- ❖ Serve an underserved community (e.g., lower-income area or population, diverse demographic, etc.);
- ❖ Demonstrate that the project/initiative is replicable;
- ❖ Is not directly affiliated with the City of Eau Claire (criterion does not apply to Sustainable City Staff Award);
- ❖ Has not previously won a Sustainable Eau Claire Award in the last five years; those who have won an award from another organization are still encouraged to submit a nomination.

Award Winner Selection Process

Award winners will be selected by the Advisory Commission on Sustainability. Finalists may be asked to give the selection committee a tour or do an in-person interview before a decision is made.

Timeline

- ❖ Nomination applications will **ONLY be accepted by 5:00 p.m. – March 4, 2016**. Late applications and incomplete applications will not be considered.
- ❖ Notifications will be made around late-March 2016.
- ❖ The Sustainable Eau Claire Award Ceremony will be scheduled for April 22, 2016 at City Hall.

If you have questions about the Sustainable Eau Claire Awards, visit the City's [website](#) or contact ned.noel@eauclairewi.gov or call 715-839-4914