

Nomination Guidelines

We're looking far and wide for the most inspiring examples of innovative approaches to sustainability across North Carolina.

A number of changes have been made this year to the nomination and selection process to make it more inclusive and interactive, increase transparency and generate more publicity for the nominees.

We've made it faster and easier to apply. Just go online and tell us your story...or that of your favorite people and organizations. You can even upload photos and videos! All nominee profiles that meet the basic criteria will appear on an interactive website where the public can comment and ask questions.

Finalists will be invited to present at breakout sessions on the day of the awards ceremony so the audience will have the opportunity to hear and talk with the nominees. Attendees will then cast their vote for the most inspirational finalist, who will receive the brand new SparK award at the ceremony.

Following is additional information about the award categories, the nomination process and selection of finalists and winners.

Contact us at awards@sustainnc.org if you need any assistance.

NOMINATION & JUDGING PROCESS

- the award nomination process is entirely online at www.sustainnc.org/2009awards
- organizations may apply for themselves or be nominated by a third party; individuals must be nominated by an unrelated third party
- there is no need to select a category when submitting your nomination; the judges will consider each nomination for all eligible categories
- applications must be received by 11:59pm Monday, Sept. 28, 2009
- nominee profiles will be posted online for public viewing and comment; the earlier you post your application, the more publicity you will receive!
- finalists will be selected by an independent judges panel on or about Oct. 5, 2009
- finalists will be notified and asked to provide additional information prior to selection of winners
- in addition to winners selected by the judges panel, the audience will vote on-site for the brand new SparK award recognizing the most inspiring nominee
- winners will be publicly announced at the awards ceremony

AWARD CATEGORIES

Triple Bottom Line

This award recognizes initiatives by for-profit and for-benefit businesses that demonstrate the successful integration of social, environmental and economic objectives. All three elements must be fully realized and consideration will be given for incorporating additional dimensions such as ethics and culture. Evidence of committed leadership, sustained effort, and measurable results will be key in the selection of the award winner.

Innovation

This award recognizes initiatives by for-profit and for-benefit businesses that demonstrate new, cutting edge technologies or business models that address societal and/or environmental issues in a meaningful way. Creativity, measurable results and the potential for broad impact will be key in the selection of the award winner.

Entrepreneurship

This award recognizes small for-profit and for-benefit businesses that demonstrate a positive impact on their employees, community and environment. Creative leadership, sustained effort, and measurable results will be key in the selection of this award.

Champion

This award recognizes individuals whose efforts are advancing sustainable “triple bottom line” approaches in our state’s businesses and institutions. Evidence of creative leadership, sustained effort, and peer recognition will be key in the selection of the award winner.

Catalyst

This award recognizes initiatives by non-profits, government agencies and educational institutions that demonstrate leadership in promoting and enabling sustainable practices in North Carolina. Broad positive impact, sustained effort and effective leveraging of resources will be key in the selection of this award. It is not intended for internal sustainability projects, but for outreach initiatives that accelerate the adoption of sustainable practices by others that go well beyond compliance by others.

OVERALL JUDGING CRITERIA

Nominations should:

- exemplify the type of efforts SNCBC is seeking to recognize, as described above
- be clearly and concisely communicated
- articulate points which make the application unique and innovative
- describe results as well as methods and strategies employed
- describe processes for employee and other stakeholder engagement
- define overall short and long term business or operational benefits
- define environmental, societal and/or community benefits