



## 2020 WEAO AWARD PROGRAM FOR EXEMPLARY RESIDUALS & BIOSOLIDS MANAGEMENT

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this award program is to recognize and promote significant contributions in the field of residuals & biosolids management in Ontario.

Given that a wide range of activities, from research to implementation and operation, contribute to the success of residuals and biosolids management programs, nominations and awards can fit under any of the four (4) award categories listed below.

### AWARD CATEGORIES

Awards will recognize excellence demonstrated by practitioners in any one of the following categories:

1. **Full-scale operating residuals or biosolids program.** This category includes exemplary land application or resource recovery programs that are cost-effective, environmentally safe and publicly acceptable in Ontario. The success of the program may be the results of using innovative technology, developing acceptable residuals or biosolids products, marketing, and/or implementing exemplary management practices.
2. **Technology Innovation or Development.** This category is for those who have developed and fully proven significant technological improvements to treat and/or beneficially use and manage residuals or biosolids. Pilot and full-scale projects may qualify for this category.
3. **Significant Research.** This category is for studies/research that have substantially contributed to the success of residuals or biosolids management to maintain cost-effective and/or environmentally sustainable residuals and biosolids management practices in Ontario. For example, research that expands the state of the science that can result in the development of new technologies, products, or best management practices (BMPs) may qualify for this award.
4. **Public Engagement or Knowledge Transfer.** This category is to recognize significant local, regional, and/or national activities by individuals, local community groups, schools, associations, or other organizations that have increased public acceptance of residuals and biosolids management practices or contributed to knowledge transfer to peers and stakeholders through conferences, workshops, seminars, educational materials (factsheets, pamphlets, videos, etc.), in-class discussions, etc.



## NOMINATION AND AWARD INFORMATION

- # For consideration in WEAO Award Program, completed nomination packages must be submitted in the specified format (see pages 5-6). **THE DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF NOMINATIONS is Monday, January 25, 2021.** Nominations should be submitted electronically by email to:

weao@weao.org

- The email subject line should include “2020 WEAO Biosolids Award Program Nomination.” For questions regarding the award and nominations, please contact the WEAO office: Phone: (416) 410-6933 ext.1
- # Nominations for the award may be submitted by anyone including the nominee, WEAO members, municipalities, consultants, researchers, the general public, or other interested parties. Nominees do not have to be members of WEAO.
- # Nominated entries may include both individuals and groups from either private or public organizations that demonstrate excellence in the area of residuals & biosolids management. This includes but is not necessarily limited to producers, users, land applicators, researchers, technology developers, haulers, and farming organizations.
- # Previous winning projects or activities will not be considered as candidates in the same category for a five-year period.
- # Unsuccessful nominees for an award can be resubmitted as is, or as amended based on feedback received from the award selection committee, the very next year or any time after.
- # Nomination packages will be reviewed and evaluated by a panel from WEAO’s Residual and Biosolids Committee using the evaluation criteria specific to each award category (see pages 3-4). The panel will then recommend to all members of WEAO’s Residual and Biosolids Committee a maximum of one potential award winner from each category, if any.
- # Winning projects/activities must be in full compliance with applicable provincial and/or federal guidelines, policies and regulations. Any orders or complaints that may be associated with the nominated project/activity must have been addressed to the satisfaction of the agency that issued the order or received the complaint.
- # The award, consisting of a plaque, will be presented at the WEAO Annual Conference. Because of fiscal constraints, WEAO is unable to pay for travel to



the awards program. While we hope that winners will attend the Awards Ceremony, provisions will be made to present the award to those unable to attend. The award recipient will receive one free registration to the WEAO Annual Conference, and will have the opportunity to present their project during the Residuals and Biosolids Session.

- # The award winner will have the opportunity to prepare a technical article describing their award winning exemplary activities for publication in the WEAO magazine INFLUENTS and/or review an article on the award prepared by Influent editorial staff. Photographic prints and analysis of winning entry will be used in WEAO publications that encourage exemplary residuals and biosolids management practices.

### **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

The Residuals & Biosolids Exemplary Management Award candidates will be evaluated against all applicable criteria that are listed below for the corresponding award category. Each criterion is given a maximum score of 10.

