



STAR

State of Texas Alliance for Recycling

2019 STAR Environmental Leadership Awards – Nomination Information Packet–

The State of Texas Alliance for Recycling (STAR), a 501(c)3 nonprofit whose mission is to **advance recycling through partnerships, education, and advocacy for the benefit of Texas**, is pleased to announce the call for nominations for the 2019 Environmental Leadership Awards. These awards recognize true stewards of environmental change in Texas – individuals, communities, organizations, and businesses developing and maintaining programs involving recycling, composting, sustainable materials management, public education and outreach, special event recycling – and so much more. 2019 is our second year celebrating an award category for excellence in construction and demolition debris reuse/recycling and the Ken Steblein award for outstanding sustainability program in higher education!



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This packet contains application guidelines and information for the following eight awards, as well as the Volunteer Recognition guidelines:

- Ken Steblein Award for Outstanding Sustainability Program in Higher Education (*page 4*)
- Outstanding Environmental Public Education and Outreach Program (*page 6*)
- The Cis Myers Sustainability Leadership Award (*page 7*)
- Outstanding Recycling Special Event (*page 9*)
- Outstanding Recycling Partnership (*page 10*)
- Linda B. Smith Memorial Award for Outstanding Environmental Youth Education and Outreach Program (*page 11*)
- Rick Fuszek Memorial Award for Outstanding Sustainable Materials Management (*page 13*)
- Outstanding Compost Program (*page 15*)
- Excellence in Construction & Demolition Debris Reuse/Recycling (*page 16*)
- Volunteer of the Year Recognition (*page 18*)



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Application Guidelines:

Applications will **only be accepted through online submission**. No applications will be taken via email or mail. Clear and concise answers and explanations are preferred and appreciated.

Every application must have an **Executive Summary** based on how that organization, company or individual is helping support and further the STAR mission to **advance recycling through partnerships, education, and advocacy, for the benefit of Texas**. (maximum 200 words).

Supporting materials, such as pictures, brochures, or links to other sites, should be incorporated into the online application; no separate attachments will be accepted.

Duplicate applications from past years will be disqualified from the judging process. Previous award winners cannot apply the same program for the same category in consecutive years. **Individual awards are lifetime awards and cannot be won consecutively.**

Use a font size that is no smaller than 11 points; please ensure your application reflects your programmatic success by utilizing proper formatting and grammar, etc.

Timeline: For programmatic awards, the programs must have been initiated or continued into the 2018 (January-December) year and should have been operational for at least a year prior to submittal; for event awards, the event must have taken place from January 2018-May 2019.

Programs or events must take place in Texas.

STAR members who are nominated will receive an additional **5 points** toward their score; contact the STAR office by emailing info@recyclingstar.org for information on becoming a STAR member or for current status of membership.

Application deadline: Friday, June 28th by 5 p.m. CST
(please note there will be no applications accepted after the deadline)



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Ken Steblein Award for Outstanding Sustainability Program in Higher Education

Ken's enthusiasm for the environment and all things "green" was an inspiration to all. He began the UTMB Earth Day Celebration in 2000 and was dedicated to environmentally sound recycling and sustainability practices. Ken had a lifelong passion for raising plants and animals and was a highly regarded local source for information of horticultural knowledge and backyard farming techniques. At the UTMB campus where he taught, Ken was known as "Mr. Recycling." The Ken Steblein Award for Outstanding Sustainability Program in Higher Education is awarded to a college/university with an exceptional program in recycling or in connecting higher education and our industry in the areas of degrees/certifications, tech transfer, or career services.

Please address the following questions or topics of discussion with as much detail as you feel is necessary to support your application:

- 1) Executive Summary: How does this program support STAR's mission to advance recycling through partnerships, education, and advocacy for the benefit of Texas? (maximum 200 words) Points possible: *25 points*
- 2) Describe the program elements and elaborate on any innovative or unique aspects of the program – for instance, what sets this program apart from other higher education recycling programs? Possible points: *15 points*
- 3) Provide any metrics or measurable outcomes as a result of the program. For example, how much and what was recycled because of the program's success? What was the percentage or number of the audience reached? Possible points: *10 points*
- 4) Describe the program elements and include any examples of sample curriculum or fieldwork. Some examples would be students working at an on-site recycling center; examples of industry-specific degree/certification programs; career service success stories. Possible points: *20 points*



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- 5) Describe the nature of the program's future sustainability and include any way the program will be enhanced or built upon for continued education. For instance, will partnerships with industry be used in the future to sustain the program?
Possible points: *10 points*
- 6) Please include supporting material with your online application. This can include pictures, scans of promotional and/or outreach material, embedded links to videos or social media sites, or screenshots of websites.
Possible points: *20 points*
- 7) STAR Member Bonus: *5 points*



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Outstanding Environmental Public Education and Outreach Program

This award recognizes an innovative nonprofit organization, government agency, or company whose program shows leadership in public education and outreach as it pertains to recycling.

