



A Waste Authority Program

AWARDS 2026

2026 Nomination kit

ABOUT THE AWARDS

The WasteSorted Awards acknowledge and celebrate the outstanding achievements of Western Australians working towards a better waste future through improved waste practices and innovative waste solutions.

The awards program is an initiative of the State Government of Western Australia and is coordinated by the Waste Authority WA.

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KEY DATES

Nominations open

Thursday, 26 March 2026

Nominations close

5pm (WST) Monday, 25 May 2026

Judging

20–21 July 2026

Awards presentation

Thursday, 10 September 2026



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Award categories

CATEGORY 1

2026 Community Waste Award

This award is open to all voluntary or non-profit individuals, groups and organisations.

Awarded to an individual, group or organisation for community engagement resulting in positive improvements in waste management.

CATEGORY 2

2026 Schools Award

Open to all public, independent, and non-government schools in Western Australia from K-12. Schools must have current WasteSorted Schools accreditation to enter.

Awarded to a school community that has demonstrated outstanding commitment and contribution to avoiding and recovering waste through an integrated whole school approach showing innovative waste practices.

CATEGORY 3

2026 Business Award

This award is open to any commercial enterprise or business. Awarded to a commercial enterprise or business for excellence in avoiding, reusing, repairing or recovering waste or protecting the environment from the impacts of waste generated from commercial enterprises or businesses, including building and construction. Depending on submissions a small business sub-category winner may be awarded instead of a highly commended award.

CATEGORY 4

2026 Waste Champion Award

This award is open to an individual who may also be part of any organisation.

Awarded to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding commitment and contribution resulting in positive improvements in waste management.

CATEGORY 5

2026 Waste Team Award

This award is open to a group or team of people from any organisation.

Awarded to a group or team of people who have demonstrated outstanding commitment and contribution resulting in positive improvements in waste management within the past two years.

CATEGORY 6

2026 Local Government Award

This award is open to all local governments and regional councils.

Awarded to a local government or regional council for excellence in avoiding or recovering household and community waste, and going beyond normal business objectives resulting in positive waste management outcomes.



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CATEGORY 7

2026 Regional Award

This award is open to all regional individuals and organisations.

Awarded for excellence in avoiding or recovering waste and overcoming challenges in regional WA resulting in positive waste management outcomes.

CATEGORY 8

2026 Community Events and Engagement Award

This award is open to all individuals and organisations.

Awarded for excellence and/or demonstrated improvements since last year, in community events, engagement or campaigns to encourage the avoidance or recovery of waste resulting in positive waste management outcomes.

CATEGORY 9

2026 Innovation Award

This award is open to all individuals and organisations.

Awarded to an initiative which has demonstrated exceptional innovation in waste management, improvement, practices or resulting in positive waste management outcomes.

CATEGORY 10

2026 Closing the Loop Award

This award is open to all individuals and organisations.

Awarded for excellence in demonstrating circular economy principles in action in which the value of waste materials is recognised and used to reduce the environmental impacts of production and consumption.

DISCRETIONARY AWARD

2026 Waste Award

All entrants into the 2026 WasteSorted Awards will be considered by the judges for a discretionary award.

Awarded to an individual, team, business or organisation for outstanding contribution to the waste industry.

DEFINITIONS:

Organisation: refers to any business; community group; not-for-profit organisation; local government authority; regional council; state government agency, department or unit; school or social enterprise.

Individual: refers to an individual person (including members of the local community, householders, or a member of an organisation).

Initiative: refers to a specific project, product, program, system or process implemented that has significantly changed the way things are done, or has brought about changes, or has resulted in a shift in behaviour for the general good, a business or an approach.

Regional: refers to areas of Western Australia outside of the Perth Metropolitan area local government areas identified by the WA Local Government Association as outside of Zone Map 2 and Zone Map 2.

Small business: refers to an organisation that employs less than 20 people and has an annual turnover of less than \$10 million.



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Entry requirements

ESSENTIAL

1. Online Submission. You must submit a completed nomination via the online form. Applicants who wish to submit a nomination in multiple categories will need to complete a new nomination form for each category.
2. The submission document. This is your written response to the assessment criteria and is the main part of your entry that is assessed by the judges. Word limit is strictly as set out in the assessment criteria. Please structure your answers according to the assessment criteria. The use of headings, photos, graphics, tables and charts is encouraged.
3. All submissions must align with the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030 (Waste Strategy): *to make WA a sustainable, low-waste, circular economy in which human health and the environment are protected from the impacts of waste.* [READ MORE HERE](#)

4. If your project includes Containers for Change, you must demonstrate how you go above and beyond regular business outcomes achieved from collecting 10c containers. Examples include integration of other waste streams with your Containers for Change project, establishing positive and impactful partnership approaches, or creating positive social and or environmental outcomes for the local community. [READ MORE HERE](#)

OPTIONAL

You may submit other material and documents to support your entry and better illustrate its impact and results. Examples include reports, testimonials, media coverage, analytics, photos, videos and so forth. It is essential that all supporting documentation be referenced within your submission.

