



Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns Awards Program 2020 Application Guide



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2019 Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns Overall Award Winner

Murrurundi

The Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns Overall award acknowledges Murrurundi's great community spirit in a time of significant adversity due to drought and water restrictions. The awards show what a small town can do when the community work together, we support each other and remain positive. Many of the local projects involve countless hours of work undertaken by volunteers. The award is a source of great pride for this small country town and celebrates our achievements.

"Murrurundi has a long history of winning Tidy Town awards and was most recently chosen as the Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns Overall Award winners. We look forward to welcoming you to the Upper Hunter Shire for the next awards event."

Clr Wayne Bedggood, Mayor - Upper Hunter Shire Council

Who can enter Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns Awards?

The Sustainable Communities -Tidy Towns Awards are open to rural, regional and coastal towns and villages across NSW. Category entrants include (but are not limited to) Tidy Towns groups, Individuals, Progress Associations and CWA's, Youth Organisations, Landcare Groups, Chambers of Commerce, Local Authorities/ Council's, Tourism Associations, School's, Pre Schools, Businesses, Small Enterprises and Industry, Registered Clubs and Service groups.

Population Categories for the 2020 Awards are:

Population category A:
Up to 1,500

Population category B:
1,501-5000

Population category C:
5001-12,000

Population category D:
12,001-23,000

Population category E:
23,001 +



Welcome to the Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns Awards Program for 2020



Since 1981, the Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns Awards Program has been rewarding and giving recognition to projects that reduce litter, minimise waste, encourage recycling, promote heritage and culture, habitat and coastal protection, celebrate community spirit and many other environmental areas.



The Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns Awards Program provides a place to showcase your achievements and celebrate with others. Show NSW what you have been achieving. We invite you to take part in the 39th Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Awards this year.

Towns and villages within the following local areas are eligible to enter the Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns Awards:

Albury, Armidale, Ballina, Balranald, Bathurst, Bega Valley, Bellingen, Berrigan, Bland, Blayney, Bogan, Bourke, Brewarrina, Broken Hill, Byron Shire, Cabonne, Carrathool, Central Coast, Central Darling, Cessnock, Lithgow, Clarence Valley, Cobar, Coffs Harbour, Coolamon, Coonamble, Cootamundra-Gundagai, Cowra, Dubbo, Dungog, Edward River, Eurobodalla, Federation, Forbes, Gilgandra, Glen Innes Severn, Goulburn Mulwaree, Greater Hume, Griffith, Gunnedah, Gwydir, Hay, Hilltops, Inverell, Junee, Kempsey, Kyogle, Lachlan, Lake Macquarie, Leeton, Lismore, Liverpool Plains, Lockhart, Maitland, Mid-Coast, Mid-Western, Moree Plains, Murray, Murrumbidgee, Muswellbrook, Nambucca Valley, Narrabri, Narrandera, Narromine, Newcastle, Oberon, Orange, Parkes, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Port Stephens, Queanbeyan-Palerang, Richmond Valley, Shellharbour, Shoalhaven, Singleton, Snowy Monaro, Snowy Valleys, Tamworth, Temora, Tenterfield, Kiama, Tweed Shire, Upper Hunter, Upper Lachlan, Uralla, Wagga Wagga, Walcha, Walgett, Warren, Warrumbungle, Weddin, Wentworth, Wingecarribee, Wollongong, Yass.

Key Dates for the 2020 Awards

Applications Open online:
Monday 10th February 2020

Applications close:
Monday 29th June 2020

Online Judging (for all categories) and on-the-ground assessing (for Overall category only)
July 2020

Winners announced (Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns Awards Weekend):
Friday 13th - Sunday 15th November 2020 @ Murrurundi

We encourage all entrants to attend the awards to celebrate their own and other's achievements. We ask that if you enter the awards that you make yourself available to attend the awards weekend in November.

IMPORTANT: While projects may be ongoing, they must have recent or continued expansion and additional significance with results shown over the 2019/2020 financial year. Previous overall and category award winners are welcome to enter again, but projects must have progressed from the previous entry, and those new achievements or outcomes must be demonstrated clearly in the application.

Don't Be a Tosser! Litter Action Award

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The *Don't Be a Tosser! Litter Action Award* is for a project or program that reduces or prevents litter. This could include projects that use one or more of these approaches:

- Behaviour change techniques to stop littering.
- New or effective ways to communicate about litter and its impacts.
- Build partnerships or networks to prevent litter.
- Enforcement techniques to reduce litter.
- Create effective infrastructure and place design to reduce litter (signage, bins, other landscaping).

