

Resource Recovery Award

The Resource Recovery Award celebrates exceptional efforts to recover energy, nutrients, or other valuable resources from wastewater or wastewater-adjacent systems.

Who Should Apply

This award is open to:

- Wastewater treatment facilities (any size)
- Researchers and academic institutions
- Consultants (with client support)
- Public and private utilities
- Any organization advancing resource recovery from wastewater systems

No minimum project size or budget required. We encourage communities of all sizes to apply!

Note: If your project focuses primarily on biosolids beneficial reuse, please apply under the Biosolids Award instead.

Awards may be presented in the following categories:

- **Capital Projects:** Capital projects that enable new or substantially improved resource recovery programs.
 - **Ideal Candidates:**
 - Operational, full-scale projects with demonstrated results.
 - Projects including public education and community engagement efforts.
 - Innovative approaches that can serve as models for other facilities.
 - Projects representing significant advancement in resource recovery.
 - **Examples:**
 - Solar panel installations or other renewable energy generation.
 - Combined heat and power (CHP) systems using biogas.
 - Nutrient recovery systems (phosphorus, nitrogen).
 - Geothermal heating/cooling systems.
 - Major energy efficiency upgrades with measurable impact.
 - Innovative heat recovery or water reuse systems.
 - **Please Note:** This award recognizes projects that substantially change or improve resource recovery practices. Routine equipment replacements without significant strategy changes may be better suited for other recognition. Previous award recipients are welcome to reapply with substantial new investments or program expansions.
- **Research Activities:** Studies that advance understanding of resource recovery practices, improve public acceptance, or develop new technologies.
 - **Ideal Candidates:**
 - Research Conducted in Indiana or with significant Indiana connections.
 - Published, peer-review studies.
 - Applied research with practical implementation potential.
 - Studies addressing economic feasibility or community acceptance.
 - **Examples:**
 - Life cycle assessments of resource recovery technologies.
 - Cost-benefit analyses of various recovery approaches.
 - Studies on nutrient recovery efficiency and end-product quality.
 - Research on emerging resource recovery technologies.

- Public perception and communication studies.
- Waste Reduction & Best Management Practice (BMP) Implementation: New programs or initiatives that reduce waste, increase reuse, or reduce energy consumption.
 - Ideal Candidates:
 - Programs with data demonstrating measurable resource recovery or waste reduction.
 - Systematic approaches to continuous improvement.
 - Initiatives that can be replicated by other facilities.
 - Programs addressing multiple resource recovery opportunities.
 - Examples:
 - Comprehensive energy management programs with documented savings.
 - Chemical optimization programs reducing waste and costs.
 - Water reuse programs for industrial or beneficial purposes.
 - Waste audits leading to significant operational changes.
 - Employee engagement programs driving resource conservation.
- Other Resource Recovery Efforts: Impactful resource recovery activities that don't fit the categories above. We welcome all innovative approaches, including:
 - Public-private partnerships for resource recovery.
 - Regional collaborations and shared services.
 - Educational initiatives promoting resource recovery.
 - Unique approaches to resource recovery challenges.
 - Pilot programs testing new technologies.

How to Apply

Application Requirements:

- Brief project or program description (1 page preferred, 2-3 pages maximum).
- Key outcomes, benefits, and data demonstrating impact.
- Supporting documentation (metrics, photos, reports - if available).
- Contact information for all parties involved.
- For consultants: Letter of support from client organization.

What We're Looking For:

- Demonstrated environmental or economic benefits
- Innovation and creativity
- Potential to inspire other facilities
- Community engagement and education efforts
- Measurable results and data

Submission Deadline: May 1st at 5:00 PM

Submit Applications To: [Awards - Indiana WEA](https://indianawea.org/awards/) (<https://indianawea.org/awards/>)

Questions? We're happy to help! Contact us at staff@indianawea.org to discuss whether your project is a good fit.

What Happens Next

- Award recipients will be recognized at the IWEA Annual Conference Awards Luncheon.
- Winners receive publicity opportunities and networking with fellow innovators.

Don't hesitate to apply! We value innovation at all scales and encourage facilities of all sizes to share their accomplishments.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is my project too small to compete? Absolutely not! We encourage facilities of all sizes to apply. A small community's first resource recovery initiative can be just as impactful and inspirational as a large-scale project.

Can we apply if we've won before? Yes! If it has been more than 5 years since your facility has last received the Biosolids or Resource Recovery award or if you have substantial new investments or significant program expansions, we'd love to hear about your continued innovation.

Can we apply for multiple awards? Yes, if your projects genuinely fit different categories. However, any single project should only be submitted once under the most appropriate award category.

What if our project is still in early stages? Operational, full-scale projects receive greater consideration. However, innovative pilot programs with measurable results are welcome to apply.