



## 2011 Clean Air Awards & Sustainability General Information & Criteria



### *Metro-Wichita Air Quality Improvement Task Force*

The City of Wichita and the Wichita Air Quality Improvement Task Force desire to recognize metro area businesses, organizations, communities groups, and individuals that have contributed to improving and preserving air quality in the four-county metro area (Butler, Harvey, Sedgwick, and Sumner Counties).

Contributions that merit a Clean Air & Sustainability Award might include the *following*:

- Implementation of a technology, process, or material substitution that results in the reduction of air emissions at the source. For example –
  - Implementation of a no-idle policy or efficiencies to fleet operations
  - Upgrading to energy-efficient equipment
  - Changes from solvent to powder-coating operations
- Offering alternative commute incentive programs to employees (RideShare, reduced-cost bus passes, loaner bicycles, bike parking).
- Implementation of water conservation or water quality projects that result in water savings or improvements in water quality.
- Public education projects that educate the community about industry-sector air quality improvement opportunities, conservation of natural resources, recycling programs, etc.

#### **Why apply?**

A Clean Air & Sustainability Award will publicly recognize your business' or organization's concern for the community through environmental improvement. Your customers (and potential customers) want to hear about your achievements, and it's great for employee morale.

Clean Air & Sustainability Award recipients will be recognized by the city council and county commission, in a public ceremony as well as profiled in newsletters, and on the city's channel programming.

#### **Who is eligible to apply?**

All four-county metro area businesses, not-for-profit organizations, and governments, as well as community groups and individuals\*, are eligible for this recognition. *Candidates can be self-nominated.*

#### **\*NEW THIS YEAR:**

*A special award was created last year: Margaret and Paul Miller Local Environmental Stewardship Award. This award will go to a Wichita resident or married couple that has given their time, resources and talents for 5 or more years working on environmental issues, projects, conservation efforts/recycling/pollution prevention in Wichita. This individual can be an individual that has been recognized publically for his/her achievements or not but the significant nature of the project(s) should be easily identified. (Only Wichita residents may apply for the Margaret and Paul Miller Local Environmental Stewardship Award. Non-Wichita residents may apply for a general individual recognition award if they live in one of the four counties of Butler, Harvey, Sedgwick, and Sumner.*



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### **How to apply? When is the application due?**

Return the completed application by mail, email or fax by December 31, 2011 to Wichita Air Quality Improvement Task Force - c/o Kay Johnson, City of Wichita, Manager, Office of Environmental Initiatives, 455 North Main, Wichita, KS, 67202, [kjohnson@wichita.gov](mailto:kjohnson@wichita.gov) or Fax at (316) 858-7392.

Recipients of the Awards will be announced by mid January and recognized at a luncheon and/or special awards ceremony at the 2012 Kansas Preservation, Energy and Sustainability Conference and Fair on either January 27<sup>th</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at Century II. For a complete schedule visit: [www.greenwichita.org](http://www.greenwichita.org)

### **How are the applications evaluated?**

The purpose of the Clean Air & Sustainability Awards is to recognize local organizations and individuals that have made a positive contribution to the regional environment through programs and projects that improve air quality and then recognize as many qualified environmental achievements as possible related to improved regional air quality.

The applications will be evaluated by a panel of up to five judges, represented by individuals from local/state government, business, and non-governmental organizations. Judges will be selected based on their subject knowledge, fairness, impartiality, expertise in air quality, environmental matters, and community affairs.

The panel will review each application looking for environmental achievement that may be expressed quantitatively or qualitatively, depending on the type of program or project. Some projects maybe as simple as documented results from an employee ride-share program or as elaborate as tons of emissions reduced due to a material change at a large industry. All complete applications will be considered.

Judging criteria may include the following:

- Emission reduction of air pollutants - *quantified and documented due to a change in material, process, or technology, not just a downturn in business. OR*
- Pollution prevention, water quality or conservation improvement, recycling project or other sustainable project with demonstrable improvements - *quantified and documented due to a change in material, process, or technology, not just a downturn in business. OR*
- Education programming provided to the community or group on a significant level – numbers educated or number of programs/presentations.
- Significant nature of the project or projects – must be provided and reviewed.
- Environmental compliance history - *industry environmental compliance history will be reviewed and considered, but a history of minor violations does not make the facility ineligible.*
- Sustainability - *is the practice sustainable?*
- Demonstrates effective collaboration – *did the business or industry document collaboration in order to meet its goals?*
- Demonstrates educational benefits to the community.



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- Commitment to promoting clean air and improved air quality – *does the business or industry have a written commitment, like an environmental policy, that demonstrates top management commitment to the environment?*
- Replicability – *can another business or industry replicate these successes?*
- Innovation or uniqueness.
- Technology is commercially viable and can be widely applied.
- The individual(s) applying for the Paul and Margaret Miller Local Environmental Stewardship Award must be residents of Wichita, KS and have worked or served in a grassroots capacity in the environmental field in a voluntary manner or as a paid employee for at least 5 -10 years with a description of projects or issues provided.

### Checklist for a complete application

Use the attached application form and this checklist to make sure you submit a complete application.

- Did you include the name or title of the program or activity?
- Did you list the responsible individual(s) with the organization, address, e-mail, telephone, and facsimile numbers?
- Did you describe the goals for the project?
- Did you use any new or innovative technologies?
- Did you explain how this project impacts the community?
- Did you list measurable results such as tons of emissions reduced, pounds of hazardous waste reduced, dollars saved on solid or hazardous waste disposal?
- Did you describe or attach evidence of your facility's environmental commitment?
- Did you complete special questions if applying for Wichita's Margaret and Paul Miller Local Environmental Stewardship Award?

For assistance filling out this application or quantifying environmental and cost savings, contact the Kansas Small Business Environmental Assistance Program (SBEAP) at 800-578-8898.

**Please Note:** Recipients of the Clean Air & Sustainability Awards will be notified by a representative of the Wichita Air Quality Improvement Task Force by January 12, 2012.

- Awards for businesses, organizations, and governments will be presented during the Summit luncheon on Friday January 27<sup>th</sup> at Century II. You or your representative must be present to receive the award.
- Awards for community groups, individuals (including those honored for a general award or for the Wichita Paul and Margaret Miller Environmental Stewardship Award), and neighborhood associations will be presented during or immediately after the Fair lunch period on Saturday January 28<sup>th</sup> at Century II. You or your representative must be present to receive the award.