

*County of Los Angeles*

**2020**

*Green  
Leadership  
Awards*



*Sponsored by the  
County of Los Angeles*

*Board  
of  
Supervisors*



*Sustaining  
our  
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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

# GREEN LEADERSHIP AWARDS



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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
**GREEN LEADERSHIP AWARDS**

**2020 Guidelines**

**BACKGROUND**

On April 22, 2008, the Los Angeles County (County) Board of Supervisors established an annual Green Leadership Awards Program. Throughout the County, residents, businesses, nonprofit organizations, community groups, and cities develop and employ innovative strategies and initiatives to enhance the region's sustainability, making our communities healthier, more livable, more equitable, economically stronger, and more resilient. The Green Leadership Awards Program is designed to recognize such efforts and to create opportunities to engage and inspire all of us about the strategies that make every day Earth Day. Since 2020 is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Earth Day, and in recognition of the Board of Supervisors' adoption of the first-ever sustainability plan for the County - the [OurCounty Sustainability Plan](#) - this year's awards will be focused on efforts that are consistent with and supportive of the Plan's goals.

Applications for the 2020 Green Leadership Awards should be emailed to [Greenleadership@lacobos.org](mailto:Greenleadership@lacobos.org) by 5:00 p.m. on **February 14, 2020**. The application can be found at [www.lacounty.gov](http://www.lacounty.gov) (click on Green Leadership Awards).

The Green Leadership Awards will be presented on Tuesday, April 21, 2020 (subject to change).

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

Competition is open to all County of Los Angeles residents, public agencies (including County departments), businesses, nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, professional and trade associations.

Applicants must use the attached application form and follow all instructions for format and length. No attachments or other supplemental material will be considered. The evaluation committee may follow up with selected applicants for more information as may be needed.

## PROJECT CRITERIA

- Nominated policies, projects, and activities must be located in the County of Los Angeles.
- The policy, project, or activity must be adopted, implemented, built and/or currently running. Do not submit projects that are still in the planning, development, or construction stages.
- The policy, project, or activity must have been initiated within the past three years. Long-term projects may be considered if a new benefit was achieved in the past three years.
- Policies, projects, or activities must demonstrate a connection to at least one of the goals of the OurCounty Sustainability Plan. Please see full text of the Plan [here](#).
- Applicants must agree to allow the County to publish a summary of their accomplishments.

## ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

An award may be granted in each of the following categories, though in some cases no award may be made in a particular category due to the lack of qualified applicants.

**Public Agency:** A city, government agency, joint powers authority, or other public-sector organization that demonstrates leadership within their own organization, peer group, or represented constituents, through policies, activities, initiatives, or programs that encourage and foster a more sustainable neighborhood, community, or region.

**Business:** A company or social enterprise that is going above and beyond regulatory requirements to move to be more sustainable either through changes to its own business practices or within the communities it serves. This can be demonstrated by the company's commitment to social responsibility, worker rights, and sustainability and can be extended to encouraging changes within its industry. Businesses engaged in selling sustainable products or services may submit an application for efforts that are above and beyond their core business.

**Nonprofit Organizations:** A community-based or other not-for-profit issue-focused organization that demonstrates leadership by developing and fostering healthier, more livable, more equitable, economically stronger, more resilient, and more sustainable communities. The organization works either on its own or through collaborations and partnerships to resolve sustainability challenges and conflicts with innovative solutions and initiatives.

## **ELIGIBLE TOPICS & RELATIONSHIP TO OURCOUNTY PLAN**

Applications must be submitted for a project, policy, or activity within the following topics addressed in the [OurCounty Sustainability Plan](#):

**Air quality, climate, economy and workforce, energy, equity, funding and financing, housing, land use, landscapes and ecosystems, public health, resilience, transportation, water and resource management, and/or water.**

Each application must demonstrate how the topic above was addressed in a way that advances one or more of the 12 OurCounty Sustainability Plan goals. The 12 goals are listed below:

### **Goal 1: Resilient and healthy community environments where residents thrive in place.**

Goal 1 focuses on advancing access to safe, clean, and affordable water; ensuring household utility affordability, increasing housing affordability, minimizing pollution impacts on residents and vulnerable populations, and developing community capacity to respond to emergencies.

### **Goal 2: Buildings and infrastructure that support human health and resilience.**

Goal 2 focuses on integrating climate adaptation and resilience into the built environment; requiring sustainable and healthy building design and construction; creating an integrated and resilient water system; and ensuring a climate-appropriate, equitable, and healthy urban tree canopy.

### **Goal 3: Equitable and sustainable land use and development without displacement.**

Goal 3 focuses on increasing housing density and limiting urban sprawl; implementing transit-oriented development; promoting walkable, mixed-use neighborhoods; ensuring that public investments do not facilitate displacement; and limiting development in high climate-hazard areas.

