



# 2025 Sample Application and Information

## NSSGA Environmental Excellence Award

### About the award

NSSGA's Environmental Excellence Awards provide national recognition for active producer member operations demonstrating a commitment to the exemplary use of environmental controls and systems. A facility receiving a gold category designation is automatically recognized for five years and not eligible to apply again during that time. After five years, the facility is eligible to apply again for award recognition. For questions regarding the Environmental Excellence Awards, please contact Laura Williams at [lwilliams@nssga.org](mailto:lwilliams@nssga.org).

**NOTE:** Awards in the Gold category are good for five years. Winning facilities cannot earn a second Environmental Excellence Award during that time.

### The application process

All award applications must be completed online, through the application submission page at [www.members.nssga.org/Awards](http://www.members.nssga.org/Awards). Before starting your official online application, please ensure you have all your answers and supplemental materials complete and ready to upload. There is no way to start and save incomplete award applications. If you start and leave the application process, all information will be lost and you will need to start over. So, please have all the required materials together before starting your application.

**NOTE:** The online application process must be completed in a single session. There is no way to save partial applications.

The online application will request your name and contact information as the person submitting the application, as well as information about the facility. The facility name will populate as you type. If your facility name isn't populating, please notify NSSGA Member Services ([memberservices@nssga.org](mailto:memberservices@nssga.org)).

**NOTE:** Notify NSSGA Member Services if your facility name does not auto-populate as you type.

### Application questions

You will be asked to provide information in the eleven categories below. All questions must be answered to the best of your abilities.

**1. Carbon Footprint:** What has this facility done to decrease its carbon footprint in the last 5 years? (Please use bullet points.)

**2. Recycling:** Are there any SPECIAL or UNIQUE RECYCLING projects/initiatives this facility does?

**3. Natural Resources:** Are there any other SPECIAL or UNIQUE NATURAL RESOURCES (e.g., air or water) projects/initiatives (beyond compliance) this facility does?

**4. Biodiversity:** Does your operation have a biodiversity management plan (YES or NO)?

**5. Land/Species:** Has this site engaged in activities with a focus on any of the following (select all that apply):

**NOTE:** Please have all supporting documentation available in upload-ready format prior to beginning the application process.

**Land:**

- Wetlands
- Land remediation
- Marine/intertidal zones
- Land conservation agreements
- Grasslands
- Forests
- Deserts

**Species:**

- Reptiles and amphibians
- Pollinators
- Mammals
- Bats
- Birds
- Other

**6. Project Goals:** For each box checked above in 250 words or less describe the activity.

A) Give a high-level overview of the project. Include:

- i. Project goals
- ii. How long the project has been on the ground
- iii. Partners
- iv. How it is managed
- v. how it is monitored.

B) What measurable impacts have there been?

**7. Reclamation:** What is the reclamation plan for this quarry (planned or concurrent)?

**8. Engage Staff:** What has this facility done to engage staff in sustainability efforts (e.g., staff took a sustainability class, staff gained new certification, brought in outside speaker for staff on sustainability, etc.)?

**9. Sustainability Education:** What has this facility done to engage in sustainability education for the community?

**10. Sustainability Awards:** Has the quarry received any sustainability awards, certifications, etc. in the last 5 years?

**11. Special Projects:** Are there any other SPECIAL or UNIQUE PROJECTS/INITIATIVES this facility does (beyond compliance) that you have not yet shared?