#### **FOR FULL-SCALE OPERATING PROJECTS**

- # Sustained full-scale, proven operation over several years.
- # Consistent, cost-effective operation.
- # Public acceptance.
- # Reduced risk to the environment and enhanced health and safety of the public.
- # Control of pollutants and nuisances like odour, dust and traffic.
- # Environmentally sustainable (e.g. recycling of resources and/or energy generation).
- # Excellence in project management, and particularly management that fosters close communication and co-ordination among all stakeholders including the generator, end-user where applicable, project neighbors and public.
- # Public education.
- # Contributed to general goodwill within the residuals and biosolids industry.
- # Added value to an existing operating project.
- # Uniqueness/Novelty of project.



## **FOR TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION OR DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES**

- # Sustained excellence in advancing our knowledge of technologies that manage residuals & biosolids (e.g. improved design criteria or operational practice).
- # Technology with potential for use elsewhere.
- # Operational proof of performance.
- # Resolved previous residuals and biosolids management or utilization challenges.
- # May contribute to public acceptance.
- # Innovative technologies.
- # Development of new technology or enhancement of existing ones to improve quality of residuals and/or biosolids for beneficial use or energy production
- # The new technologies or development activities contribute to sustainability.
- # Contributed to general goodwill within the residuals and biosolids industry.

## **FOR SIGNIFICANT RESEARCH ACTIVITIES**

- # Further improved our understanding of the environmental benefits and potential effects associated with residuals & biosolids management including land application and energy production.
- # Contributed substantially to development of innovative technologies, improved design and/or operation.
- # Provided quality information from well-designed studies with wider applicability and statistical merit.
- # Generated key information on the utilization of residuals and biosolids that may translate into revisions of regulations and/or guidance documents.
- # Results/Knowledge effectively communicated to stakeholders

## **FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT OR KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER ACTIVITIES**

- # Demonstrated increases in both public acceptance and public demand. The term “public” is meant to include regulatory agencies, agricultural organizations, water quality professionals, public health officials, environmentalists, academic



- institutions, and the news media as well as the general public. Indicators of “demand” include such factors as waiting lists and users paying for residuals and/or biosolids or biosolids/residuals derived products.
- # Dedicated and successful individual and team efforts.
  - # Demonstrated willingness to share information and approaches for improving practices, reducing risks and thereby gaining public acceptance.
  - # Successful approaches for working with the press and other groups, explaining the benefits of the chosen management activity,
  - # Excellence in local information transfer and training efforts that have made a positive local difference, (e.g., on-site demonstrations and collaborative efforts involving municipalities, citizens, universities, and others).
  - # Characterized by individuals or a team who work with all stakeholders to identify and utilize critical control points for ensuring sound management and community-friendly practices.
  - # Contributed to general goodwill within the residuals and biosolids industry.

## **AWARD SELECTION**

A maximum of one award will be considered per category.

To be considered for an award, the operating project/activity must obtain an overall score of 85% or greater and demonstrate exemplary achievement. The overall score is calculated as the summation of the scores obtained for all applicable criteria divided by the maximum possible score for those applicable criteria. The overall score is reported on a percentage basis since the maximum possible score may vary between nominated projects/activities, even within a category.

The award winner of any category will be determined based on the following:

- # Highest overall score of the nominations within a category, and
- # Most significant contribution to the success of residuals and biosolids management programs in Ontario, and/or
- # Greatest benefits in reducing public concerns and increasing public acceptance.



WEAO may also provide honorable mention of nominations in each category.

## **NOMINATION FORMAT**

The information described in the Nomination Format should be supplied in the nomination package. The completeness of information provided and the manner in which the nomination addresses the applicable Evaluation Criteria is important.

All nominations must be submitted to the WEAO in the following format:

**1. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION (See sample front page form on page 8)**

Name, address, affiliation, telephone, email, and fax numbers, and the spokesperson for the project or activity. Please also provide the name, address, and email address of your government officials (MPP and MP) (if applicable) so they may be notified should your entry win an award (see form on page 8).

**2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (Maximum 1 page)**

Briefly describe the operating project/activity and explain how it is exemplary.

**3. DETAIL DESCRIPTION OF OPERATING PROJECT/ACTIVITY INFORMATION (maximum 4-5 pages)**

Provide a detailed description of the operating project/activity. Tell the story in a manner that clearly shows the benefits of exemplary management, including how the activity eliminated or reduced public concern or increased public acceptance. Do not assume that reviewers are familiar with your subject; be quantitative and thorough in describing your submission. As a minimum, provide information relevant to the applicable evaluation criteria to adequately support the nomination.