SUBMITTING YOUR ENTRY

Completed entries including all required attachments must be submitted using the online nomination form by **5pm (WST) on Monday, 25 May 2026**. Please [click the link here](#) to submit a nomination. Please do not upload the Nomination Kit with your submission.



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The process

- 1. Entries:** Nominees must complete and submit their entry via the online submission form by **5pm (WST) on Monday, 25 May 2026**. Email submissions will not be accepted.
- 2. Shortlisting.** DWER judges will assess the entries against the assessment criteria and prepare a shortlist for each awards category.
- 3. Screening.** Shortlisted entries will be screened by DWER Compliance and Enforcement and outstanding compliance issues may result in the withdrawal of the nomination from the category.
- 4. Scheduling.** The primary contact person for each of the shortlisted nominees will be contacted to arrange an interview with the judging panel and external judging panel. Interviews will take place between 20–21 July 2026 in Perth, or via teleconference or video conference if required. A representative from the shortlisted nominees must be available for an interview during this period.
- 5. Interviews.** The judges and shortlisted nominees meet to allow the judges to ask questions and gain a greater insight, and so entrants can share more information about themselves and their work.
- 6. Assessment.** Following the interviews, the judges will select winners and commendations of the 2026 WasteSorted Awards.
- 7. Announcement.** The winners will be announced at the WasteSorted Awards Gala Dinner on Thursday, 10 September 2026.



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The assessment criteria and weightings are the same for all awards except the Schools Award and Innovation Award.

These are provided on pages 8 and 9.

Assessment criteria and weightings

1. OVERVIEW (40%) 500-word limit

Who are you and who do you work with?

What has been your contribution to waste reduction and reuse, or the improvement of waste outcomes?

What was your activity, product, process, project or approach?

What problem were you solving?

What did you achieve?

Was there anything innovative about your work?

Top tips:

- Be succinct and include the key information you would like the judges to know about.
- Highlight the key aspects about yourself, your organisation or your initiative with an emphasis on achievements and outcomes.
- Include any high-level facts, figures and results.

2. GOALS and PLANNING (20%) 200-word limit

What were your target outcomes?

How did you measure your success?

Did you collaborate with any other organisations?

How did this help?

Top tips:

- Give a clear account of exactly what you were trying to achieve and your approach to achieving it.



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3. RESULTS (30%) 400-word limit

What have been the results of your work (quantitative and qualitative)?

Describe how you achieved your goals.

What other benefits or impacts have been achieved?

What has been the impact on the community in which you work?

Top tips:

- Provide evidence of your success and attach relevant documentation to support your submission. Examples might include data metrics (tonnes /cubic metres of waste), before/after photos of an issue or situation, surveys that track attitudes or behaviour, financial savings or impact, measurable flow-on effects from your activities to other areas.
- Include any information that you consider demonstrates the value of you or your initiative.
- Describe the experience and process of implementation.

4. WHAT NEXT? (10%) 200-word limit

What have you learnt?

Are you planning to grow the impact of this work and if so how?

Top tips:

- Include any information that you consider demonstrates how your work can continue to have an impact, or potentially grow.



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Schools Award Assessment Criteria and Ratings

1. OVERVIEW (40%) 500-word limit

What was your school's activity, project or approach to waste reduction and reuse?

How does your project demonstrate an integrated whole school approach to waste management?

What was your goal?

How did you communicate your goal to the school and wider community?

What outcomes did you hope to achieve?

Top tips:

- Be clear and succinct and include the key information you'd like the judges to know about.
- Highlight the key aspects about your school's waste initiative with an emphasis on achievements and outcomes.
- Highlight anything that is new, different or unique about your school's work in managing waste.

2. IMPLEMENTATION (30%) 500-word limit

How did you implement the project?

How were students and staff taught to use any new systems, infrastructure or initiatives?

How was your activity, project or approach linked to the school curriculum?

Were there opportunities for learning in and/or out of the classroom? If so, briefly explain how.

What opportunities were there for students to be involved? How were these opportunities adapted to involve students across all year levels?

Have you partnered with the local community outside of the school to support your project?

How did you monitor and evaluate the success of your project?

Top tips:

- Give a clear account of exactly what you were trying to achieve and your approach to achieving it.

3. RESULTS (30%) 400-word limit

What have been the results of your school's work (quantitative and qualitative)?

Describe how you achieved your goals.

Have you seen any changes in student and staff behaviour as a result of your work?

