



2009 New Jersey Clean Energy Leadership Awards Nomination Guidelines

The New Jersey Clean Energy Leadership Awards honor individuals, local and county governments, businesses, institutions and organizations that have improved New Jersey's economic competitiveness and its environment through the effective and innovative use of energy efficiency and renewable technologies and have demonstrated effective solutions for climate change.

General Information

- Projects, programs or entities must be located in New Jersey to be eligible
- To assure fairness and consistency, all submissions must be prepared in accordance with the format in the nomination forms published at the NJ Clean Energy Web site, NJCleanEnergy.com
- Projects, programs and activities being considered for an award must have been implemented within approximately the past eighteen months (i.e. since January 2008)
- All information submitted is considered to be in the public domain unless labeled proprietary and clearly identified as such. New Jersey's Clean Energy Program reserves the right to request additional information during the evaluation process. No materials will be returned.
- Award applicants and winners agree to have projects and programs shared with others through written case studies and photos that will appear as part of the 2009 NJ Clean Energy Conference and Leadership Awards as well as on the program's website, NJCleanEnergy.com
- There is no fee for submitting an application and no limit to the number of nominations that an applicant may submit
- Past recipients of Leadership Awards are eligible to submit an application provided the project, programs and activities are associated with new efforts

Judging

A panel of judges will review the entries. Evaluations will be based primarily on information provided by nominees, however, the panel reserves the right to verify details as appropriate. The finalists for each category will be notified and encouraged to attend an Awards Dinner held in conjunction with the 2009 NJ Clean Energy Conference in Atlantic City, NJ on October 21-22. The Awards Dinner will be during the evening of October 21, 2009 at the Sheraton Hotel across from the Atlantic City Convention Center. As part of the evening's program, all finalists will be recognized for their projects and activities. Winners will be announced for the first time at the Awards Dinner (award winners will not be revealed prior to the dinner.)

The President of the NJ Board of Public Utilities, in consultation with Board Staff and the Awards Committee, reserves the exclusive right to make final determinations regarding the NJ Clean Energy Leadership Awards.

Award Winner Package

In addition to recognition during the 2009 Conference Awards Dinner, Leadership Award Winners will receive the following benefits:

- Photo release distributed to state-wide media list
- Story and photos included on NJ Clean Energy Web site
- Award trophy
- Inclusion in award winners' print advertisement to be placed in the state's major daily newspapers
- Separate award winner advertisement to be placed in local weekly newspaper or appropriate trade ally publication
- Rights to use NJ Clean Energy Leadership Award Winner logo in displays, marketing materials and advertisements

Award Categories and Evaluation Criteria

Business Leader of the Year

Some businesses demonstrate leadership by setting a higher standard for their industry with a dedicated focus on energy efficiency and renewable technologies. The Business Leader Award recognizes the organization that sets solid goals and follows through with real solutions to reduce energy consumption. The Business Leader of the Year also recognizes the importance of promoting the message of saving energy to workers and driving a corporate culture shift that extends to employee homes. New Jersey's Clean Energy Program offers a diverse collection of opportunities available to all customers of the state's public utilities. In evaluating nominees for this award, energy savings and emissions reduction results will be normalized by percentages, providing equal opportunity to small, medium and large organizations and projects.

Evaluation Criteria and Weight:

- Environmental Impact (actual savings and percentage reductions)
 - 20% Electricity (annual and lifetime energy and peak demand – before and after) and/or Natural Gas (annual and lifetime – before and after)
 - 10% Carbon Dioxide (annual and lifetime emissions – before and after)
- 20% Support of Energy Master Plan Goals
- 5% Unique Approach and Degree of Difficulty in Overcoming Challenges, Barriers and Obstacles
- 5% Replicability
- 10% Viability for Wide-Scale Implementation
- 10% Outreach and Education (totals and percentages of residents and businesses with increased awareness and actual participation in New Jersey's Clean Energy Program)
- 20% Creation and Sustainability of Green Jobs

Comprehensive Design Project of the Year

One of the most effective methods for reducing energy consumption in new construction and renovation involves the use of whole-building design when evaluating measure alternatives. The Comprehensive Design Award recognizes the NJ Clean Energy Program participant who most effectively designs and implements a package of energy efficiency and/or renewable measures that results in significant carbon footprint reductions because of its whole-building planning approach and examination of multiple building systems. Owners, operators and/or design teams within businesses, non-profit organizations, institutions and local government facilities are eligible to receive this award. New Jersey's Clean Energy Program offers a diverse collection of opportunities available to all customers of the state's public utilities. In evaluating nominees for this award, energy savings and emissions reduction results will be normalized by percentages and per square foot data to account for building size, providing equal opportunity to small, medium and large facilities.

Evaluation Criteria and Weight:

- Environmental Impact (actual savings and percentage reductions)
 - 20% Electricity (annual and lifetime energy and peak demand – before and after) and/or Natural Gas (annual and lifetime – before and after)
 - 10% Carbon Dioxide (annual and lifetime emissions – before and after)
- 30% Support of Energy Master Plan Goals
- 15% Unique Approach and Degree of Difficulty in Overcoming Challenges, Barriers and Obstacles
- 25% Replicability

Energy Educator of the Year

Today's students are tomorrow's business and public policy leaders. The Energy Educator Award recognizes a school, college or university (public or private) for its efforts to improve the energy efficiency and use of renewable technologies in their facilities and for implementing specific programs and activities to include energy education and student involvement in their curricula. In evaluating nominees, energy savings and emissions reduction results will consider two separate components, 1) impact of measures taken in school buildings and 2) impact of awareness building activities taken by the school to improve student understanding of the importance of saving energy and participating in New Jersey's Clean Energy Program. Nominees will be required to quantify estimated impacts from their efforts to build student awareness and participation. Assumptions should be provided along with descriptions of curricula and completed activities. Results will be normalized by percentages, per square foot data, and numbers of students and faculty to compare impacts across larger and smaller entities.

