

These criteria are subject to change for future award cycles.

General Selection Criteria and Process

Criteria

Entries will be judged based on both general criteria and criteria specific to each individual category. The following general criteria will be used in assessing each entry:

- The entry directly or indirectly (i.e., by encouraging actions) reduces emissions of criteria pollutants, hazardous air pollutants, and/or greenhouse gases.
- The entry is innovative and unique.
- The entry provides a model for others to follow (i.e., it is replicable).
- The entry's positive outcomes are continuing/sustainable.

Although not required to win an award, the following general criteria will also be considered in the judging process:

- The entry has positive effects on environmental media other than air.
- The entry demonstrates effective collaboration and partnerships.
- The individual or organization submitting the entry has effectively measured/evaluated the outcomes of the project, program, or technology.

Process

EPA staff will conduct an initial screening of all applications received, and will consult with outside experts to the extent necessary. A special CAAAC workgroup will provide advice to EPA on the award entries. The EPA Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation will make the final award determinations.

Award recipients will be recognized by the U.S. EPA at a special awards ceremony held in Washington, DC. Awards are honorary and do not include monetary recognition.

Award-Specific Criteria

In addition to the general criteria, the following criteria will be used:

Clean Air Technology Award

- The technology is commercially viable and can be widely applied.
- The technology is cost-effective relative to other air pollution control technologies that already exist.
- The technology is developed at the prototype stage or beyond.

Community Action Award

These criteria are subject to change for future award cycles.

The Community Action Award applies to community partnership efforts that directly or indirectly (i.e., by encouraging actions) reduce emissions of criteria pollutants, hazardous/toxic air pollutants, and/or greenhouse gases. In addition to the [general criteria](#), the following criteria will be used in assessing each entry:

- Diverse stakeholders participate in planning and decision-making efforts aimed at improving air quality.
- Partnerships among business, industry, government and non-government organizations are established and help to leverage community resources where appropriate.
- Projects identify and address the community's priority air quality concerns.
- Project has significantly improved the community quality of life.

Education/Outreach Award

This category applies to efforts to educate and/or disseminate information to the intended targeted audience(s) about air quality and related issues. In addition to the [general criteria](#), the following criteria will be used in assessing each entry:

- The education/outreach program increases public awareness about the importance of clean air.
- The program improves access to information on clean air issues.
- The program successfully reaches the intended targeted audience(s).
- Development of the program is completed or substantially underway.

Regulatory/Policy Innovations Award

The Regulatory/Policy Innovations Award applies to regulatory or policy initiatives and programs implemented across all levels (state, local, tribal, non-profit, industry, etc.). In addition to the [general criteria](#), the following criteria will be used in assessing each entry:

- The regulation or policy encourages actions that go beyond compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- The regulation or policy provides flexibility to the regulated community.
- The development process for the regulation or policy has included a stakeholder (e.g., public) involvement component.
- The regulation or policy has been put into effect.

Transportation Efficiency Innovations Award

The Transportation Efficiency Innovations Award applies to programs and projects that make transportation systems more efficient and reduce air pollution in the process. In addition to the [general criteria](#), the following criteria will be used in assessing each entry:

- The project or program increases the number of available transportation options, improves transportation efficiency (e.g., fewer vehicles miles traveled or better fuel consumption), and/or reduces travel time and costs, with the result of improving air quality.
- Development of the project or program is completed or substantially underway.

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Thomas W. Zosel Outstanding Individual Achievement Award

The Thomas W. Zosel Outstanding Individual Achievement Award recognizes up to one individual for outstanding achievement, demonstrated leadership, and a lasting commitment to promoting clean air and helping to achieve better air quality.

In addition to meeting the [general criteria](#), the candidate should be an innovative leader in his or her field and demonstrate a lifetime of achievement in promoting clean air. Candidates for this award must be nominated by a third party.

Gregg Cook Visionary Program Award

The Gregg Cooke Visionary Program Award recognizes the air quality project or program that most successfully blends aspects from two or more of the existing awards categories (i.e., Clean Air Technology, Community Action, Education/Outreach, Regulatory/Policy Innovations, and Transportation Efficiency Innovations). The program must also meet the [general criteria](#).

This was last awarded in 2015.