

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

U.S. EPA ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AWARDS PROGRAM



Everyone has a right to a clean and healthy environment.

DO YOU KNOW A GREAT ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP?

EPA's National Achievements in Environmental Justice Awards Program recognizes community-initiated, multi-stakeholder partnerships that result in Environmental Justice Achievements in communities.



EPA IS LOOKING FOR 2010 APPLICATIONS

The goal of the Awards Program is to encourage achievement of public and environmental health results in communities, to foster collaborative problem-solving by all stakeholder organizations to address significant Environmental Justice concerns, and to document successful activities that can be used in other communities. Partnerships must include two or more of the following:



- Academic Institutions
- Business and Industry Organizations
- Non-Governmental and Environmental Organizations
- State and Local Government Organizations
- Tribal Government and Indigenous Organizations

APPLICANTS WILL BE EVALUATED BASED ON:

- Partnership and Collaboration
- Demonstrated Innovation and Uniqueness of the Partnership
- Demonstrated Environmental Justice Results and Community Benefits
- Leveraged Resources/Capacity-Building
- Long-term Sustainability/Model Partnership Projects



**APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED by 11:59 p.m. EDT on August 13, 2010
(SEE NEXT TWO PAGES FOR DETAILS)**

EPA NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT IN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AWARDS PROGRAM

EPA's Office of Environmental Justice sponsors the Environmental Justice (EJ) Achievement Awards Program. The Awards Program was recommended by the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council, a senior-level federal advisory committee that provides advice to EPA on environmental justice issues. Collaborative Problem Solving, in the context of environmental justice, involves proactive, strategic, and visionary community-based processes that bring together multiple parties from various stakeholder groups to develop solutions for local public health and/or environmental issues. Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships bring together diverse organizations with multiple perspectives and interests to address these issues. Such partnerships refer to arrangements in which stakeholders work together to achieve common goals. The EJ Achievement Awards program focus will foster improvements in affected communities disproportionately burdened by environmental harms and risks, such as low income and/or minority communities. In 2010, EPA Environmental Justice Achievement Awards will recognize outstanding Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships that have implemented effective collaborative approaches addressing environmental justice issues in affected communities which have resulted in positive impacts to the community. **The multi-stakeholder partnership must be initiated or jointly convened by one or more Community-Based Organizations which are actively engaged in the partnership. Multi-stakeholder partnerships must also contain at least two of the following categories of organizations:** Academic Institutions; Business and Industry Organizations; Non-Governmental and Environmental Organizations; State and Local Government Organizations; and Tribal Government and Indigenous Organizations.

How to Enter the Awards Competition

Applications may be submitted by any member of the Multi-Stakeholder Partnership, or any other member of the public on behalf of a partnership. EPA will only recognize Partnerships based in the United States.

Each Partnership applying for an award must have reached a significant EJ milestone or accomplishment within the past 5 years (2005-2009). Stakeholder organizations must have made real significant contributions to be deemed a Principal Member. Each application submitted should briefly explain why each Principal Member deserves this designation. For Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships involving State, Local and/or Tribal governments, EPA's evaluation will also include an assessment of the government agency's efforts to integrate EJ considerations into applicable government agency programs, policies, and activities. Prior EJ Achievement Award winners may be included as part of a 2010 Multi-Stakeholder Partnership application only if the EJ achievement is significantly different from what was previously recognized.

There is no entry fee or standard entry form, but applications must meet certain requirements. Applications must be submitted electronically. Applications must be on 8.5 x 11-inch paper when printed, with 1 inch margins, single-spaced, font size 11 point or higher, and adhere to page limitations as described in the sections below. All files except for letters of endorsement (which may be .pdf files) or pictures should be submitted in MS Word or Rich Text Format (RTF) for Windows operating systems. All entries received will be considered public information. To be considered for an award, applicants must complete awards application Sections A - F, and G, if applicable. Sections A - C include writing a cover page, an executive summary page, and responding, in five pages or less, to the five award selection criteria. Sections D - G include providing endorsement letters, pictures, mailing labels, and if applicable, permit numbers with a compliance status statement.

Submit an electronic copy of the application with the

Partnership's name as the file name. The electronic copy must be e-mailed to Tim Fields at tfields@michaeldbaker.com by **11:59 p.m. EDT on August 13, 2010**. No material will be returned. Program sponsors are not responsible for lost or damaged entries.