Please address the following questions or topics of discussion with as much detail as you feel is necessary to support your application:

- 1) Executive Summary: How does this program support STAR's mission to advance recycling through partnerships, education, and advocacy for the benefit of Texas? (maximum 200 words) Points possible: *25 points*
- 2) Describe the program elements and elaborate on any innovative or unique aspects of the program – for instance, what sets this program apart from other education and outreach programs? Points possible: *15 points*
- 3) Provide any metrics or measurable outcomes as a result of the program. For example, how much and what was recycled because of the program's success? What was the percentage or number of audience reached? Points possible: *10 points*
- 4) How were you able to demonstrate an increase in awareness for this program? What communication methods were used and how were they used to promote the program? Points possible: *20 points*
- 5) How will this program be sustained or enhanced in the future? Points possible: *10 points*
- 6) Include the outreach and promotional materials with your online application, including pictures, design pieces, embedded links to videos or social media sites, screenshots of websites, marketing plans, etc. Points possible: *20 points*
- 7) STAR Member Bonus: *5 points*



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The Cis Myers Sustainability Leadership Award

Cis Myers worked to bring recyclers and recycling organizations together, as the united STAR organization, to have a greater impact on growing recycling rates in Texas. She continues to promote and defend sustainability efforts across the State. Sustainability is generally defined as meeting the needs of today's generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet those same needs. To be truly sustainable, the environmental, economic, and social impacts of a program must be addressed.

This award recognizes an innovative individual, organization, or company who shows leadership in sustainable operations and programs that are strongly supported by the bottom line – people, planet, profit.

Please address the following questions or topics of discussion with as much detail as you feel is necessary to support your application:

- 1) Executive Summary: How does this program support STAR's mission to advance recycling through partnerships, education, and advocacy for the benefit of Texas? (maximum 200 words) Points possible: *25 points*
- 2) Describe the any innovative or unique aspects of the company or sustainability program – for instance, what sets this program or company apart from others? Points possible: *15 points*
- 3) Provide any metrics or measurable outcomes as a result of sustainability efforts within the company. For example, how much and what was recycled because of the program's success? What was the percentage or number of audience reached? Points possible: *20 points*
- 4) What is the economic impact of this project or program in terms of your local community and/or the State of Texas? Points possible: *15 points*
- 5) Describe how this project or program ensures social responsibility through aspects such as employee relations and education, environmental justice, community enhancement and sharing of best practices. How has this project or program helped define the company as a leader in sustainability issues? Points possible: *20 points*



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6) Include supporting material with your online application. This can include pictures, scans of promotional and/or outreach material, embedded links to videos or social media sites, screenshots of websites, etc. Points possible: *5 points*

7) STAR Member Bonus: *5 points*



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Outstanding Recycling Special Event

This award recognizes an innovative event that is held limited times each year and is either focused on recycling or has a unique way of including recycling in another event that is not necessarily environmental in focus (for instance, a zero-waste component).

Please address the following questions or topics of discussion with as much detail as you feel is necessary to support your application:

- 1) Executive Summary: How does this program support STAR's mission to advance recycling through partnerships, education, and advocacy for the benefit of Texas? (maximum 200 words) Points possible: *25 points*
- 2) Describe the any innovative or unique aspects of the event – for instance, what sets this event apart from other events? Points possible: *15 points*
- 3) Provide any metrics as a result of this special event. For example, how much and what was recycled because of the event's success? What was the percentage or number of audience reached? How many people attended the event? Points possible: *15 points*
- 4) Describe and provide examples (supporting materials) of the publicity or educational components of the event. How was successful outreach and marketing utilized for the event? Points possible: *20 points*
- 5) Describe any collaborative aspects of the event. For instance, how were volunteers used during the event? Were there any partnerships that helped make the event a success? Points possible: *15 points*
- 6) Include supporting material with your online application. This can include pictures, scans of promotional and/or outreach material, embedded links to videos or social media sites, screenshots of websites, etc. Points possible: *10 points*
- 7) STAR Member Bonus: *5 points*



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Outstanding Recycling Partnership

This award recognizes an innovative collaboration or partnership between two or more businesses, nonprofit organizations, schools and universities, or government entities. The partnership should be initiated and continued for at least one year prior to the awards nomination.

