

Guidelines

Overview

The City of Rockville Environmental Excellence Awards are presented to an individual or organization by the Mayor and Council to recognize outstanding achievement or service to the environment in Rockville. The intent of the awards program is to:

- Develop and stimulate public awareness and achievement in environmental progress in Rockville.
- Recognize leadership and innovation in “green” development and in individual and corporate environmental stewardship.
- Recognize and promote the efforts of Rockville’s residents and businesses in improving our local and regional environment.

Eligibility

Eligible candidates must reside or do business in Rockville or have conducted a project that benefits Rockville’s local environment.

- Individuals must live, work, or study within the City of Rockville limits.
- Businesses, community groups, nonprofits, schools, City/County/State operations, or other organizations must be located in the City of Rockville or must be able to demonstrate significant operations/projects within or benefiting the city.
- Building projects must be located within the City of Rockville limits.

Award Categories

Rockville’s Environmental Excellence Awards include the following four categories for submissions:

1. **Outstanding Individual Environmental Stewardship:** This award recognizes the achievements of an individual who undertakes a project or an ongoing effort to improve the health or quality of the environment, address a specific environmental problem, or increase public understanding of and participation in environmental issues. Successful nominees must demonstrate significant, tangible benefits to the city. Projects cannot be part of a school assignment and cannot be for academic credit.
2. **Outstanding Leadership in Environmental Practices:** This award recognizes businesses, groups or organizations that successfully undertake a project or other initiative to produce significant, measurable environmental benefits in Rockville through activities such as new operating procedures, process improvements, employee involvement, group volunteerism, or other management initiatives.

3. **Outstanding Achievement in Green Building Technology/Design:** This award recognizes the design, construction, or substantial renovation of a building in Rockville that provides significant environmental benefits, such as improved energy efficiency, stormwater management, indoor air quality, water usage, or waste management beyond existing City requirements.
4. **Outstanding Environmental Education and Academic Achievement:** This award recognizes outstanding efforts by a student or teacher at the k-16 level, either residing in Rockville or attending a Rockville school. Such achievements may include development or delivery of new curriculum related to the environment, innovative use of Rockville's natural or built environment to teach students, publication of a paper relating to environmental issues in Rockville, or organizing students to successfully undertake a significant environmental project.

Application Process

Nominations are accepted year-round on a rolling basis. Anyone is eligible to nominate or endorse a deserving individual, organization, business, public agency, student, educational institution, or program for an award. Submit a nomination form and supporting documentation by email to environment@rockvillemd.gov, by fax to 240-314-8309, or by mail to City of Rockville Environmental Excellence Awards, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville MD 20850.

Award Selection

Nominations and supplemental materials are received by the Environment Commission and City staff, which will review these materials and as appropriate recommend awards to the Mayor and Council. The Mayor and Council will make the final selection based upon Commission recommendations. Nominations are evaluated based on:

- Demonstrated personal or organizational commitment to the environment that has produced measurable, positive change.
- Enthusiasm and resourcefulness in educating and inspiring others.
- Development and implementation of projects that show outstanding merit and innovation in environmental conservation, protection, preservation, or pollution prevention.
- Extent to which project/endeavor goes beyond normal practices or exceeds standard requirements.

Award Presentation

Awardees will be presented with a commemorative plaque by the Mayor at a televised meeting of the Rockville Mayor and Council. Recipients and their projects may at the City's discretion be described and presented in press releases, web pages, social media and/or other publications.