

Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Clean Air Excellence Award Guidelines

Through the annual Clean Air Excellence Awards Program, the Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Agency (AB Air Quality) will publicly recognize businesses and individuals who have made valuable contributions to air quality in Asheville and Buncombe County. AB Air Quality will accept nominations during the nomination period for the previous year. Recipients must meet criteria stated in the award descriptions.

The Awards Program is open to all businesses, organizations and the general public. It recognizes unregulated improvements to air quality emissions or voluntary actions benefiting the air quality in the area.

1. Categories

- a. Up to six awards in this program will be awarded with no more than two from each category listed below.

- Permitted Title V Facilities
- Permitted Synthetic Minor Facilities
- Permitted Small Facilities
- Businesses/Small non-permitted facilities
- Institutions/Government Agencies
- Individuals
- Special Award

2. Criteria

- a. Emissions reduction (total and percent for each pollutant)
- b. Evidence or documentation of good stewardship.
- c. Permitted facilities would need to document the new changes implemented at their business which have resulted in reduction in air emissions. This documentation would also need to verify that the actions resulting in the reduction in one pollutant does not result in the increase in another air pollutant.
- d. Non permitted Institutions/Government Agencies and Businesses and Individuals categories recognize entities that have made significant contributions to local air quality. These achievements will be chronicled and documented as best illustrates the nature of the contribution or pollution reduction.
- e. The Special Award Category is intended to recognize entities that have made significant contributions to local air quality regardless of whether the improvements are part of their primary business or stated mission.



- f. Businesses, organizations, and individuals that have received a Clean Air Excellence Award in a prior year are not eligible to receive the award a second time unless they are nominated for additional air quality improvements that were made since the last award was issued.

3. Nominations

- a. The Advisory Council, in conjunction with AB Air Quality staff, will be responsible for announcing and accepting all nominations, and will set the nomination deadline. The Awards Nomination form will be available on line to potential applicants. All nominations must be submitted by the published deadline on the official Awards Nomination form. Self nominations are allowed; peer nominations are also encouraged.

4. Judging

- a. Judging Panel: The Advisory Council and staff will review applications and make recommendations to the AB Air Quality Director for consideration. Staff will notify award winners.
- b. Determining Award Winners: Criteria reflecting the principles of the mission and vision statement of AB Air Quality and the character and nature of each award will be used in analyzing the nominations. Each member of the Council will score nominees on materials submitted with the nomination.

5. Awards Ceremony

- a. Planning the Awards Ceremony: The Awards Ceremony will be held during a scheduled AB Air Quality Board meeting for the recipients awarded for service the previous year.
- b. Ensuring Attendance of Award Winners: the AB Air Quality staff will contact award winners to request that their representative(s) be in attendance.
- c. Presenting Awards during the Ceremony: The AB Air Quality Board Chair may ask other Board members, special guests and dignitaries to present the awards.
- d. Presenting Awards not during official Ceremony: AB Air Quality awards may be presented by Board members or the AB Air Quality Director to award winners who are not present at the ceremony. If this is not possible, awards may be sent directly to the award winner.