

2023 Tweed Sustainability Awards

Celebrating local sustainability champions and environmental initiatives

Nomination guide and category specific tips

The Tweed Sustainability Awards are about recognising the great work of people, projects and businesses in the Tweed.

The awards aim to:

- recognise champions who are going above and beyond for sustainability
- boost the profile of the Tweed's sustainable businesses
- facilitate a network of like-minded people and businesses focused on protecting the Tweed's unique and internationally significant environment
- inspire other individuals and businesses to lead the way in sustainable practices.

Sustainability means balancing environmental, economic and social impacts to satisfy the needs of the present without affecting future generations' ability to meet their needs.

What's new in 2023

In 2023, all nominations will be entered into a prize draw to thank nominees for taking the time to enter. Prize details, terms and conditions are available at www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/SustainabilityAwards.

Entrants are also invited to submit a video showcasing their business or project, sustainability actions and outcomes. If your video addresses all the elements the judges are looking for, you don't need to put in a written entry!

Videos should be a maximum of 2 minutes in length and a link provided to the video on a private YouTube channel or video sharing platform location.

This year we've simplified the entry process so that your nomination focuses on 2 main questions:

- what sustainability actions have you or your group taken over the past 2 years, and,
- what has been the impact or outcome of those actions.

The following guidelines provide recommendations for how the judges will assess winners, including topics to address in your nomination.

Key dates

Nominations open on World Environment Day, 5 June 2023

Nominations close midnight, Monday 31 July 2023

People's Choice voting: 1 September – 1 October 2023

Winners announced at awards celebration: Thursday 12 October 2023

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Award categories

1. **Regenerative Agriculture:** Recognising outstanding contributions to the restoration of soils, waterways and biodiversity in agriculture.
2. **Wildlife and Habitat:** Recognising outstanding contributions to the protection and conservation or active management of wildlife and native habitat.
3. **Tourism and Hospitality:** Recognising outstanding contributions by tourism and hospitality operators to the environment and community.
4. **Sustainability:** Recognising outstanding contributions to improved sustainability across the following sub-categories:
 - a. adults
 - b. young people (under 18)
 - c. schools/education sector
 - d. Not-for-profit/community groups
 - e. businesses
5. **People's Choice Awards:** All nominees are eligible to win a People's Choice Award, with the community showing their support for their favourite sustainability champion in each category.

Who can be nominated?

- Individuals, community groups, not-for-profits, schools and businesses
- The nominee must reside, be involved in projects, provide services and/or operate a business in the Tweed Shire local government area
- Previous nominees and Sustainability Award winners are encouraged to apply

Conditions of entry

- All information must be true and accurate.
- The activities described must meet all relevant legislative and statutory regulations, Council rules and relevant industry codes.
- The judges' decision is final and will be made in good faith.
- Successful nominees/s should be willing to participate in Council promotional activities.

For assistance with nominating, or for more information about the awards, contact Jane Moad, Education Officer - Sustainability on (02) 6670 2191 or email

jmoad@tweed.nsw.gov.au

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Questions for all nominations

Nomination title: In 10 words or less, introduce the activities or achievements being nominated.

Tip: This will be used in the gallery of nominations on Council's webpage, and in print media during the People's Choice voting phase. Don't use the individual or organisation's name as this will be listed separately for each nomination.

Summary: In 25 words or less, summarise the **stand-out** activities and achievements that you are nominating for, including the most measurable impact that has been achieved.

Tip: Describe how you are measuring impacts, for example, CO₂-e avoided, hectares of land regenerated, improvement in soil carbon, tonnes of waste to landfill avoided etc.

Nomination type:

- Individual
- Business
- School/education/educator
- Community group or not-for-profit

Nomination details:

Nominee name (School/Group/Club/Business name if applicable):

Best contact person:

Contact number:

Contact email:

Nomination category

- Category One – Regenerative Agriculture
- Category Two – Wildlife and Habitat Conservation
- Category Three – Tourism and Hospitality
- Category Four - Sustainability

Actions

What sustainable actions have you taken in the last 2 years?

Tip: Refer to the category specific actions suggested in categories below.

Outcomes

What are the positive impacts or outcomes of your sustainable actions?

Tip: Refer to the category specific actions suggested in categories below.

Additional information:

Video to support the nomination

You are welcome to tell your sustainability story in a video. Show us your sustainability initiatives, share your motivation, or add to your nomination answers. **Please use landscape or horizontal orientation for your videos.**



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Tip: if your entry is via video instead of a written application, make sure it addresses every element that written applications have to address:

- *Actions*
- *Outcomes*
- *Describe how your efforts and outcomes are 'above and beyond' what's normally seen or expected in your sector*
- *Collaboration and connection (Include names of individuals and groups and measures of interactions where possible.)*
- *How you'll maintain your impacts; what are your future plans.*

Supporting documents:

Tip: This could be a strategic or environmental plan, a business plan or other document which may support the nomination.

