

APEGBC Sustainability Award

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Sustainability Award was created to recognize the important contribution that engineering and geoscience make to the well being of human life and the ecosystems on which we all depend. It further seeks to recognize the positive role of human qualities such as ethics, imagination, reason and common sense in achieving this end.

The Sustainability Committee will sponsor one or more annual awards based on a project, product, organization, or individual that has demonstrated a commitment to sustainability and/or has exemplified one or more of the Sustainability Guidelines.

Purpose

The Award will serve the following purposes:

- Highlight APEGBC's continued commitment to integrate sustainability in all of its functions
- Educate and raise awareness among Members via Innovation, the Sustainability Now newsletter and the websites
- Educate and raise awareness among Members and attendees of the AGM and Conference
- Raise the profile of projects or products
- Provide publicity for the company/individuals involved

Eligibility Criteria

The Award is open to any project, product, organization, or individual that has demonstrated a commitment to and understanding of the concept of sustainability and/or has applied one or more of the Sustainability Guidelines (see attached Guidelines).

Individuals who are nominated must be Members of APEGBC. Project, product or organization nominations must demonstrate the significant involvement of Members of APEGBC either individually, or as key contributor(s) to a product/project team.

Projects and products may be completed or under construction/development. Completed projects must have been completed within the preceding 5 years.

Nomination Procedures

Nominations should consist of a written description of approximately 500 words that clearly describes the project, product, organization or individual and the involvement of BC professional engineers and/or professional geoscientists, as well as the reasons it qualifies for a Sustainability Award.

As sustainability is as much about a thought process as it is about physical results, nominations that describe "the story" of a project development or organization are encouraged.

As many as three (3) photos, illustrations and/or other documentation may be submitted as supporting material.

The deadline for nominations is **June 30, 2004**. Nominations may be submitted by mail (Sustainability Committee, APEGBC, 200-4010 Regent St., Burnaby BC, V5C 6N2) or electronically to info@sustainability.ca. Electronic submissions may be sent as Word or PDF files and photos as .jpg or .gif files.

The Sustainability Committee will submit its recommended winner(s) to Council for consideration at their September meeting.

Selection Criteria

The Sustainability Committee will review the nominations and advise Council on its selections based on one or more of the following:

- best application of a particular aspect of sustainability; for example, community engagement
- best overall sustainability concepts embodied by a project, product, individual or organization
- best use of the Sustainability Guidelines in a project/product, or by an individual or organization

Selection Process

Recipients are selected by the Sustainability Committee.

The Sustainability Committee will seek follow up information on nominations, if and where required.

The Sustainability Committee reserves the right, after reviewing all applications, to determine whether or not an award is to be given, as well as how many awards will be given.

Recipients will be notified in writing.

Announcement

The Award winner(s) will be showcased in the following ways:

- Announcement/Profile in Innovation Magazine
- Presentation of plaque/certificate(s) at APEGBC AGM Awards luncheon or gala
- Publicity on both APEGBC and sustainability.ca websites, as well as in the Sustainability Now newsletter

APEGBC Sustainability Guidelines

Within the scope of a Member's task and work responsibility each Member, exercising professional judgement, should:

1. Develop and maintain a level of understanding of the goals of, and issues related to, sustainability.
2. Take into account the individual and cumulative social, environmental and economic implications.
3. Take into account the short- and long-term consequences.
4. Take into account the direct and indirect consequences.
5. Assess reasonable alternative concepts, designs and/or methodologies.
6. Seek appropriate expertise in areas where the Member's knowledge is inadequate.
7. Cooperate with colleagues, clients, employers, decision-makers and the public in the pursuit of sustainability.

Further information about the sustainability guidelines and concepts can be found on the Sustainability Committee website (www.sustainability.ca), particularly in the Primer Parts 1 and 2.

Sample Interpretation of Sustainability Guidelines

Please note that these sample evaluation questions are provided for guidance, where sought. Submissions are in no way limited to answering all or any of these questions.

1. Awareness of sustainability (Guideline 1)

- a. Is there a section on sustainability in the project/product report to client?
- b. Was there a requirement that those you hired or contracted demonstrate their awareness of sustainability concepts?
- c. Are you making efforts to make staff/peers/managers aware of sustainability principles and how to apply them?

2. Fully investigating the impacts of potential actions (Guidelines 2, 3, 4)

- a. Was a process undertaken to estimate the major individual and cumulative impacts on society, environment and the economy?
- b. Was the degree of uncertainty of these impacts estimated?
- c. Has the project/product considered:
 - o the ease of decommissioning and of extracting materials or components for recycling
 - o the reversibility of an action (eg. small hydro plant vs. nuclear power)
 - o longevity of equipment, materials and substances mobilized or created during long-term degradation
 - o non-renewable resources consumed
 - o possible long-term impacts on society, the economy or the environment generally
- d. Has the project/product considered:
 - o impacts associated with production, transportation, use or disposal of materials/resources used
 - o unforeseen chemical interactions
 - o the behaviour or practices of subcontractors or suppliers you hire
 - o others' use (or misuse) of your products
 - o community socio-psychological impacts of your actions
- e. Did the project use life-cycle analysis or total cost accounting?

3. Weighing of Impacts of Alternative Solutions (Guideline 5)

- a. Was an informal assessment undertaken whereby the impacts of options were inventoried and then judged for acceptability?
- b. Was a formal Multiple Account Evaluation or Grid Analysis employed to assess alternatives?

4. Consultation and Partnerships (Guidelines 6 & 7)

- a. Was there an effort made to identify and involve stakeholders in the decision-making process?
- b. Did this project employ an integrated design approach?

Please refer to the Sustainability Primer, Part 2 (www.sustainability.ca) for more examples and answers to frequently asked questions.