Projects should demonstrate inventive techniques that specifically address their local litter issues, with quantifiable outcomes. Projects that use more than one approach will be highly regarded. Projects can address any form of litter in any environment.

Examples of eligible projects may include:

- A litter reduction campaign which involves the community.
- A project or program aimed at a specific section of the community - for example, children, young people; culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) groups, Indigenous communities.
- A project aimed at addressing litter with a long-term solution based on behaviour change techniques.
- Different strategies to target litter for example signage, phasing out plastic bags/bottles etc.

Previous or current Community Litter Grant applicants are encouraged to enter their projects.

Waste Less, Recycle More Waste Minimisation Award

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The *Waste Less, Recycle More Waste Minimisation Award* is for a project or program that tackles a range of waste and recycling problems through:

- Waste minimisation and reduction.
- Effective and innovative waste and recycling programs - including education and infrastructure projects.
- Incentivising behaviour change to improve waste management, recycling and stop illegal dumping.

Projects should demonstrate inventive techniques that specifically address local waste problems, with quantifiably effective outcomes.

Examples of eligible projects may include:

- Projects that use recycling and avoid material going to landfill.
- The development of a Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan.
- A local group addressing the problem of food waste in their community.
- The planning and implementation of a program that facilitates appropriate disposal of items, for example, free drop-offs to help tackle illegal dumping or management of event sites.

Return and Earn Litter Prevention Award

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The *Return and Earn Litter Prevention Award* is for a program or project that provides for and encourages the use of the Return and Earn scheme in a local area, through:

- Development and promotion of Return and Earn facilities for the return of beverage containers under the NSW Container Deposit Scheme.
- Community engagement and involvement in the development, design and set up of the system. This includes knowledge sharing with individuals and groups in the community.
- Innovative use of the Return and Earn Scheme to benefit a specific group.

For the second year, Return and Earn are generously donating a \$5,000 cash prize to one outstanding entry into our Sustainable Cities Awards.

Entries from Individuals, School's, Not for Profit Organisation's and Community Group's qualify for the cash prize if the activity, project/program uses the NSW Return and Earn Container Deposit Scheme.

Judging for the Return and Earn Litter Prevention Award is in accordance with the KABNSW judging criteria. The KABNSW winner/s in this category will receive a KABNSW winner's certificate.

In addition, the \$5,000 cash prize will be presented to one winner based on the entrant's ability to demonstrate a high level of commitment to their activities and the sustainable long-term benefits of their activity.

Examples of eligible projects may include:

- Installing infrastructure and systems in consultation with the community that will provide better community access to the Return and Earn scheme. Includes the development, promotion, partnering and benefits to their community.
- Developing long term plans to extend systems and facilities in the future, including accessing community feedback and measurements of success.
- Clean-up activities, specifically undertaken to collect beverage containers accepted as part of the Return and Earn Scheme, including data collection about how many containers and types collected.
- An individual or organisation that develops a community engagement and awareness project for Return and Earn that results in measurable success (e.g. a cleaner local environment, increased knowledge and community participation in Return and Earn).



Habitat and Wildlife Conservation Award

The *Habitat and Wildlife Conservation Award* is for projects which create, restore and sustain biodiversity of our native flora and fauna in urban environments, creating and/or maintaining wildlife corridors and encouraging habitat conservation, through:

- Leadership and innovation in the promotion and advocacy for conserving local biodiversity.
- Actions which improve the wildlife and habitat in an area, through community participation. For example, Landcare, Bushcare, Dunecare, Land for Wildlife and Marine Rescue.
- Partnerships that support the community to be proactive in the conservation of biodiversity.
- Policy or mission that maintains the protection of local biodiversity in an area.

Examples of eligible projects may include:

- Education programs and projects about local threatened species, habitat and communities and their protection.
- Development or upgrades to community or local nurseries which provide greater access to local provenance species.
- Supporting community participation in projects such as fauna and flora conservation. Includes the promotion and education, data collection and mapping, community involvement and feedback.
- Development of or increased involvement by the community in Landcare, Bushcare, Dunecare or other community projects that assist in the reversing of environmental damage to wildlife habitats, including bushland and waterways.

Heritage and Culture Award

The *Heritage and Culture Award* is for community projects that enhance and protect either our built heritage, natural heritage or an event/tourism display that showcases a local area's heritage. Projects may include:

- Commitment to the conservation of built heritage, such as a building and/or other infrastructure restoration.
- Education projects and/or research into an area's heritage.
- Proactive long-term planning that supports and maintains an areas local heritage.

