



2003 Governor's Environmental Leadership Awards

"I applaud these recipients for their efforts to keep Louisiana environmentally protected. The state's responsibility is to the citizens of Louisiana. Protecting citizens by enforcing environmental laws is made much easier when industries and companies go beyond the minimum requirements of the law in the area of environmental responsibility."

*Governor M. J. "Mike" Foster
March 25, 2003*



This program recognizes activities and projects undertaken by Louisiana companies, municipalities and government facilities that demonstrate environmental leadership. For six years, awards have been given for contributions in two categories: **Pollution Prevention** and **Community Environmental Outreach**. This year a new category, **Environmental Management System Recognition**, is introduced.

Traditionally, the Governor presents recognition certificates at a ceremony in the spring. The Governor's Awards is one way the Louisiana Environmental Leadership Program (LaELP) seeks to achieve its central purpose: to recognize and promote pollution prevention and other efforts that exceed regulatory requirements in the pursuit of a cleaner, safer environment.

Any member of the Louisiana Environmental Leadership Program fulfilling all membership requirements, including the annual pollution prevention progress reporting, is eligible to enter. Eligible facilities are encouraged to submit multiple entries and may win multiple awards based on the merit of each entry. For information on LaELP membership requirements: PHONE 225-219-3959 or FAX 225-219-3971

Deadline: January 15, 2004

The Awards Categories

For the two traditional categories use the form on the (ivory) insert page. The new EMS Recognition category is detailed in the insert folder (blue) and has a separate entry form.

In the past only stand-alone projects were allowed, but a change has been made to the Pollution Prevention and Community Environmental Outreach categories. Facilities may now submit project entries or program entries. Programs are broader efforts, usually a combination of several projects and activities that are coordinated and focused on achievement of a particular objective or goal. Project entries and program entries are judged separately. LDEQ Special Projects Section is open to questions regarding these changes in the awards program.

Project Eligibility

Certain projects are not eligible:

- *Projects that have been submitted in a previous Governor's Awards cycle.* A project may be closely related to a previous entry and still be eligible providing the current entry demonstrates fully that its scope and performance claims are clearly above and beyond the initial entry.
- *Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEP)* under federal regulations
- *Beneficial Environmental Projects (BEP)* under state regulations
- *Projects mandated by enforcement action*, usually a court order, e.g., settlement agreement, consent decree, some compliance orders, etc. A project associated with an enforcement action may be eligible if the entry clearly demonstrates that the project scope exceeds any requirement of the enforcement action.

The Selection Process

Selection panels are named by the LaELP staff and the steering committee. There are one or more panels in each category, based on the number of entries. Panelists are chosen for their knowledge and experience and are drawn from the ranks of academia—active and retired university faculties; industry—active and retired engineers, scientists, public affairs specialists, including disinterested LaELP facility employees and trade association representatives; other—consulting firms, professional groups and occasionally, LDEQ staff.

The panels review entries in interactive sessions and make recommendations for awards based on the requirements listed on the entry form. Award recipients are selected by the LDEQ Secretary based on these recommendations and consideration of facility regulatory compliance records. Facility records must be free of significant violations for a minimum of three years and there must be no current significant unresolved issues. For details LaELP members may request a copy of the compliance screening guide from the LDEQ Special Projects Section.

Pollution Prevention Category

Pollution Prevention Achievement Awards recognize projects implemented since May 1, 2002 that have led to measurable reductions in air pollution, water pollution, solid and hazardous waste or have contributed to significant energy and resource conservation.

In preparing your entry, take care to address each requirement listed on the entry form. Consult the reverse side of the form in addressing the applicability of the waste management hierarchy to your entry.

Projects that achieve reduction of pollution at any level in the hierarchy may be eligible for an award, but the entry must demonstrate the applicability of the waste management hierarchy to the project.

Examples of pollution prevention projects:

- Process improvements that result in reduced emissions, discharges or generation of wastes
- Achievement of zero discharge for selected waste and emission streams
- Projects that reduce the environmental risk of a facility
- Innovative approaches through product redesign to reduce the life cycle impact of manufacturing and using a product
- Projects to reduce reliance on incinerators and deep wells as disposal options
- Beneficial reuse of waste materials
- Emergency releases reduction
- Working with suppliers, customers and smaller companies to promote pollution prevention



PREVENTION

Community Environmental Outreach Category

Community Environmental Outreach Awards recognize innovative projects initiated since May 1, 2002 that contribute to enhancing the quality of the environment for the local community.

Examples of projects in this category:

- A community project that enhances environmental quality
- An activity to improve the interaction and involvement of the facility with the community in dealing with environmental concerns
- An innovative environmental education project
- A mentoring project with suppliers or smaller companies to prevent pollution or reduce risk
- Facility-specific environmental reports, communications tools
- Voluntary participation in a project to evaluate ambient air and water quality in the community
- An inter-company or multi-company environmental project
- A wildlife enhancement or natural heritage preservation project

An entry must be for a single environmental-related project; however, an overall facility environmental outreach program may be submitted if designated as such on the 2003 Entry Form.

In detailing the scope of a project, consider covering: number of employees involved; company hours spent; volunteered free time; time period involved (short term? long term?); is the activity sustainable? What were the costs involved?

In measuring success: identify target audience; state objectives; indicate number of people reached; web site hits, etc.; suggest how your success with this project is transferable to other facilities.

Submit Entries to:

Governor's Environmental Leadership Awards
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
Office of the Secretary - Special Projects Section
Attention: Gary Johnson
Post Office Box 4301
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4301

Telephone: (225) 219-3959 Fax: (225) 219-3971

Deadline: January 15, 2004

SEE OUR WEB SITE FOR PAST WINNERS AND SELECTION PANEL RATING FORMS:
www.deq.state.la.us/assistance/elp/index.htm