Evaluation Criteria and Weight:

- Environmental Impact (actual savings and percentage reductions)

- 10% Electricity (annual and lifetime energy and peak demand – before and after) and/or Natural Gas (annual and lifetime – before and after)
 - 10% Carbon Dioxide (annual and lifetime emissions – before and after)
- 10% Support of Energy Master Plan Goals
- 10% Unique Approach and Degree of Difficulty in Overcoming Challenges, Barriers and Obstacles
- 15% Replicability
- 45% Outreach and Education (totals and percentages of faculty, students and their families with increased awareness and actual participation in New Jersey's Clean Energy Program)

Local Government Partner of the Year

Becoming a green community involves much more than addressing the buildings owned and operated by the local government. It involves a culture change among the people who live and work in that community. The Local Government Partner Award recognizes the role our local government officials play in promoting the wise use of energy to the residents and businesses in their community. Their commitment to spread the message of clean energy and build awareness of programs that reduce energy usage is critical to our success. Cities, municipalities, townships, schools and other local and county governments are eligible for this award. In evaluating nominees, energy savings and emissions reduction results will consider two separate components, 1) impact of measures taken in local government owned facilities and 2) impact of awareness building activities taken by the local government to increase participation in New Jersey's Clean Energy Program by residents and businesses. Nominees will be required to quantify estimated impacts from their efforts to build community awareness and participation. Assumptions should be provided along with descriptions of completed activities. Results will be normalized by percentages, per square foot data, and numbers of homes and businesses to compare impacts across larger and smaller entities.

Evaluation Criteria and Weight:

- Environmental Impact (actual savings and percentage reductions)
 - 20% Electricity (annual and lifetime energy and peak demand – before and after) and/or Natural Gas (annual and lifetime – before and after)
 - 10% Carbon Dioxide (annual and lifetime emissions – before and after)
- 20% Support of Energy Master Plan Goals
- 10% Unique Approach and Degree of Difficulty in Overcoming Challenges, Barriers and Obstacles
- 15% Replicability
- 25% Outreach and Education (totals and percentages of residents and businesses with increased awareness and actual participation in New Jersey's Clean Energy Program)

Market Innovator of the Year

Development of new and improved technologies, systems and processes is a critical driver of the clean energy industry's evolution. The Market Innovator Award provides recognition to the organization demonstrating new opportunities for reducing greenhouse gas emissions with viable solutions for large numbers of residential, business and/or government facilities.

Evaluation Criteria and Weight:

- Potential Environmental Impact
 - 20% Electricity (short and long-term energy and peak demand savings) and/or Natural Gas (short and long-term savings)
 - 10% Carbon Dioxide (short and long-term emissions reductions)
- 25% Support of Energy Master Plan Goals
- 35% Unique Approach and Degree of Difficulty in Overcoming Challenges, Barriers and Obstacles
- 10% Viability for Wide-Scale Implementation

Outreach Partner of the Year

Outreach and education is a critical component of New Jersey's Clean Energy Program. The Outreach Award recognizes efforts to build awareness of energy efficiency and renewable energy measures by extending the message of clean energy to a wide audience in the hopes of impacting others to make wise decisions for climate change. Nominees will be required to quantify estimated impacts from their efforts to build awareness and participation. Assumptions should be provided along with descriptions of completed activities.

Evaluation Criteria and Weight:

- 30% Potential Environmental Impact
- 20% Support of Energy Master Plan Goals
- 10% Unique Approach and Degree of Difficulty in Overcoming Challenges, Barriers and Obstacles
- 10% Replicability
- 10% Viability for Wide-Scale Implementation
- 20% Outreach and Education (totals and percentages of residents and businesses with increased awareness and actual participation in New Jersey's Clean Energy Program)

Trade Ally of the Year

One of the traditional barriers to acceptance of clean energy solutions in homes and businesses on a wide scale is the difficulty finding qualified organizations with the knowledge, skills and resources to design, produce and implement those solutions. Open to suppliers, retailers, designers and installers, the Trade Ally Award recognizes an organization for its part in driving the growth of green jobs and for supporting the clean energy infrastructure. New Jersey's Clean Energy Program offers a diverse collection of opportunities available to all customers of the state's public utilities. In evaluating nominees for this award, energy savings and emissions reduction results will be normalized by percentages, providing equal opportunity to small, medium and large organizations and projects.

Evaluation Criteria and Weight:

- 30% Environmental Impact (actual savings and percentage reductions)
- 20% Support of Energy Master Plan Goals
- 5% Unique Approach and Degree of Difficulty in Overcoming Challenges, Barriers and Obstacles
- 5% Replicability
- 10% Viability for Wide-Scale Implementation
- 10% Outreach and Education (totals and percentages of residents and businesses with increased awareness and actual participation in New Jersey's Clean Energy Program)
- 20% Creation and Sustainability of Green Jobs