Please address the following questions or topics of discussion with as much detail as you feel is necessary to support your application:

- 1) Executive Summary: How does this program support STAR's mission to advance recycling through partnerships, education, and advocacy for the benefit of Texas? (maximum 200 words) Points possible: *25 points*
- 2) Describe any innovative or unique aspects of the partnership – for instance, what sets it apart from other collaborative projects? Points possible: *15 points*
- 3) Provide any metrics as a result of this partnership. For example, how much and what was recycled because of the partnership's success? What was the percentage or number of audience reached? Points possible: *20 points*
- 4) Describe how this partnership has been publicized and helped increase awareness about recycling in the community. Please provide any educational or outreach material as part of your supporting materials. Points possible: *15 points*
- 5) What is the sustainability of this partnership and how will it be enhanced or built upon in the future? Points possible: *20 points*
- 6) Include supporting material with your online application. This can include pictures, scans of promotional and/or outreach material, embedded links to videos or social media sites, screenshots of websites, etc. Points possible: *5 points*
- 7) STAR Member Bonus: *5 points*



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Linda B. Smith Memorial Award for Outstanding Environmental Youth Education and Outreach Program

Linda B. Smith was a founding member of STAR and a tireless advocate for recycling. Although she passed away unexpectedly in 2001, Linda's legacy and passion for the environment lives on through this award and the Linda B. Smith Environmental Scholarship for Women at Texas A&M Corpus Christi.

This award recognizes comprehensive K-12 recycling and environmental education programs that provide innovative learning experiences within a program that is measurable and sustainable. Schools, educators or organizations providing K-12 environmental education and recycling programs are eligible to apply for this award.

Please address the following questions or topics of discussion with as much detail as you feel is necessary to support your application:

- 1) Executive Summary: How does this program support STAR's mission to advance recycling through partnerships, education, and advocacy for the benefit of Texas? (maximum 200 words) Points possible: *25 points*
- 2) Describe any innovative or unique aspects of the program – for instance, what sets it apart from other K-12 environmental education programs? How is this program 'raising the bar' for other programs in Texas? Points possible: *15 points*
- 3) Provide any metrics as a result of this program. For example, how much and what was recycled because of the program's success? What was the percentage or number of audience reached or participated? Points possible: *20 points*
- 4) Describe the program elements and include any examples of sample curriculum or fieldwork, etc. Some examples would be: Students working on an on-site recycling center; Program curriculum consisting of any creative projects; Students participating in campus cleanups, etc. Points possible: *20 points*
- 5) Describe the nature of the program's future sustainability and include any ways the program will be enhanced or built upon for future generations. For instance, will partnerships be used in the future? Does the program have plans to expand district-wide? Points possible: *15 points*



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6) Include supporting material with your online application. This can include pictures, scans of promotional and/or outreach material, embedded links to videos or social media sites, screenshots of websites, etc. Points possible: *5 points*

7) STAR Member Bonus: *5 points*



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Rick Fuszek Memorial Award for Outstanding Sustainable Materials Management

Rick Fuszek worked with the City of Austin Solid Waste Department, where he assisted with the implementation of the city's pay-as-you-throw system and the mandatory recycling program for apartments and businesses. Rick was instrumental to the success of Austin's continuing vision of zero waste and sustainability, and his service still affects positive change in recycling in Texas.

This award recognizes a community that has demonstrated a focus on materials management and resource conservation with a program(s) and/or community effort(s) that was initiated during or before the 2017 calendar year. Sustainable Materials Management promotes using materials in the most productive way throughout the lifecycle of use, with an emphasis on use of non-toxic, recycled content materials, purchasing with recyclability of 'waste' material in mind, reduction in material needs/inputs, promoting reuse/repurposing of materials, and ensuring we have sufficient resources to meet today's needs and those of the future.

Please address the following questions or topics of discussion with as much detail as you feel is necessary to support your application:

- 1) Executive Summary: How does this program support STAR's mission to advance recycling through partnerships, education, and advocacy for the benefit of Texas? (maximum 200 words) Points possible: *25 points*
- 2) Describe any innovative or unique aspects of your community's approach to material management – for instance, what sets it apart from other community recycling programs? How is this program 'raising the bar' for other community programs in Texas? Points possible: *15 points*
- 3) Provide any metrics as a result of this program. For example, how much and what materials are being reduced, beneficially reused or repurposed, and recycled in your community? What was the community participation rate in these programs and/or community audience reached? How much money/resources did the community save as a result of these efforts and programs? Points possible: *20 points*



