



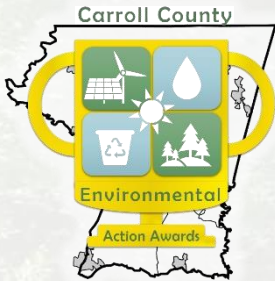
Carroll County Environmental Advisory Council

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2023 Environmental Action Awards



Nomination Guidelines & Eligibility Criteria

Deadline for Submission: July 31, 2023

Background

The purpose of the awards program is to promote action by community members to protect and conserve the environment and natural resources. The program also recognizes exemplary accomplishments in the protection, conservation, and improvement of those natural resources. The Carroll County Commissioners adopted the awards program in 1990 to recognize individuals and groups that have demonstrated these qualities through their actions or projects. Awards are presented biennially to individuals and groups chosen from nominees submitted for consideration by their peers, although self-nominations are accepted. In 2023, the presentation of awards will be held in mid-April or May. The date and location will be announced closer to the event. Check the EAC's awards webpage for new up-to-date information (<https://www.carrollcountymd.gov/government/boards-commissions/environmental-advisory-council/environmental-action-awards/>).

Goal of the Awards Program

To foster community environmental stewardship through leadership and action by encouraging and recognizing community members and groups who voluntarily initiate projects, actions, and leadership to improve the environment and/or facilitate sustainability of natural resources.

Guidelines for the Carroll County Environmental Action Awards

Awards will be granted for activities and projects that result in (a positive benefit) or (positive benefits) to the environment in each of the following three categories:

- Educational Outreach
- Positive Practices
- Student Engagement

The topic or project should implement best management practices (BMPs) to benefit or improve natural resources. Topics/issues should relate to, but are not limited to, one or more of the following:

- Improving water quality;
- Reducing our carbon footprint;
- Increasing forest cover;
- Increasing energy efficiency and/or use of clean energy sources, such as solar and wind;
- Improving, preserving, or creating wildlife habitat for sensitive species;
- Implementing reduce/reuse/recycle principles and programs; and/or
- Installing green building best practices.

Educational Outreach – This category recognizes excellence in public outreach initiatives that promote environmental stewardship or result in enhanced environmental protection. Public outreach is intended to impact people’s behavior in a manner that results in a positive impact to the environment. The initiative should help to convey the importance of each individual community member taking responsibility to protect and improve the environment and/or the relevance of environmental issues and natural resources to individuals. Programs should use creative approaches to raising public awareness and instilling a need for personal action or modifying behavior that results in natural resource sustainability. The project should include both developing the public outreach materials or process, as well as making the information available to its intended audience.

Positive Practices – This category honors excellence in the development and implementation of physical projects that have a direct environmental benefit or improve the quality of natural resources in Carroll County. While projects may have a public outreach component, the project’s primary purpose is not meant to be public outreach. These projects should be actions implemented to develop and complete a tangible, “in-the-ground” physical project that people can see and observe.

Student Engagement – This award is intended to be presented to an individual student or group of students who successfully planned and implemented a project to protect, conserve, or improve the environment and natural resources and clearly demonstrates leadership and good stewardship of natural resources. The project can be either a public outreach initiative or implementation of best practices (such as a rain garden) located in Carroll County or one of its municipalities.

Nomination Eligibility Criteria

- ☐ Nominees must be Carroll County residents or groups or businesses that are based in or located in Carroll County.
- ☐ Nominator must notify the nominee(s) of their nomination.
- ☐ Nominated projects must be intended to produce benefits *in* Carroll County.
- ☐ The student category is open to students in K-12 or college who live in Carroll County. A student could be a CCPS student, homeschooled, or live in the county but attend a private school elsewhere. The student nominee should be represented preferably by a teacher sponsor. If the sponsor is not a teacher, the sponsor must seek a co-sponsor that is a teacher. The sponsor/co-sponsor must be an adult at least 21 years of age.
- ☐ In all cases, nominees must exemplify extraordinary dedication to preserving and improving the environment and better managing the environmental resources of Carroll County.

