

NYC DOE Sustainability Excellence Awards

The NYC Department of Education Sustainability Initiative is seeking nominations and applications for the 2014-2015 Sustainability Excellence Awards. The awards will recognize outstanding individuals and teams for excellence in environmental leadership and contributions to the DOE's vision to nurture the development of sustainable solutions that foster tomorrow's citizens, leverage the school as a learning laboratory and promote it as the center of our efforts, and make direct impact on conservation through our own operations and maintenance practices.

Eligibility

- The applicant must be in a DOE public school or charter school in a DOE-managed building.
 - The school's 2014-2015 Sustainability Coordinator must have been designated by the September deadline in accordance with Chancellor's Regulation A-850.
 - The school's 2014-2015 Sustainability Plan must have been submitted by the October deadline in accordance with Chancellor's Regulation A-850.
 - Activities and events must be for the time period of May 1, 2014 through April 30, 2015.
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Who Can Nominate or Apply?

- ANYONE can **nominate** an outstanding person, group, or schools for the following award categories (sustainability coordinator, facility staff, principal, student green team, or event – see details below) by filling out the [nomination form](#) by 5:00pm on **May 28, 2015**. Nominees will be informed of their nomination on **May 29, 2015** so that they can submit the full application. Nominees who do not fill out the full application by the deadline will not be considered for the award.
- A person, group, or school does not have to be nominated first to be eligible for an award. Applicants must fill out the award [application form](#) by 4:00pm on **June 5, 2015** to be considered.
- Schools may submit entries in more than one category.

Award Categories & Guidelines

1) Outstanding Sustainability Coordinator

- a) Description: Sustainability Coordinators are the first line of action in our schools, working with representatives from all sectors, including the principal, food services, custodial staff, parents, and students, to develop and implement all the sustainability initiatives in the school. This award will recognize coordinators that exemplify outstanding efforts in creating a culture of sustainability in their school through their behavior, actions, and leadership.
- b) Additional Requirements: The coordinator must be the currently designated sustainability coordinator for their school.
- c) Award: 3 levels awarded - Elementary (K-5), Middle (6-8), High (9-12)
Prize: The coordinator will receive funding to attend the annual Green Schools National Conference (up to \$1,500) OR a \$1,000 award via the principal's galaxy budget to expand their school's sustainability efforts.

2) Outstanding Facility Staff

- a) Description: The award will recognize the outstanding efforts of a custodian engineer, building manager, or facility staff person that has gone above and beyond the call of duty to collaborate with the sustainability coordinator on the building's sustainability initiatives.
- b) Requirements: The nominee or applicant can be a custodian engineer, building manager, or a person on the facility management staff (i.e. fireman, handyman, custodial staff, etc.).
- c) Award: 3 levels awarded - Elementary (K-5), Middle (6-8), High (9-12)
- d) Prize: The staff person will receive funding to attend the annual Green Schools National Conference (up to \$1,500) OR a \$1,000 award via the principal's galaxy budget to expand their school's sustainability efforts.

3) Outstanding Principal

- a) Description: The award will recognize a principal that has successfully provided the framework and support for the sustainability coordinator, facility manager, student green team, or community to realize their goals in implementing sustainability programs in their school.
- b) Requirements: The principal must have been in compliance with all three sustainability items on the principal's compliance checklist for 2013-2014.
- c) Award: 3 levels awarded - Elementary (K-5), Middle (6-8), High (9-12)
- d) Prize: The principal will receive funding to attend the annual Green Schools National Conference (up to \$1,500) OR a \$1,000 award via the principal's galaxy budget to expand their school's sustainability efforts.

4) Outstanding Student Green Team

- a) Description: The award will recognize the successful green team environmental initiatives where young people are taking a leadership role in the initiative. We believe that young people can have a positive impact on the environment and are vital in changing the way we live on our planet.
- b) Additional Requirements: The Student Green Team must have active membership for the past two years, in 2013-2014 and 2014-2015. The activities of the team were action-based and self-initiated, and not those assigned by a teacher or other adult.
- c) Award: 3 levels awarded - Elementary (K-5), Middle (6-8), High (9-12)
- d) Prize: The green team will receive a \$1,000 award via the principal's galaxy budget to expand their sustainability efforts.

5) Outstanding School Event

- a) Description: The award will recognize an outstanding event that brought the school community together for a special purpose or service project that educated the participants in environmental education and their impact on the environment.
- b) Requirements: The event must have happened in a DOE public school or charter school in a DOE-managed building or on the grounds immediately surrounding the school building. Class field trips are not eligible for this award.
- c) Award: 3 levels awarded - Elementary (K-5), Middle (6-8), High (9-12)
- d) Prize: Each school will receive a \$1,000 award via the principal's galaxy budget to expand their sustainability efforts.

Timeline

- Nomination Deadline: May 28, 2015
- Application Deadline: June 5, 2015
- Award Notification: June 25, 2015
- Award Ceremony at Sustainability Summit: July 24, 2015
- Funding Transferred to School Budget: September 2015

Prize Details and Restrictions

The Office of Sustainability will award up to 15 prizes in scholarships and budgetary funding as detailed in the award guidelines. All prize scholarships and funding must be used by June 2016. Prizes may not be used for personal stipends. Awards with a choice of prize will be confirmed in writing with the awardee by September 11, 2015.

Judging Criteria

- Entries will be judged solely on the information in the application.
 - Quality of submission
 - Impact made (on students, schools, or the movement, depending on the category)
 - Audiences reached (breadth in the type of people reached by the work)
 - Great stories for the movement
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NOTE: This is not a writing contest, but a review of environmental projects, practices, and leadership. The award winners will be highlighted on the DOE's Sustainability Initiative website through a summary and/or case study as part of an on-line library of best environmental practices in the DOE. Award winners will have the opportunity to review, comment on, and approve the summary of their case study before they are posted to the website.

Questions?

Email the Office of Sustainability at sustainability@schools.nyc.gov or call 718-349-5738.