

2026 Sustainable Oregon Awards Nominations

The Sustainable Oregon Awards recognize individuals and organizations who have made exceptional contributions in the field of materials management in Oregon. The 2026 Sustainable Oregon Awards will be presented at the conference in June at the Graduate Hotel in Eugene, OR. To see past award recipients, view the [awards page](#).

AOR is looking for nominees that demonstrate the following:

- Significant or outstanding accomplishments in recycling, waste prevention, reuse, repair or other sustainable materials management initiatives.
 - Demonstrated commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI).
 - Actions that went above and beyond the normal scope of duties and resulted in significantly reducing solid waste or having furthered recycling, waste prevention, reuse, composting and/or other elements of materials management.
 - Enhanced materials management through waste prevention, recycling, reuse, composting, innovation, upstream impacts, or market development.
 - Produced economic benefits in terms of reduced costs to businesses, organizations, or the public.
 - Demonstrated transferability or replicability of materials management programs, processes, or efforts.
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Nominations

Sustainable Oregon Awards are peer nominated, and as such, self-nominations will not be considered for award.

To make a nomination, please complete our [nomination form here](#). Submissions are due April 24th, 2026.

As you prepare to write your nomination, consider the following questions about your nominee:

- What is the history of the program or project and the goals?
- What is unique or innovative about the nominee's accomplishments?
- What about this program/project was particularly "outstanding" or "innovative"? How did the person/organization go "above and beyond"?
- How can this project be replicated? Is it sustainable long term? What are the benefits to the materials management community?
- What waste, materials, toxics or environmental impacts were prevented, reduced, reused or recycled? What measures were used to monitor success and why?
- Was a cultural or economic DEI consideration made and effectively accounted for?

- Has the program increased public awareness and participation in sustainable materials management in Oregon? Did it take an inclusive approach? Has the program created opportunities for historically underserved or marginalized communities?

You may attach supporting material (suggested, but not required) such as:

- Up to two letters of support from program partners, government officials, businesses, or community leaders.
- URL to a news report, press release or other literature regarding this project.
- Photos of the individual or organization.

Judging Criteria

The criteria below provide guidance by which the Awards Committee can measure candidates. Some criteria may not apply to your nomination. Please address those that are appropriate for your nominee.

- **Overall environmental benefits:** Does the nominee enhance sustainable materials management through waste prevention, reuse, recycling, composting, innovation, or market development? If possible, provide specific measurements that reflect the impact of the program (number of people reached, tons reduced, emissions avoided, etc.). Are there other environmental impacts?
- **Level of commitment:** Does the nominee demonstrate a long-term commitment to sustainable materials management or inclusive community involvement activities? Was the effort above and beyond the call of duty?
- **Innovation:** Has the nominee proposed a new or unique technology, promotion, process, or program not previously implemented in Oregon – or modified an existing technology, process, or program? Has the nominee effectively reached communities, organizations or individuals that have historically been underserved?
- **Economic benefits:** Has the nominee taken a cost-effective approach to waste prevention, reuse, composting, market development or other sustainable materials management activities? Has the nominee reduced business, organizational, or public costs?
- **Transferability:** Can the nominee or the efforts of the nominee be adopted or replicated by other organizations, business or jurisdictions? Have the efforts and implementation plans been documented? Has the information been shared and in what ways?
- **Advancing equity:** Does the nominee or their efforts advance equity, diversity and inclusion in Oregon's sustainable materials management industry? Has their approach created opportunities, reduced barriers or given voice to historically underserved or marginalized identities affected by the materials management system?