### **Goal 4: A prosperous LA County that provides opportunities for all residents and businesses and supports the transition to a green economy.**

Goal 4 focuses on promoting inclusive growth across the changing economy and supporting wealth-generating activities in disinvested neighborhoods.

**Goal 5: Thriving ecosystems, habitats, and biodiversity.**

Goal 5 focuses on increasing ecosystem function, habitat quality, and connectivity; the prevention of loss of native biodiversity; and the preservation and enhancement of open space, waterways, and priority ecological areas.

**Goal 6: Accessible parks, beaches, recreational waters, public lands, and public spaces that create opportunities for respite, recreation, ecological discovery, and cultural activities.**

Goal 6 focuses on improving access to parks, beaches, recreational waters, public lands, and public spaces; adopting inclusive design and programming for parks, beaches, public lands, cultural amenities, and public spaces; and utilizing sustainability best practices in the design and management of parks and recreational facilities.

**Goal 7: A fossil fuel-free County.**

Goal 7 focuses on transitioning to a zero-carbon energy system that reduces air and climate pollution; minimizes the dangers of a changing climate to our communities and economy; and creating a zero-emission transportation system.

**Goal 8: A convenient, safe, clean, and affordable transportation system that enhances mobility and quality of life while reducing car dependency.**

Goal 8 focuses on reducing vehicle miles traveled by prioritizing alternatives to single occupancy vehicles and improving transportation health and safety outcomes.

**Goal 9: Sustainable production and consumption of resources.**

Goal 9 focuses on reducing waste generation; implementing strong water conservation measures; reducing building energy consumption; capturing organic waste and developing regional capacity for beneficial reuse; and diverting reusable and recyclable materials from landfills.

**Goal 10: A sustainable and just food system that enhances access to affordable, local, and healthy food.**

Goal 10 focuses on improving access to healthy food and supporting the fair and sustainable production of food.

**Goal 11: Inclusive, transparent, and accountable governance that facilitates participation in sustainability efforts, especially by disempowered communities.**

Goal 11 focuses on creating an inclusive governance structure; promoting environmental stewardship; and promoting accessible education across different age, income, ethnicity, and language groups.

**Goal 12: A commitment to realize OurCounty sustainability goals through creative, equitable, and coordinated funding and partnerships.**

Goal 12 focuses on improving regional collaboration and coordination and leveraging the County's purchasing power to support organizations achieving positive social and environmental impact.

**EVALUATION PROCESS**

Award winners will be determined by an eight-member panel of judges comprised of both County Sustainability Office staff and external expert stakeholders. Semi-finalists in each category will be given an opportunity to make presentation pitches of the policy, program, or activity prior to final decisions being made. The deliberative process of the judges is confidential, and all decisions are final.

In the event that a judge has a close affiliation with an entry, they will withdraw from judging that entry. Judges' decisions are solely based on the nomination forms, supporting documentation, and presentation pitches.

The following factors may be considered:

**Project**

**Description:** The policy, project, or activity is presented in clear and comprehensible terms with results that are well-defined and measurable.

**Results:** The results of the policy, project, or activity measures project outcomes in clear, concise terms and are quantified in measurable terms.

**Transferability:** The policy, project, or activity is readily transferable to other jurisdictions, companies, or sectors.

**Impact:** The policy, project, or activity provides deep and lasting impact aligned with the OurCounty Sustainability Plan.

**Innovation:** The policy, project, or activity demonstrates a creative, original approach to the issue or

problem that goes beyond standard techniques or regulatory compliance standards.

**Collaboration/**

**Outreach:**

The policy, project, or activity involves collaboration with community, private, and/or government partners in its planning, development, and implementation. It also engages the public.

**Financial**

**Viability:**

The policy, project, or activity is financially viable and demonstrates sound fiscal management.

**OTHER CONDITIONS**

All materials submitted become the property of the County and will not be returned. Any information submitted or generated is subject to public disclosure requirements. The County reserves the right to reproduce, promote, and publish information on award-winning projects.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

All semi-finalists must be available on **March 18 or 19, 2020** to deliver presentation pitches. A special awards ceremony will be held by the County's Board of Supervisors to honor the final award winners at the regular Board meeting on **April 21, 2020**. At that time, a press notification announcing the recipients will be released. Award recipients will be notified according to the schedule below and provided with details regarding the ceremony.

<b>DATES TO REMEMBER</b>	
February 14, 2020, by 5 p.m.	Applications are Due
March 9, 2020	Semi-finalists notified
March 18-19, 2020	Semi-finalists deliver pitches
March 27, 2020	Award Winners Notified
April 21, 2020	Awards Ceremony