

**CARROLL COUNTY GOVERNMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AWARDS

*Promoting Environmental Awareness and Acknowledging Extraordinary Accomplishments
in the Protection, Conservation, and Improvement of our Environmental Resources*

2007/2008

Background

The Carroll County Commissioners adopted the Environmental Awareness Awards in 1990. Since that time, yearly awards have been granted to individuals and groups chosen from nominees submitted for consideration by their peers. Self-nominations will also be accepted. The Environmental Awareness Awards are presented annually. In 2008, the ceremony will be held in mid-April. Their purpose is to promote awareness of the environment and acknowledge exemplary accomplishments in the protection, conservation and improvement of our environmental resources.

Awards will be granted to endeavors and projects that result in positive benefit to the environment and have the potential for long-term community environmental benefit.

Guidelines for the Carroll County Environmental Awareness Awards

There are five (5) categories of award:

1. **Individual** – This award is intended to be presented to any individual for efforts that were primarily initiated, promoted and managed by the applicant. Nominees should exhibit good environmental stewardship characteristics, leadership qualities, and the ability to successfully engage and involve a segment of the community. Individuals also may be part of a larger group wherein the nominee exhibits the above characteristics and has successfully accomplished a qualifying effort.
2. **Institutional** – Institutional recipients may be individual, but must represent the efforts of a larger group working to foster positive environmental principles. Examples of qualifying groups may include schools, nonprofit organizations, community organizations, and similar organizations that have a defined social goal.
3. **Agriculture** – The agricultural award is intended to be presented to any individual actively involved in agriculture that has exercised leadership, shown positive environmental practices and has in some way successfully displayed advancement in an agricultural practice.
4. **Business and Industry** – This category is intended to award businesses that make a decided effort to ensure that their practices logically fit into an overall positive environmental management perspective. Many businesses, especially small businesses, take on beneficial efforts that all too often go unrecognized. These efforts may include technical efforts or efforts to create partnerships for the improved benefit of the community.

5. **Student** – This award is intended to be presented to a student who has exercised positive environmental practices and clearly demonstrates leadership, stewardship and has in some way successfully displayed environmental advancement in a classroom environment.

Areas of accomplishment include, but are not limited to:

1. Protection/improvement of soil, water or air;
2. Protection, conservation or improvement of natural resource management;
3. Benefits to wildlife (game or non-game); and
4. Increased recreational or aesthetic values.

NOMINATING CRITERIA:

1. Any individual must be a Carroll County resident;
2. Institutional and business nominees must be based in Carroll County;
3. Any student must be a Carroll County resident; and any agricultural nominee must be actively engaged in agriculture in Carroll County;
4. In all cases, nominees must exemplify extraordinary dedication to preserving and improving the environment and better managing the environmental resources of Carroll County.
5. **New for the 2008 awards** ~ Applications will be submitted electronically to eliminate paperwork in our continuing effort to minimize our impact on the environment. Applications will be *e-mailed* to: eac@ccq.carr.org; whenever possible. If this is not an option, please **FAX** to (410) 386-2594; and, if these two (2) methods are not feasible, mail them to:

*Environmental Awareness Awards
Carroll County Government
C/O Office of Environmental Compliance
225 N. Center Street, Room 210
Westminster, MD 21157*

JUDGING CRITERIA:

1. What are the identifiable environmental benefits realized by the effort?
2. What is the size and scope of that benefit?
3. To what extent does the project represent an innovative approach, including the degree of innovativeness and originality resulting in enhanced environmental protection, conservation and management?
4. Does the endeavor promote individual as well as community leadership in preserving and sustaining environmental resources?
5. To what degree does the accomplishment influence positive changes that may have a beneficial effect on the environment at the local, state and/or national level?
6. Did the effort result in a continuous or “one-time only” benefit; what are the definable short- or long-term benefits to the environment?
7. What are the educational merits of the program or project?
8. To what extent does the program foster environmental stewardship principles in the community?
9. In the case of an Individual, Student or Agriculture Award, to what extent does the nominee exhibit environmental leadership qualities?; and,
10. How was the local community involved in the effort; and what was the community’s response?