Examples of eligible projects may include:

- The restoration of a heritage building or other infrastructure;
- An event that recognises the history of an area, such as a cultural (non-indigenous) festival.
- The protection of significant natural areas that are an integral part of the history of an area.
- A Heritage Centre (or similar) that promotes heritage and facilitates local history documentation in an area.

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Award

The *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Award* is for community projects that enhance and protect Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in a local area or region, including:

- Conservation actions which promote and support indigenous heritage.
- Education and /or research into a district's Aboriginal heritage.
- Proactive long-term planning that allows an area's Aboriginal heritage to be preserved.

Examples of eligible projects may include:

- The restoration of a significant area where Aboriginal heritage is preserved.
- Advocacy actions which contribute to the preservation of significant Aboriginal heritage.
- Education which provides for the ongoing existence of the Aboriginal heritage of an area. For example, the teaching and preservation of language.
- An online space which facilitates the connection of Aboriginal people's from across a region;
- On-the -ground support which empowers aboriginal people's self-determination and participation in decision making. For example, an Aboriginal coop or community centre/ space.

Young Legend's Environmental Award (under 25)

The *Young Legend's Environmental Award* is for an individual or groups of individuals (25 years and under) who demonstrate outstanding commitment to their environment and show leadership in pursuing environmental outcomes in any of the preceding categories e.g. Litter, wildlife conservation, waste minimisation etc. through:

- Advocating for change in the local area, through participation on committees or clean-up activities, volunteering at community nurseries or Bushcare etc.
- Working in partnership with other organisations to make significant change in relation to the environment.

Examples of eligible projects may include:

- An individual who volunteers by growing plants at their local community nursery for planting into a local area of bushland.
- A youth group who advocates the reduced use of plastic litter through active clean ups, education campaigns and partnering with the local community.
- A pre-school or vacation care group who take part in sustainability or environmental projects.

Projects may be submitted by:

- Individuals.
- Groups of young people.

School's Environmental Achievement Award

The *School's Environmental Achievement Award* is for New South Wales schools (public and independent) that can demonstrate sustainability achievements, sustainable practices, reducing their environmental impact and leading the community by example through:

- Programs that encourage mentoring and development of sustainability throughout the school and in the community.
- Environmental programs or sustainability initiatives where students have led or participated in awareness raising campaigns.
- The adoption of sustainable methods in operations such as retrofitting school infrastructure or undertaking of whole of school behaviour change programs.

Projects may be submitted by:

- Schools and Pre Schools.
- Teachers, parents or students.

Examples of eligible projects may include:

- A school who have conducted waste, water and energy audits and are making changes to their behaviour in response to the auditing of these areas.
- A school that has implemented a waste or sustainability project within their school or community.
- School participation in a community of industry program.
- Schools who have taken consistently taken part in programs such as National Tree Day or Clean Up Australia Day and who have developed a positive culture in relation to these events within their school.

Coastal and Waterways Protection Award (incorporating Clean Beaches)

The *Coastal and Waterways Protection Award* is for programs and actions that create, restore and/or enhance our natural waterways and beaches, through:

- Actively advocating coastal and waterway protection through education, action, data collection and partnerships.
- Developing projects that encourage community participation in the protection of waterways and beaches.
- Sustainably managing water resources within the community, through improved infrastructure, systems and planning.
- Improving water quality through reducing litter.
- Sustainable coastal use and development for healthy habitats.
- Protecting the cultural values of the marine estate.
- Sustainable fishing and aquaculture.

Examples of eligible projects may include:

- Building a fish ladder to improve fish movement upstream.
- Caring for a local beach, through community participation. Actions may include clean ups, education through signage, data collection and improved bin infrastructure.
- Weed control along streams, rivers and dunes.
- Advocacy and action around threats to marine environments, including data collection, projects around minimising the use of single use plastic or fishing line management.

Environmental Communication Award

The *Environmental Communication Award* is for programs and projects that inspire environmental action, through:

- Education and communication campaigns that raise awareness of environmental sustainability for topics such as energy, water or waste reduction to create empowerment and behaviour change amongst the target audience.
- Developing and building communication partnerships that enable sharing of resources, ideas and knowledge.
- Creating spaces and places for environmental communication programs that demonstrate ideas and practical solutions for the community.

Examples of eligible projects may include:

- A series of education workshops on a range of topics that inspire community to share ideas and learn about environmental issues.
- Regional education programs that specifically target behaviours of a group around a specific issue (for example, wood fire smoke or illegal dumping).
- A council that has implemented an effective communication program, ranging from media campaigns to multi-dimensional campaigns which tackle a problem from different angles.