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- 4) Describe how the philosophy of sustainable materials management has been promoted/practiced throughout the community. What kinds of outreach campaigns were used to publicize and educate citizens within the community, and what was the effectiveness of these efforts? Points possible: *15 points*
- 5) How will these material management programs be enhanced in the future? Describe any current plans to build upon the amount or types of materials recovered, and how these efforts will help the community prepare for the needs of future residents. Points possible: *20 points*
- 6) Include supporting material with your application. This can include pictures, scans of promotional and/or outreach material, embedded links to videos or social media sites, screenshots of websites, etc. Points possible: *5 points*
- 7) STAR Member Bonus: *5 points*



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Outstanding Compost Program

This award recognizes a nonprofit organization, government agency, university, school or private company whose compost program is set apart from others in its uniqueness, collaborative nature, successes, and ability to grow and thrive in a competitive market. Program must have been operational for at least a year by the time the application is submitted.

Please address the following questions or topics of discussion with as much detail as you feel is necessary to support your application:

- 1) Executive Summary: How does this program support STAR's mission to advance recycling through partnerships, education, and advocacy for the benefit of Texas? (maximum 200 words) Points possible: *25 points*
- 2) Describe the program elements and elaborate on any innovative or unique aspects of the program – for instance, what sets this program apart from other compost programs around the state? Points possible: *15 points*
- 3) Provide any metrics or measurable outcomes as a result of the program. For example, how much and what was composted because of the program's success? Points possible: *10 points*
- 4) How were you able to demonstrate an increase in awareness for this program? What communication methods were used and how were they used to promote the program and its successes? Points possible: *20 points*
- 5) How will this program be sustained or enhanced in the future? Points possible: *10 points*
- 6) Include the outreach and promotional materials with your application, including pictures, design pieces, embedded links to videos or social media sites, screenshots of websites, copies of news articles or awards, marketing plans, etc. Points possible: *20 points*
- 7) STAR Member Bonus: *5 points*



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Excellence in Construction & Demolition Debris Reuse/Recycling

This award recognizes a nonprofit organization, government agency, university, school or private company whose construction and demolition debris reuse/recycling program is set apart from others in its uniqueness, collaborative nature, successes, and ability to grow and thrive in a competitive market. A program must have been operational for at least one year by the time the application is submitted.

Please address the following questions or topics of discussion with as much detail as you feel is necessary to support your application:

- 1) Executive Summary: How does this project support STAR's mission to advance recycling through partnerships, education, and advocacy for the benefit of Texas? (maximum 200 words) Possible points: *25 points*
- 2) Describe the program elements and elaborate on any innovative or unique aspects of the program – for instance, what sets this program apart from other construction and demolition debris reuse/recycling programs around the state? Possible points: *10 points*
- 3) Provide any metrics or measurable outcomes because of the program. For example, how much and what was reused/recycled because of the program's success? Possible points: *20 points*
- 4) How were you able to demonstrate an increase in awareness for this program to employees and customers? What communication methods were used and how were they used to promote the program and its successes? Possible points: *20 points*
- 5) How will this program be sustained or enhanced in the future? Possible points: *10 points*



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- 6) Include the outreach and promotional materials with your application, including pictures, design pieces, embedded links to videos or social media sites, screenshots of websites, copies of news articles or awards, marketing plans. Possible points: *15 points*

- 7) STAR Member Bonus: *5 points*



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Volunteer Recognition Application Guidelines

STAR will recognize volunteers who are serving selflessly in their community to support the STAR mission to advance recycling through partnerships, education, and advocacy, for the benefit of Texas.

Instead of awarding only one individual per year, we will recognize multiple volunteers – each committed to recycling and sustainability issues within their community or organization in Texas. Volunteers commit personal time and energy to something they are passionate about, and they stand together as stewards for environmental change in Texas.

Guidelines for the volunteer recognition:

- Must be a STAR member organization or company for at least a year
- One volunteer nomination per organization or company
- Must include at least 2 pictures with the application
- Nomination (with pictures inserted in the document) submitted electronically using the SurveyMonkey link
- Volunteer activities should have taken place during the 2017 calendar year
- Volunteers should have received no monetary compensation for their time

Application Question (minimum 250 words, maximum 500): Describe why the applicant should be recognized for their volunteer activities. How have they helped support the STAR mission and recycling in Texas? Include at least 2 photographs from volunteer activities in your online application.

Thank you for taking the time to review the nomination information packet. To nominate an awesome person, business, program, project, or education center for an award, please click [here](#).

Questions? Please contact the STAR office at 512.828.6409
or by email at info@recyclingstar.org