Where applicable, provide for example the following information:

- (a) Residual or biosolids type, quantity (expressed as tonnage of dry solids or cubic metres of liquid processed per day, week or year), quality (nutrient, energy content (how much power can be produced from a tonne or cubic metre of material), and pollutant concentrations compared with regulatory requirements), processing information, and other details relevant to the exemplary management practice or activity. Be specific regarding the unit processes, including production and processing details.
- (b) Duration and size of the project or activity; extent of ability to operate at design level; and cost and effectiveness information.

- (c) Description of the project-monitoring program as it determines compliance; keeps the public informed of activities; evaluates performance; and helps modify practices.
- (d) Description of the contributions of the co-operating parties to the project management or activity.
- (e) Provision of sufficient information so that the awards committee can assure compliance with applicable regulations.
- (f) Description of important project management activities that maintain and promote excellence and maximize the benefits of sound management, (e.g., hold down costs; improve residuals or biosolids quality; use a written code of good practice or other means to promote compliance with rules, publication and distribution of newsletters and leaflets, manage nutrients and minimize odors and other nuisances; and promote acceptance via working with allies, press and the public, management of residuals and biosolids while being transported and promotion for beneficial use and energy generation (not for disposal at a landfill site).
- (g) Description of internal and external training activities that have improved operations, performance, and public acceptance.
- (h) Description of the effectiveness of the local pre-treatment program that has resulted in better quality, increased energy generation and easier management.
- (i) Description of special innovative practices or activities.
- (j) Discuss how obstacles (technical, political, public acceptance or other) have been overcome as a result of the nominated activity.
- (k) Give evidence of the enhanced benefits (social, economical, and environmental) that have resulted from the activity, such as lower costs for materials management; lower energy consumption, reduced risk to public health and environmental; greater national adoption of practice; improved public acceptance; and, where applicable, development of market for sale of residuals and biosolids as a product, enhanced soil properties, better crop productivity and quality, enhanced plant disease resistance, improved energy generation, improvement in efficiency of the operation to generate more reliable energy at a reduced cost, use of post energy residuals and biosolids as a product, and increased demand for residual and biosolids products.



#### **4. REFERENCES**

The nomination must include the contact information (name, address, telephone, email) for 2 or 3 third party individuals who can act as independent references for details of the nomination. Some or all of these references may be contacted by the award selection panel as part of the evaluation process.



## 5. ATTACHMENTS

Supporting materials may be attached, but the submission package should be a maximum of 20 pages, including appendices/attachments. The attachment should include a short cover index page that lists the various supporting materials and gives about a 4 – 6 line description of each item and how each appendix supports the nomination package.

**Note:** Sheer bulk of information is not necessary or definitive. Be concise and attach items that truly substantiate the importance and relevance of the beneficial use project or activity. Please do not send materials that you wish to have back. They cannot be returned.

**Photographs of the activity are strongly encouraged.** Actual photograph files are better than scanned copies. WEAO and others would like to use your prints in publications that illustrate and provide greater recognition of your activity.

**Testimonials** - Testimonials have merit and help the awards committee in making their decision. Testimonials could be from various stakeholders including municipalities, those who are partners in the operation and activities, receivers/users of biosolids or residuals, etc.

**Consent** – The Applicant’s consent to allow the selection committee, at their discretion, to contact local, provincial and/or other regulatory agencies for verification of complaints, orders, and any other non-compliance, if any.



**SAMPLE FRONT PAGE (Residual and Biosolids Management Awards Program)**

**I. Proposed Award Category** \_\_\_\_\_

**II. Operating Project/Activity Identification**

a) Official Name and Address of Award Entity(ies) to be Engraved on Plaque and Certificate

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b) Type of Ownership \_\_\_\_\_  
(e.g., corporate, private or public, university, etc.)

c) Contact Person Regarding the Nomination \_\_\_\_\_

Their Title, Address, Telephone and Fax No. (please indicate if this is to be a joint award: Title, Address, Telephone and Fax No. of the joint recipient)

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**III. Award Notification**

a) Name, Title, Address and Telephone and Fax Numbers of Local Officials (e.g., Mayor, Authority Board President, Corporate President, Department Chairman, etc.) of the person to be notified (if applicable):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b) Provincial Member of Parliament \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

c) Other \_\_\_\_\_

**IV. One Sentence Description**

State the exemplary features of the operating project/activity.