Recycled Organics Award

The *Recycled Organics Award* is for projects and programs that reduce organics going to landfill and supports the community to avoid, reduce and recycle organics, through:

- Development of improved technologies for the separation of organics from the waste stream.
- Education and communication programs that support positive behaviour changes in the community, around reduced food waste, composting and worm farming.
- Innovative ideas, action and markets for the use of compost.

Examples of eligible projects may include:

- An enterprise that supports composting/worm farming through education, resourcing and innovative systems.
- A Council that extends its waste collection to a separate green waste collection or for an existing collection to include food organics.
- A business that is avoiding food waste and maximising reuse/recycling of food waste through an on-site composting facility.

Circular Economy Award

The *Circular Economy Award* is for any operationally viable projects in the circular economy which do, or could potentially, divert solid materials, fluids or energy from waste streams and return them to the productive economy.

Examples of eligible projects may include:

- A business plan or strategy for a viable project. For example, a Waste Management Strategy which demonstrates how the waste streams are being diverted back into the marketable economy.
- A financed project in pre-commercial development or a scheme in commercial operation.
- A proposal by four or more participants to collaborate on developing a project.

Sustainable Projects Award

The *Sustainable Projects Award* recognises innovations in, and the application of, technology to achieve improved environmental performance, within their spheres of influence. This can include a set of projects that interrelate to create a whole-of-problem solution.

Examples of eligible projects may include:

- Systems that support waste reduction, litter management or illegal dumping management and improve operational efficiency.
- The introduction of software or apps that facilitate community engagement in reducing its environmental impact.
- Realistic proposals or actual projects to co-locate manufacturing or commercial businesses into eco-industrial precincts.
- Innovative programs designed to inform local communities about sustainable development and how it can be achieved.

Renewable Energy Award

The *Renewable Energy Award* is for programs and projects that progress achievements in developing products or services associated with renewable energy.

Examples of eligible projects may include:

- Developing or improving energy generation or usage within an organisation.
- Reducing reliance on fossil fuels within a community.
- Products, projects or infrastructure that facilitate the use of renewable energy.
- Improving business accountability for and reporting of energy use.
- Long term plans to reduce energy demand, especially energy sourced from fossil fuels.

Community Spirit and Inclusion Award

The *Community Spirit and Inclusion Award* is awarded to communities that successfully demonstrate strong community spirit and inclusion in the face of ongoing challenges. This award is given to communities that refuse to 'give in' when facing a challenge.

Examples of eligible projects may include:

- A community coming together to restore and rebuild a community hub.
- Events, programs or festivals that celebrate and promote community spirit and inclusion.
- Activities to promote civic pride, create community awareness, cohesion and wellbeing.
- A community supporting each other at a time of crisis.

Response to Climate Change Award

The *Response to Climate Change Award* is for programs and projects that tackle the effects of climate change and extreme weather events through:

- Providing real and practical solutions to meet the challenges of climate change in an area.
- Planning long term for the management of climate change events, which includes partnerships, collaboration and community engagement.
- Educating communities and building capacity about the causes and effects of climate change and what individuals can do to take action.
- Actions to combat existing weather events and strengthen an areas resilience.

Examples of eligible projects may include:

- Improving erosion proofing along coastal areas, where rising tides are impacting the coast line.
- Long term planning supporting the likely impacts of climate change and increased extreme weather events.
- Education programs which provide knowledge and support for individuals, students and communities to learn, discuss and voice concerns.
- Research and scholarship projects that look closely at likely impacts and possible solutions.

Overall Award – NSW’s Most Sustainable Community-Tidy Town 2020

The *Overall Award* is awarded to a community in a town, village or regional centre that has successfully undertaken projects or actions in at least four areas of environmental sustainability and social inclusion. The areas covered are included in the above award categories.

Projects submitted by any organisations within the town, village or regional centre will be considered as part of the four areas.

Communities who nominate in four or more separate categories in the 2020 awards will automatically qualify for the Overall category. Communities that qualify will be assessed by an on-the-ground assessor who will visit projects in July/August. Exact times and dates will be confirmed with each community before the assessor arrives.

Qualification for the Overall Award for Sustainable Communities-Tidy Towns can be by any town, village or regional centre in regional NSW.

For further information

Detailed further information on how to enter and award submissions go to www.kabnsw.org.au select **Programs**.

Alternatively, please contact:

Keep Australia Beautiful NSW
E: awards@knswb.org.au
T: 02 8594 4000



Level 1, 268 King Street
Newtown, NSW 2042
T 02 8594 4000
info@kabnsw.org.au
www.kabnsw.org.au

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