Award applications must include the following:

Section A: Cover Page

- (1) As a subject or title line, name the Multi-Stakeholder Partnership (if established) or short description on how the team is to be identified.
- (2) List the Principal Members in the Partnership.
- (3) Provide a short description on one significant milestone, with date(s), that the Partnership has reached within the past five years.
- (4) Provide the complete name, title, address, telephone numbers (Include cell phone number if necessary), and email address for a contact person, who is responsible for communicating with EPA, and date of application. Please include statement on relationship of applicant to the Partnership. ***Please note: Applicants may be contacted during the day of the Panel review in order to answer questions of clarification from the Panel. Applicants will be given exact date of the Panel review at least two weeks in advance. If the applicant is not available, anyone from the Partnership may be appointed to answer for the applicant.***

Section B: Executive Summary (second page)

Provide an executive summary of the Partnership's environmental justice accomplishments.

Section C: Award Selection Criteria (five pages maximum)

Explain in detail how the Multi-Stakeholder Partnership addressed EJ issues in accordance with each of the criteria below:

- (1) Partnership and Collaboration is established and implemented to address EJ concerns (20 points)

- a) What collaboration occurred with the community to create and implement this Partnership?
 - b) Provide one to two sentences on the role of each Principal Member of the Partnership.
- (2) Demonstrated Innovation and/or Uniqueness of the Partnership in Addressing EJ concerns and/or issues (20 points)
- a) What is innovative and/or unique about this Partnership when it has come to addressing EJ concerns?
- (3) Demonstrated environmental justice results and community benefits (20 points)
- a) Provide a brief summary of the demonstrated significant reduction in pollution/risk or demonstrated significant improvements to a community.
 - b) Explain how reductions or Improvements were measured.
- (4) Leveraged Resources/ Capacity-Building (20 points)
- a) What strategies have proven successful in leveraging resources or capacity building to address environmental justice concerns?
 - b) Describe how the Partnership got where it is today through a timeline or flowchart In terms of leveraging resources and/or capacity building.
- (5) Long-term Sustainability/ Model Partnership Projects (20 points)
- a) What procedures and policies have been put in place to ensure the long-term viability or sustainability of the Partnership?
 - b) How can this Partnership and/or the successful projects of this partnership be modeled elsewhere?

The following sections do not have page limits:

Section D: Three letters of endorsement for the Multi-Stakeholder Partnership application. These three letters of endorsement should reflect three different stakeholder categories, e.g., a community organization, a government agency, and an industry organization.

Section E: Six high-quality, color photos illustrating Partnership activities; a caption describing activities in each photo; and the identification of Partnership members included in each photo.

Optional: A video documenting the partnership efforts. Videos may be submitted with the application, but will not be used in evaluating and selecting awardees. The videos will be used on EPA's website to support outreach and education efforts. Not submitting a video will not affect your application's chance of being selected.

Section F: Mailing labels [suggested format: Avery 5162], containing the full name, title, organization, and complete address of all elected or appointed officials (e.g.,

Mayor, Board Chair, Commissioner, Governor, U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative, University President) of those who should be notified if the Partnership is to receive an EPA EJ Achievement Award. Do not include media contacts.

If applicable:

Section G: Principal Members of the Multi-Stakeholder Partnership with Federal or State environmental permits must provide, on a separate sheet of paper, a list of all regulatory permit numbers (e.g., National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System), and a statement that the organization is "in compliance with all permits" or provide justification. EPA will not award to organizations with permits in non-compliance without an adequate justification.

Applications must be received by **11:59 p.m. EDT on August 13, 2010**. EPA, through its contractor, MDB, Inc., will acknowledge receipt of applications by e-mail. If you have not received an acknowledgement within one week after submitting an application, please contact Tim Fields at tfields@michaeldbaker.com.

Judging Applications

Award recipients are chosen through a multi-step judging process. EPA staff will conduct an initial technical screening of all applications. Selected applications are then reviewed by an external Environmental Justice Stakeholder Panel, which will review the award candidates and will make recommendations to EPA on the best candidates. The Panel will include representatives of:

- community-based organizations
- business and industry organizations
- academic institutions
- non-governmental organizations
- state government organizations
- local government organizations
- indigenous organizations

EPA Headquarters will conduct appropriate EPA Regional, enforcement, grants, and other internal reviews of award finalists prior to making final award decisions. The EPA Assistant Administrator for Enforcement and Compliance Assurance will make the final award decisions.

Notification of Winners

The 2010 EJ Achievement Awards will be announced in late 2010. Awards are honorary and do not include monetary recognition. The winners will be notified by EPA prior to the official public awards program announcement.

Additional Information

Questions about eligibility, application procedures, or the Achievement in Environmental Justice Awards program should be directed to Lisa Hammond at (202) 564-0736 or hammond.lisa@epa.gov.