



# Entry Brochure (Regional Awards)





## What are the Blue Star Sustainability Awards?

An annual awards program that acknowledges the hard work NSW citizens put into keeping our towns sustainable and promoting responsible environmental management.

For us, 'sustainability' means addressing the entire spectrum of environmental, social and economic factors. So our awards recognise civic pride, community spirit and planning for the future in assessing the best environmental projects and programs to come out of regional NSW each year.

The Blue Stars are about celebrating the dedication and passion of people across NSW who are involving their communities to create environmentally sustainable and litter-free towns. They're about honouring the unique spirit of regional NSW and ensuring every part of our state is somewhere people want to visit and to live.

## Why Enter?

Who doesn't like to win? But there are some additional benefits to participating in the Blue Stars:

- Bring your community together around a common goal
- Boost morale and foster civic pride
- Spread education about environmental awareness, and specifically your own hard work
- Tell your story to other groups across the state
- Engage people from your community in your project or program
- Get your project into local media and gain publicity for your achievements
- Attract visitors to your town

Visit [www.knswb.org.au](http://www.knswb.org.au) for more information

## Who Can Enter?

The Blue Stars are open to anyone; individual, group, council or business, outside of the Greater Sydney basin (you can refer to the maps on our website if you are unsure which region your area falls into).

Entries must consist of a 'project' undertaken between 1 January 2014 and 30 June 2015 that fulfils the criteria of the category you are entering.

A project may be entered in more than one category, if it meets the criteria.

One group or individual can also submit several projects, in one or more categories. The Tidy Town State Representative Award and the Clean Beaches State Representative Award are slightly different - the winners of these awards are selected by judges from the finalists in other categories. The winners of the State Representative Awards go on to represent New South Wales at the national level, competing against winners from other states and territories.

For more information about the award categories, see the last page of this brochure or check out the FAQs on our website [www.knswb.org.au](http://www.knswb.org.au)

## How to Enter

We would rather see you spending time out helping the environment than filling in forms, so we've endeavoured to make entering the Blue Star Awards as simple as possible:

1. Fill out a short online form to tell us what your project achieves and why it should win
2. Judges will select 3-5 finalists in every category. The finalists will fill out a longer form with more detailed information
3. Winners are announced at an Award Ceremony held in Gloucester

## Entry Fees

Each project entered will attract an entry fee of \$35.00 (inc GST). Fees assist with the costs of reviewing projects and judging, providing every entrant with considered feedback, and delivering you a quality program.

## Have a Question? Ask Us!

If you have any questions about the program our Awards Team are here to help. You can email us at [awards@knswb.org.au](mailto:awards@knswb.org.au) or call us on (02) 8594 4000

## Key Dates

Awards open  
**16 March 2015**

Short form submission due  
**20 May 2015**

Shortlisted entrants notified  
**25 May 2015**

Long form submissions due  
**19 June 2015**

Winners announced  
**6 - 7 November 2015**



# Awards Categories



## **Hey Tosser! Litter**

### **Action Award**

*Action award sponsored by the NSW Environment Protection Authority*

Awarded to a project that effectively tackles litter. The winning entry will demonstrate inventive techniques that specifically address local litter issues, with measureable outcomes.

## **Waste Less, Recycle More Award**

*Sponsored by the NSW Environment Protection Authority*

This award recognises projects that initiate, support and promote effective waste management and recycling programs across NSW. Judges will be looking for innovative waste management systems which efficiently and sustainably look to 'waste less and recycle more'.

## **Going Green Education Award**

To reward institutions and groups for campaigns or practices which incorporate environmentalism in their operations, through either environmental education and/or environmentally conscious features. Projects can be directed towards children, adults and anyone in between (e.g. schools, community gardens, businesses etc).

## **Habitat and Wildlife Guardianship Award**

Giving recognition for projects which protect and/or enhance natural habitats or wildlife populations. We're looking to reward effective stewardship of our natural surrounds, including revegetation, dune care, marine rescue programs, wildlife conservation, bush care and more.

## **Sustainable Systems Award**

Acknowledging excellence in planning, urban development and expansion with sustainability in mind, this award recognises initiatives to create resilient, adaptive communities. It includes innovation in resource management, renewable energy use, sustainably water use, town planning and other urban landscape features which foster sustainability.

## **Cultural Heritage Award**

*Sponsored by the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage*

This category recognises built and cultural heritage projects which showcase best practice heritage management. Successful heritage management could include: education programs; improving or building heritage walks; site enhancements; building restorations; festivals or events; or strategies to highlight significant local heritage.

## **Environmental Achievement Award**

The recipient of this award will be an individual (aged 26+) who demonstrates outstanding commitment to the environment. They may improve the sustainability and general health of the environment around their local area, or show initiative, leadership and strength of character in pursuing environmental outcomes in their personal life and/or impacting on the wider community.

## **Young Environmental Achievement Award**

For individual or youth groups (aged 25 and under) who demonstrate outstanding commitment to the environment. They may improve the sustainability and general health of the environment around their local area, or show initiative, leadership and strength of character in pursuing environmental outcomes in their personal life and/or impacting on the wider community. Award recipients could include individuals or young Bushcare groups, Scout and Guides who carry out environmental projects.

## **Community Environmental Achievement Award**

This award is about recognising groups and businesses who demonstrate outstanding commitment to the environment. They may improve the sustainability and general health of the environment around their local area, or show initiative, leadership and embody community spirit in pursuing environmental outcomes in their group and/or impacting on the wider community. Groups or projects which could be considered include Bushcare groups, Lions, Rotary, Men's Sheds and other community affiliations which carry out environmental projects.

## **Members' Choice Award**

All shortlisted submissions for the above awards will be entered into the Members' Choice shortlist, where Members and registered Friends of KNSWB will vote for the entrant or project they find most effectively contributes to ongoing sustainability in NSW local communities. This is the opportunity for an outstanding entry to be singled out for its achievement by an audience of individuals, groups and businesses with an interest in sustainability.

## **Tidy Town State Representative**

One town will be selected as the NSW Tidy Town State Representative at the discretion of the judging panel, based on their overall performance across three or more of the first six categories in this table. Shortlisted nominees in this category will be visited by an assessor who will prepare a report and assist the judging panel in their final selection. The winner will go on to represent NSW in the National Tidy Towns Awards program.

## **Clean Beach State Representative**

One council within the coastal region will be selected as the NSW Clean Beach State Representative, at the discretion of the judging panel, based on their overall performance across three or more of the first six categories in this table. Shortlisted nominees in this category will be visited by an assessor who will prepare a report and assist the judging panel in their final selection. The winner will go on to represent NSW in the National Clean Beaches Awards program.