How have you shared your results with the whole school and wider community?

What has been the impact of your school's activity, project or approach to waste reduction or reuse so far?

Top tips:

- Give a clear account of exactly what you achieved.
- Provide evidence of your project's success. Attach any relevant data that was collected, before/after photos, surveys that track attitudes or behaviours, financial savings or measurable flow on effects from your activities to other areas.



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Innovation Award Assessment Criteria and Ratings

1. OVERVIEW (40%) 500-word limit

What has been your contribution to waste reduction and reuse, or the improvement of waste outcomes?

What was your activity, product, process, project or approach?

What problem were you solving?

What did you achieve and what impact have you had?

Top tips:

- Be clear and succinct. Include the key information you'd like the judges to know about.
- Highlight the key aspects about yourself, your organisation or your initiative with an emphasis on achievements and outcomes.
- Include any high-level facts, figures and results.
- Highlight anything that was new, different or unique about you or your work.

2. GOALS and PLANNING (10%) 200-word limit

What did you set out to achieve?

What were your target outcomes?

How did you measure your success?

Did you collaborate with any other organisations?

How did this help?

Top tips:

- Give a clear account of exactly what you were trying to achieve and your approach to achieving it.

3. INNOVATION (30%) 500-word limit

What sets you apart from others?

How is your work different to what had been done before?

What innovative methods or approaches did you use?

What are you most proud of?

Top tips:

- Innovation is about finding new ways of doing something or a new way to solving a problem.
- Consider more than just innovative equipment or use of technology. Have you been innovative in your thinking or approach to a problem instead?
- Describe the way you came up with your ideas and how you thought 'outside the box' to create solutions to waste problems.

4. RESULTS (20%) 400-word limit

Explain what you did and what you achieved.

What have been the results of your work (quantitative and qualitative)?

Describe how you achieved your goals.

What other benefits or impacts have been achieved?

What has been the impact on the community in which you work?

Top tips:

- Provide evidence of your success and attach relevant documentation to support your claims. Examples might include data metrics (tonnes /cubic metres of waste), before/after photos of an issue or situation, surveys that track attitudes or behaviour, financial savings or impact, measurable flow-on effects from your activities to other areas.
- Include any information that demonstrates the value of your initiative.
- Describe the experience and process of implementation. Did you learn anything interesting or new?

Terms and conditions

- Entries remain the property of the WasteSorted Awards organisers* and are not returned.
- The judges' decisions are final and are not subject to appeal.
- Entries must be from organisations or individuals with a substantial presence in Western Australia, or projects that have been substantially undertaken within Western Australia.
- Entries that are found to be misleading may be withdrawn from the awards process. Judges may seek to verify the claims made in nominations. Unsubstantiated claims will render a nomination ineligible.
- Waste service providers may enter a joint submission but cannot enter on behalf of a client.
- The entrant (organisation or individual) must not have been prosecuted for a violation of any environmental, social or commercial law in Australia or overseas in the past five (5) years.
- Any entrant found to be under investigation of a compliance issue or other reasonable concern by the judges may result in the withdrawal of all nominations. The decision of the judging panel is final.
- The 2026 WasteSorted Awards winners agree to be included in promotional activities, including photographs and media coverage.
- The WasteSorted Awards organisers accept no responsibility for unreceived, late or incomplete entries as a result of a technical problem.
- The WasteSorted Awards organisers reserve the right to withdraw a category and cancel an award if an insufficient number of entries has been received, the quality of entries does not fulfil the awards criteria, or the entries are deemed inappropriate for any other reason.
- The 2026 WasteSorted Awards nominees understand and agree that photographs included as part of the submission will be used by the WasteSorted Awards organisers for promotional purposes.

*** WasteSorted Awards organisers refers to the State Government of Western Australia, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Waste Authority WA and the event coordinators (Event & Conference Co.).**

[Click here to submit a nomination](#)



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can I enter multiple categories?

Yes you can submit in multiple categories. However, we recommend nominating in no more than two award categories.

I am a previous WasteSorted Awards nominee/finalist/winner. Can I apply for the 2026 WasteSorted Awards?

Yes, previous entrants are welcome to apply.

Can I submit supporting material and documents with my submission?

You may submit other material and documents to support your entry and better illustrate its impact and results. Examples include reports, testimonials, media coverage, analytics, photos, videos etc. It is essential that all supporting documentation be referenced within your submission. Please note, a minimum of 4 high resolution images must be submitted with your nomination.

When will I find out if I am a shortlisted nominee?

Shortlisted nominees will be contacted at the end of June/early July. The judging panel will conduct interviews with the finalists from 20–21 July 2026.



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**AWARDS
2026**



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Water and Environmental Regulation**



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For more information



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