

WAEЕ Awards Review Rubric Overview

This document details the review criteria for each award. We urge nominators to consider the rubric as they are writing their nomination narrative.

Award Categories	Awardee Criteria			
David Engelson Award	Significant Contributions to EE - Demonstrated leadership in the field, developed educational programs, or published research/articles.	Leadership Experience - Held leadership roles in organizations, led significant projects, or served as a mentor to others in the field.	Educational Impact - Developed curriculum, led workshops, or significantly impacted students and communities (teaching, training, outreach).	Recognition by Peers - Received awards, accolades, or recognition from peers or community organizations.
Eco - Justice Award	Leadership in Environmental Justice - Develops and implements programs that address environmental justice.	JEDIA Practices - Embraces justice, equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility practices within the organization and/or community.	Culturally Relevant Programs - Develops programs that are tailored to the needs of diverse communities.	Systematic Thinking - implementing equitable internal practices and system wide improvements to support change.
Earthguard Award	Leadership - Demonstrates clear, proactive leadership in the project, guiding peers, and influencing others.	Environmental Impact - The project has clear and measurable positive environmental impacts.	Collaboration - Actively collaborates with others, building strong partnerships within the school or community.	Sustainability - Projects incorporate sustainable practices that can continue beyond initial implementation.
Administrator of the Year	Ongoing Support - Provides support and resources for environmental education programs.	Involvement - Actively participates in environmental education events, programs and initiatives.	Leadership - Demonstrates strong leadership in promoting EE; initiates new programs or policies that advance this mission.	Impact on Facility - Makes significant, measurable, positive impacts within the facility.
Formal Educator of the Year	Outstanding Efforts in EE - Consistently integrates EE across multiple subjects and lessons; creates curriculum that is centered on EE.	Student/ Staff Engagement - Actively encourages the school community to participate in environmental projects and initiatives.	Community Collaboration - Builds partnerships with local environmental organizations and engages in community-based projects.	Professional Development - Actively pursues professional development opportunities related to EE.
Non-Formal Educator of the Year	Educational Impact - Initiatives improve community awareness and behavior regarding environmental topics.	Innovative Approach - The awardee employs novel and creative methods in EE.	Resource Development - Develops relevant resources and materials for EE.	Professional Development - Demonstrates a commitment to professional development, actively seeking opportunities.
Student of the Year	Outstanding Involvement - Demonstrates leadership in EE projects; has initiated or led educational initiatives in school or community; volunteers with local environmental organizations; participates in community events or similar initiatives.		Passion/ Interest - Actively engages in discussions about environmental issues; frequently seeks out additional learning opportunities, such as workshops, webinars or clubs	