- ❑ Nominated projects must be performed voluntarily (not the result of federal or state mandates, regulations, or enforcement decrees) and not for the purpose of financial gain.
- ❑ Nominated projects or activities must have been at least initiated, if not completed, within the time period since the nomination deadline of the most recent prior awards process AND have demonstrated positive results during that timeframe.

Examples of Projects

Educational Outreach:

- Social media campaign
- PSA Video
- Brochures

Positive Practices:

- Install a rain garden in a public space
- Plant a stream buffer using appropriate trees and bushes
- Demonstrate leadership in implementing a wide variety of BMPs to benefit a specific natural resource or address a specific environmental issue

Desired Project Outcomes

Nominations in each category will be evaluated based on the following desired project outcomes. The greater degree to which nominations demonstrate these outcomes, the better.

- Environmental Benefits;
- Project Approach (Process) & Innovation;
- Social & Economic Benefits;
- Inspiration to Others & Transferability/Replicability; and
- Public Outreach (*highest consideration for nominations in the Educational Outreach category*).

Nomination Submission Requirements

Nomination packets must include:

- Completed nomination form
- Narrative description
- Supporting information

Narrative Description

A comprehensive description of the project must be submitted with the nomination form. The narrative must be a minimum of 300 words in length. Jargon and technical explanations should be kept to a minimum and explained in laymen's terms as appropriate. The narrative description must address/include the following information:

Student Engagement Category only: Please note that applicants that are applying in the 6-12 grade level or in college must complete the narrative description themselves. Applicants in the K-5 grade level may be advised by the sponsor, and sponsors may assist in the writing of the project summary.

1. Participants;
2. Location where the project was implemented (i.e. location within company, property or community);
3. Costs and funding sources;
4. How the project demonstrated the five desired project outcomes to be evaluated;
 - Environmental Benefits
 - Project Approach & Innovation
 - Social & Economic Benefits
 - Inspiration to Others & Transferability/Replicability
 - Public Outreach
5. What motivated the nominee to undertake the project; and
6. Results and measurable outcomes of the project, such as pollution reduced (i.e. pounds of nitrogen), material diverted from disposal, costs saved, revenue generated, reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, etc.

Supporting Information | Other Details (if applicable)

To help the EAC to evaluate each nomination, the supporting information must be submitted with the nomination form and narrative. Examples of supporting information include photos, maps, diagrams, videos, press clips, letters, metrics, etc. Provide only additional information or links to materials that clearly support the nomination. Please note that materials submitted may not be returned. Supporting information must meet the following guidelines, where applicable:

- All photographs submitted must be taken by the applicant submitting the photo or include copyright permission. Photos should be submitted by email as a JPEG or TIFF file at 300 dpi resolution or higher.
- Accompanying videos must be web-based with functioning links (e.g., no CDs).
- The exhibits must be reproducible.
- Educational Outreach: A copy of or link to materials, video, or other media used for outreach campaign must be included.
- Positive Practices: Where relevant, include an easily understandable schematic that will assist in understanding the project approach, location, technical elements, and other information that demonstrates the criteria above.

How to Submit Nomination Packet

The Nomination Form is available on the EAC's Awards webpage. Please submit the completed form and the narrative description together, along with any supporting materials. To submit the form, you may complete the online form, download and complete the PDF form then email it as an attachment, along with your narrative description, to EAC@carrollcountymd.gov, OR print the completed form and mail it to: Environmental Advisory Council, Attn: Environmental Action Awards, 225 N. Center Street, Room 209, Westminster, MD 21157.

Please review the Nomination Guidelines & Eligibility Criteria to eligibility and submission requirements. This information, along with the Nomination Form, can be found on the webpage at:

<https://www.carrollcountymd.gov/government/boards-commissions/environmental-advisory-council/environmental-action-awards/>

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