Supporting images:

Provide up to 2 high quality photos or images (maximum size 2MB) with captions.

Tip: these may help tell the story of the nomination and add impact.

Is there anything else you would like to add in support of the nomination?

Tip: An opportunity for you to share your 'why' or add details about why you decided to make the nomination, or what motivated the nominee to take action.

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Category 1: Regenerative Agriculture

Describe the actions and positive environmental outcomes from the nominee's farming practices in the past 2 years, which may include:

- improved soil management
- increased habitat for native flora and fauna
- improvements to waterway health on their farm.

[Tip: Describe every environmental aspect that has been positively impacted, and quantify these outcomes wherever possible]

When describing the nominee's actions and outcomes, include the following:

- How does the nominee's efforts go above and beyond what's normally seen in the sector?
- How has collaboration and connection been enabled by the nominee's efforts? (Include names of individuals and groups and measures of interactions where possible.)
- How does the nominee intend to maintain their momentum, or what are their future plans to keep growing their positive environmental impact?

Category 2: Wildlife and Habitat conservation

Describe the actions and measurable outcomes from the nominee's protection and management of wildlife and their associated habitats over the past 2 years, which may include:

- mitigation of threats to threatened flora and fauna, such as pest management
- conservation initiatives involving citizen science
- environmental monitoring leading to improved wildlife or habitat outcomes.

[Tip: Describe every environmental aspect that has been positively impacted, and quantify these outcomes wherever possible]

When describing the nominee's actions and outcomes, include the following:

- How does the nominee's efforts go above and beyond what's normally seen in the sector?
- How has collaboration and connection been enabled by the nominee's efforts? (Include names of individuals and groups and measures of interactions where possible.)
- How does the nominee intend to maintain their momentum, or what are their future plans to keep growing their positive environmental impact?

Category 3: Tourism and Hospitality

Describe how your tourism and/or hospitality business has in the past 2 years:



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- delivered exceptional customer experiences
- embedded sustainability in the customer experience
- incorporated sustainability in the delivery of your product or service
- supported your community and local culture

[Tip: Quantify average customer satisfaction ratings over a 12-month period and describe how customers experience your efforts to improve your environmental footprint. Community support may include in-kind support, partnerships, local supply chains, working with local Elders, protection of heritage, history and culture.]

When describing the nominee's actions and outcomes, include the following:

- How does the nominee's efforts go above and beyond what's normally seen in the sector?
- How has collaboration and connection been enabled by the nominee's efforts? (Include names of individuals and groups and measures of interactions where possible.)
- How does the nominee intend to maintain their momentum, or what are their future plans to keep growing their positive environmental impact?

Category 4: Sustainability

Describe the actions and positive outcomes/impacts that you or your organisation has had in the past 2 years, including:

- climate change adaptation or mitigation
- waste avoidance, reduction or circular economy initiatives
- water efficiency
- energy efficiency or renewables
- sustainable design
- active transport
- locally sourced products
- heritage and cultural protection

[Tip: There may be many other areas of sustainability! Quantify outcomes wherever possible, for example with emissions reduction achieved, materials saved, waste avoided, transport reduced etc.]

When describing the nominee's actions and outcomes, include the following:

- How does the nominee's efforts go above and beyond what's normally seen in the sector?
- How has collaboration and connection been enabled by the nominee's efforts? (Include names of individuals and groups and measures of interactions where possible.)
- How does the nominee intend to maintain their momentum, or what are their future plans to keep growing their positive environmental impact?

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Conditions of entry

All nominations will be asked to agree to the following conditions of entry:

- I have referred to the **nomination guidelines and tips** document and provided as much relevant information as possible
- All the information I have provided in this nomination is true and accurate
- The activities described meet all relevant legislative and statutory regulations, Council rules and relevant industry codes
- I acknowledge the judges' decision is final and will be made in good faith
- I acknowledge I will be invited to participate in Council promotional activities

People's Choice awards

All nominees are automatically entered and eligible to win a People's Choice award. Nominees will be listed on Tweed Shire Council's Sustainability Awards webpage for voting by the general public.

Voting may also occur in person at Council's Murwillumbah and Tweed Heads customer service centres. In addition to promotion via Council's communication channels, nominees may choose to promote their entry via their own communication and social media channels.

The People's Choice award is an opportunity for the community to show their support for their favourite sustainability champion. Only one vote per person is permitted.