

**ENTRY GUIDELINES  
AND  
INFORMATION  
2021  
SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS**



## **KCIC SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS**

The purpose of the KCIC Sustainability Awards Program is to recognize and promote sustainable practices by businesses in the Kansas City metropolitan area. Awards will be given in the following three categories:

### **Sustainability:**

Recognizes businesses that have completed improvements to their facility, implemented a program, or committed to new processes or technologies that conserve energy and/or natural resources, reduce waste, improve air quality or reduce stormwater runoff. Examples of eligible projects/programs include:

- Improvements to the outside envelope of a building that reduces energy consumption. Examples include weatherizing and improved insulation.
- Improvements to the heating and cooling components of a facility or process to increase efficiency and reduce energy consumption.
- Improvements to a company's processes that reduce energy consumption, increase energy efficiency and eliminate waste.
- A commitment to the use of renewable resources in either a manufacturing process or support function.
- Improvements that demonstrate a conservation of water as an important tenant of their business
- A commitment to recycling and reuse of both renewable and finite resources.
- Demonstrating a commitment to deal with storm water where it falls and invest in techniques to prevent it from contributing to flooding
- Improvements to the process or facility that promote a healthy indoor air quality.
- A commitment to planting trees for energy conservation measures

*Note: LED lighting upgrade projects will not be considered unless they demonstrate an additional element to the project (for example, a subsidized LED bulb replacement program for employees to make energy efficiency upgrades at home)*

### **Stewardship:**

Recognizes individuals, companies or policy-makers who actively promote the need for, and the benefits of, being sustainable to the business community, external partners and/or the general public. This could include influencing vendors, engagement in public policy, and employee or community education and outreach.

## **Innovation:**

Honors a business or organization developing cutting edge innovative solutions or pilot projects testing commercial viability that meet today's changing demands for sustainability.

Each award category has two levels, determined by the judging committee: SILVER level that is awarded for conscientious improvement; GOLD level that is awarded for extraordinary improvement.

## **AWARDS PROCESS**

KCIC accepts nomination submissions in late summer/early fall of each year through the KCIC website ([www.kciconline.com](http://www.kciconline.com)). A committee of judges from the KCIC Sustainability Committee reviews and selects award recipients based on the qualifications and criteria listed below. Award recipients are notified prior to the official awards presentation which will take place in late October.

## **QUALIFICATIONS AND CRITERIA**

The competition is open to all companies that are **current members of KCIC and non-members that are nominated by a current KCIC member**. (For non-members, extra points will be given to businesses located within the KCIC industrial area or to businesses that work with KCIC members (suppliers/vendors). Non-member award recipients are encouraged to join KCIC and will be offered a discounted membership.

**Submissions must be for work completed between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021, except for the stewardship category.**

An entry shall be specific for one category only. If the judges determine that the entry is better suited to a different category, the entry will be recategorized.

### **Criteria**

Applicants will be evaluated primarily on their implementation of sustainability activities. *The results should be significant when evaluated against the organization's size and available resources.*

Judges will assess each entry with respect to the following criteria:

1. Demonstration of that the entrant's improvement is in keeping with industry standards and best practices.
2. Quality of the improvement as evidenced by proven performance.
3. Originality and innovation as appropriate.
4. The complexity of the problem addressed.

5. The extent to which the project contributes to or offers the prospect of contributing to social and economic advancement as well as the economic benefit (triple bottom line).
6. The entrant's efforts and success at influencing vendors and other businesses.

Components for a successful application should include as much of the following:

- Description & significance of sustainability activities, targeting multiple impacts
- Significance of activities to your organization's primary function/product
- Quantifiable waste volume or emissions reduction, use of green materials, natural resource conservation, etc.
- Quantifiable reduction in water, energy, solvent or toxic chemical usage.
- Beneficial reuse of discarded materials
- Economic benefits, including cost reductions or jobs created or retained
- Employee/member involvement & education
- Benefits to employees, community and environment
- Relevance to other companies and organizations in your sector

## HOW TO ENTER

Fill out an official entry form available online at [www.kciconline.com](http://www.kciconline.com). **If you are unable to complete the application online, please contact Leslie Barland at [leslie@bridgingthegap.org](mailto:leslie@bridgingthegap.org) or 816-612-8710.**

The online entry form includes:

1. **Basic entry information** – Project name, company name, contact information name of nominator, and nominator's contact information
2. **Project Overview** – A brief synopsis of the project/program not to exceed 250 words. This should identify the project (what, when, where, why & how) and summarize the overall results.
3. **Entrant Profile** – A profile of the entrant (who), not to exceed 100 words, including others who may have assisted in the effort.
4. **Project Description** – A more complete description of the project or program not to exceed a 500-word narrative that addresses all the reasons the entrant feels they deserve the requested award. Please be specific and explain the project in a clear and concise manner. Be sure to address the benefits of the improvement as well as the features and include quantifiable results where applicable.
5. **Testimonials** – Testimonials from employees, neighbors, suppliers and others are encouraged.
6. **Digital Photos** - Photos of the project (preferably before and after, if appropriate) are encouraged. Each photo should have a clear caption and a brief explanation of the subject.

7. **Graphs and Charts** - Supporting graphs and charts where applicable are encouraged. Graphs and charts should be legible and present a clear and concise message.

**Nominations must be received no later than September 10, 2020.**