

2023 Recycling Excellence Awards Nomination Form and Guidelines

Throughout Wisconsin, efforts are ongoing to increase the effectiveness and accessibility of recycling and diversion programs. These efforts reduce the amount of waste buried in landfills, conserve our natural resources and have created thousands of jobs in Wisconsin. To recognize and encourage these efforts, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources presents Recycling Excellence Awards to communities, organizations, schools and businesses that have demonstrated outstanding achievements in recycling and waste diversion.

One of the goals identified in A Blueprint for DNR Climate Action 2021-2025 is to reduce per-capita food waste disposed of in Wisconsin landfills by half by 2030 (from 2020 levels). Please note food waste recovery or diversion programs are eligible for Recycling Excellence Awards!

Who is eligible?

- Any responsible unit (RU)/community, organization, school or business in Wisconsin.
- Any individual can self-nominate or submit a nomination on another's behalf.
- A nominee can be nominated multiple times for multiple awards but will receive no more than one Recycling Excellence Award every other year.

Nomination guidelines

Nominees who meet the following criteria will be considered:

1. A 2023 nomination form must be submitted on behalf of the nominee including all relevant and supporting documentation before **midnight, Sept. 15, 2023**.
2. The nominee must comply with the [basic requirements of a DNR approved recycling program](#) or [Wisconsin state recycling laws](#) including, but not limited to, providing recycling services for materials banned from landfills. A responsible unit nominee must have met the collection standard for the year under consideration or have demonstrated significant program improvements from the previous year, as well as a dedication to continue to work toward meeting the standard in the future.
3. Only ongoing or completed actions during the previous calendar year (2022) will be considered. Nominations based on planned efforts will not be considered.
4. If submitting any photographs, be sure they are high resolution photos, and please complete and return the photo release form. Photos are highly encouraged!
5. If submitting a hard copy application (versus email), please submit 3 identical copies of your application. Please note, applications will not be returned.

Please use the nomination form on the reverse side of this page. Questions can be directed to Rachel Stark at 920-650-4064 or Rachel.Stark@wisconsin.gov.

Once completed, please send your nomination, including this form and all supporting documentation to: Rachel.Stark@wisconsin.gov OR:

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Attn: Rachel Stark WA/2
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707-7921

All submissions must be postmarked or received by midnight Sept. 15, 2023.

2023 Recycling Excellence Award Nomination Form

Your name: _____

Community/Organization/Business/School: _____

County: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please select the award(s) you are submitting a nomination for:

- Excellence in Wisconsin Recycling: Project or Initiative
- Excellence in Wisconsin Recycling: Overall Program
- Excellence in Wisconsin Recycling: Special Events
- Excellence in Wisconsin Recycling: Innovation

If different than above:

Name of entity you are nominating: _____

County in which entity or special event is located: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

Website Address: _____

Social Media Accounts: _____

Attach documentation that describes the outstanding recycling or waste diversion achievements that deserve recognition. Please include dates, locations and recycling data where applicable and available. Applicants are also encouraged to submit a supporting narrative and materials such as outreach examples, photos, tables, charts, website links, etc. The photos will be used to promote the winners on the DNR's website and social media accounts, so they should be high quality/resolution. The website link you submit will be used in the winner profile on the DNR website.