

Thank you for your valuable contribution to South Australia. Community projects, big or small, create a culture, sense of place, beautiful, maintain, support and foster resilience. Please know that your engagement is appreciated, and we welcome your submission to South Australia's Sustainable Communities Awards 2023 Program.

Every submission will be assessed on the quality of the application, rather than the number of categories. Criteria are outlined within this document. Please review this information thoroughly to ensure that your submission appropriately addresses the criteria for best assessments.

Criteria

Appearance, amenities and facilities

This category recognises the appearance of a community, as well as the amenities and tourist facilities. This may include, but is not restricted to community entry/approaches, business and retail areas, sporting areas, public parks and gardens, private homes and streets, including footpaths and verges. Judges will look for:

- General overall amenities including tidiness and maintenance.
- Initiatives that enhance streetscapes/amenities/facilities.
- Restoration of buildings/infrastructure.
- Water sensitive urban design.
- Inclusive amenities and facilities (designed for use by differently abled, multicultural and diverse groups within the community and surrounding region).

Community action and partnerships

This category recognises the partnerships formed in communities, between schools, community groups, business, industry and local government. It also recognises the actions undertaken to protect, enhance and promote the community and its features. Judges will look for:

- Good working relationships between multiple and diverse parties to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes that support vibrant and healthy communities.

- Mutual support and promotion of community and government initiatives.
- Ongoing activities to support environmental initiatives, maintaining relationships.

Environmental sustainability and education

This category recognises the sustainable use and education of resources and the creation of sustainable communities. Decreasing environmental footprints with appropriate management of resources and sustainable transport is key. Also embraced within this category is environmental education at both school and community levels. Judges will look for:

- Education/communication that raises community awareness of environmental sustainability, supports empowerment and positive behaviour change.
- Active community relationships that enable resource/knowledge/skill sharing that support positive environmental behaviours.
- Community spaces that facilitate environmental communication programs/initiatives.
- Innovative approaches to environmental education leading to empowerment and behaviour change.

Health and wellbeing

This category recognises initiatives that contribute to the health and wellbeing (physical, mental, spiritual and emotional) of the community, with linkages to the environment. Judges will look for:

- Inclusiveness with regard to infrastructure and actions for a diversity of community members (age, gender, culture, beliefs, abilities etc).
- Community led initiatives that promote and support holistic (physical mental, spiritual and emotional) health.
- Community led activities that link health & wellbeing to community and/or nature connection.
- Events or activities that celebrate and support community spirit and pride, promoting cohesion and support.
- Long-term plans and initiatives that support community resilience and wellbeing in the face of climate change.

Heritage and culture

This category recognises initiatives that preserve, celebrate and value Indigenous and non-Indigenous (including maritime, agricultural, industrial) heritage and culture. Buildings, places, objects, events, practices, stories and more are embraced within this category. Judges will look for:

- Cultural heritage celebrations and recognition in the form of events, media or personal communications and activities.
- Education and engagement to support cultural heritage understanding, inclusion and appreciation.
- Preservation and/or enhancement of culturally significant sites/infrastructure/customs/events.
- Strategic community-based and/or business plans relating to historic or cultural preservation and/or restoration.
- Active and current research into relevant culturally significant sites, records, activities and/or artefacts.
- Proactive and long-term planning that includes an inclusive approach to conserving and celebrating a diversity of cultural heritage.

Leadership and youth activities

This category recognises the achievements by individuals or groups in community participation and initiatives. In particular, activities undertaken by young people or joint initiatives that contribute to sustainability in their community. Judges will look for:

- Community engagement and support for a diversity of younger community members to positively contribute to the community.
- Youth initiated initiatives/advocacy that benefit the greater community as well as those involved.
- Demonstration of leadership and character-building development by taking part in community action.

Natural environment management

This category recognises the protection, conservation and enhancement of the natural environment, including but not limited to waterways, flora, fauna, corridors, roadsides and recreation areas. This may include action as well as education and engagement. Judges will look for:

- Flora & fauna protection and/or rehabilitation.
- A commitment to larger community action programs (i.e., Landcare).
- Established local community conservation/environment group/s.
- Habitat, flora & fauna management plans.
- Soil and salinity management plans and initiatives.
- Water conservation and innovative design education and practices.
- Active advocacy for waterway protection and data collection.
- Water-use minimisation infrastructure, education and signage.
- Support for water sensitive research and initiatives.
- Innovative use of reclaimed/recycled water.
- Energy efficiency systems/devices/practices.
- Energy efficiency education and resources.
- Innovative strategies for renewable energy support/use.
- Long term plans to support environmentally responsible, socially just and efficient resource management.
- Education initiatives that raise community awareness relating to the natural environment/sustainability.
- Encouragement/advocacy of community engagement with environmental/sustainability actions.

Resource recovery, waste management, litter prevention and enforcement

This category recognises achievements in reducing, reusing, and recycling resources/'waste'. It incorporates litter prevent and management (including enforcement), education/awareness raising and material management. Judges will look for:

- Active, community led resource conservation, reuse, recovery and recycling.
- Adequate accessible, visible resource management infrastructure in public/ highly frequented places.
- Best practice management of resources through available waste stream processing.

- Accessible specialty resource drop-off and/or collection facilities (cigarette butts, electronic waste, soft plastic, batteries etc).
- Regular litter cleaning activities.
- Current, appropriate and engaging resource information, education and signage.
- Integration of resource management in broader management strategies.
- Regular assessment of initiatives and resource management outcomes (i.e., audits) with evidence of continued improvement planning.
- Innovative use of recovered resources.
- Effective engagement and/or incentives to improve resource management.
- Partnerships that design-out/avoid/minimise litter at source.
- Circular-economy initiatives that consider whole-of-life outcomes with a long-term sustainability view.

Supporting evidence

You may have evidence (documentation, images, media) that supports the initiative and your submission. Please provide this with your submission to show the big picture impact of the initiative.

Supporting evidence may be in the form of plans, photos, awards, meeting minutes, letters/communications, media exerts, equipment/service specifications, agreements, contracts, marketing, research, analyses, surveys, event/workshop material, audit data, memberships/partnerships, signage/collateral, utility information, reports, sales data, database exerts, strategic planning exerts etc. If you believe you can support your claims in any way, we want to know about it.

When submitting initiatives, consider the following points and include these within your documentation:

- **PROCESS** – How was the initiative undertaken?
- **MOTIVATION** – Why was this initiative undertaken? What were the objectives?
- **COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION** – Who was involved? Has there been successful collaboration between participants?
- **COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND EDUCATION** – How has the local community been kept informed and what has the community learnt about the initiative or the aims?
- **OUTCOMES** – What are the community and environmental benefits and overall outcomes?
- **COST** – What were the costs associated with the initiative?
- **FUNDING AND PARTNERS** – How was the initiative funded; financially/ in-kind support?
- **LESSONS LEARNT** – Could anything be done differently? What were some of the surprises?
- **ONGOING** – Is there ongoing commitment to maintain or expand the initiative?

Submission checklist

<i>Criteria</i>	<i>Addressed: Yes/No</i>	<i>Provide initiative details in response to the criteria</i>	<i>Relevant supporting evidence</i>
Appearance, amenities and facilities			
General overall amenities including tidiness and maintenance.			
Initiatives that enhance the streetscape/facilities.			
Restoration of buildings/infrastructure.			
Water sensitive urban design.			
Community action and partnerships			
Good working relationships between multiple parties to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes that support vibrant and healthy communities			
Mutual support and promotion of community and government initiatives			
Ongoing activities to support environmental initiatives, maintaining relationships			
Involvement of a diversity of community members in initiatives and partnerships (age, culture, abilities etc).			

Criteria	Addressed: Yes/No	Provide initiative details in response to the criteria	Relevant supporting evidence
Environmental sustainability and education			
Education/communication that raises community awareness of environmental sustainability, to support empowerment and positive behaviour change			
Active community relationships that enable resource/knowledge/skill sharing that supports positive environmental behaviours			
Community spaces that facilitate environmental communication programs/initiatives			
Health and wellbeing			
Inclusiveness with regard to infrastructure and actions for a diversity of community members (age, gender, culture, beliefs, abilities etc).			
Community led initiatives that promote and support physical, mental and emotional health			
Community led activities that link health & wellbeing to community and/or nature connection			
Events or activities that celebrate and support community spirit and			

pride, promoting cohesion and support			
Long-term plans/initiatives supporting community resilience and wellbeing.			
Criteria	Addressed: Yes/No	Provide initiative details in response to the criteria	Relevant supporting evidence
Heritage and culture			
Cultural heritage celebrations and recognition in the form of events, media or personal communications			
Education and engagement to support cultural heritage understanding, inclusion and appreciation			
Preservation and/or enhancement of culturally significant sites/infrastructure/customs/events			
Strategic community-based and/or business plans relating to historic or cultural preservation and/or restoration			
Active and current research into relevant culturally significant site, records and/or artefacts			
Proactive and long-term planning that includes an inclusive approach to conserving and celebrating a diversity of cultural heritage.			

Criteria	Addressed: Yes/No	Provide initiative details in response to the criteria	Relevant supporting evidence
Leadership and youth activities			
Community engagement and support for a diversity of younger community members to positively contribute to the community			
Youth initiated initiatives/advocacy that benefit the greater community as well as those involved			
Demonstration of leadership and character-building development by taking part in community action.			
Natural environment management			
Flora & fauna protection and/or rehabilitation			
A commitment to larger community action programs (i.e., Landcare)			
Established local community conservation/environment group/s			
Habitat, flora & fauna management plans			
Soil and salinity initiatives and plans			
Water conservation and innovative design education and practices			
Active advocacy for waterway protection and data collection			
Water-use minimisation infrastructure and signage			

Support for water sensitive research and initiatives			
Innovative use of reclaimed/recycled water			
Energy efficiency systems/devices/practices			
Energy efficiency education and resources			
Innovative strategies for renewable energy support/use			
Long term plans to support environmentally responsible, socially just and efficient energy			
Education initiatives that raise community awareness relating to the natural environment/sustainability			
Innovative approaches to environmental education leading to empowerment and behaviour change			
Encouragement/advocacy of community engagement with environmental/sustainability actions.			
Criteria	Addressed: Yes/No	Provide initiative details in response to the criteria	Relevant supporting evidence
Resource recovery, waste management, litter prevention and enforcement			
Active, community led resource conservation, reuse, recovery and recycling			
Adequate accessible, visible waste management bins in public/ highly			

frequented places			
Best practice management of resources through available waste stream processing			
Accessible specialty waste drop-off and/or collection facilities (cigarette butts, electronic waste, soft plastic, batteries etc).			
Regular litter cleaning activities			
Current, appropriate and engaging resource information, education and signage			
Integration of resource management in broader management strategies			
Regular assessment of initiatives and resource management outcomes (i.e., audits) with evidence of continued improvement planning			
Innovative use of recovered resources			
Effective engagement and/or incentives to improve resource management			
Partnerships that design-out/avoid/minimise litter at its source			
Circular-economy initiatives that consider whole-of-life outcomes with a long-term sustainability view.			