



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

Allison Fore

Public and Intergovernmental Affairs Officer

312.751.6626

allison.fore@mwr.org

100 East Erie Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611

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MWRD seeks applicants for Sustainable Landscaping and Biosolids User awards; Applications due September 15, 2021



Public enthusiasm and support for environmental sustainability continues to grow every day. Responsive local governments, organizations and others are developing programs and processes that utilize local resources, save money and improve the environment. Attend our 9th Annual Sustainability Summit to learn about partnerships and activities of key organizations fostering a sustainable environment in the Chicago region in addition to resources available for implementing sustainable practices in your community. This year, the MWRD is hosting this live event virtually and opening it up to the general public.

Free Registration!

- Hear from community leaders about success stories on collaborative initiatives on sustainability in the Chicago area
- Learn about collaborations for using compost and biosolids as a sustainable practice in the Chicago area and other cities in the U.S.

The MWRD is accepting applications from Cook County individuals, organizations and businesses for its 2021 Sustainable Landscaping and Biosolids Beneficial Reuse Awards. Visit mwr.org for details and to apply. **Deadline: Sept. 15.**

Join us!

Tuesday, Oct. 12, 2021 • 10 a.m. – Noon

TO REGISTER, VISIT MWRD.ORG/SUSTAINABILITY-SUMMIT-RSVP.



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago



The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) is accepting applications from Cook County individuals, organizations and businesses for its 2021 Sustainable Landscaping and Biosolids Beneficial Reuse Awards until September 15.

The awards recognize the activities and innovations from entities such as park districts, villages, schools, golf courses and athletic clubs in two separate categories: Sustainable Landscaping and Beneficial Use of Exceptional Quality (EQ) Biosolids and Biosolids Compost. Exceptional Quality biosolids and biosolids compost are a product of the MWRD's water treatment process that are used as soil amendments and sustainable alternative to other materials.

The beneficial use of EQ biosolids and biosolids compost may be demonstrated through any one or a combination of the following:

- Continuous commitment to maximize the use of

EQ biosolids or compost to improve the cost-effectiveness of landscape management.

- Promotion such as, but not limited to, referrals and field demonstrations of EQ biosolids or compost.
- Educational efforts on the environmental/economic benefits of using EQ biosolids or compost.

Qualifications for the Sustainable Landscaping award may be demonstrated through the innovative use of green infrastructure, capital investment, and how an individual or organization promotes green landscaping to educate the community. The goal is to present an award to an individual or community that integrates sustainable practices in the environment that manages stormwater. For the purpose of the award, green infrastructure includes:

- Rainwater Harvesting, i.e. through rain barrels
- Rain Gardens
- Native Landscaping
- Stormwater Trees

(continued)

MWRD seeks applicants for awards, *cont.*

- Porous Pavement
- Bioswales
- Green Roofs
- Greenways
- Wetlands
- Green Alleys, Streets, and Parking Lots

Activities completed after January 1, 2016 are eligible for an award, and an individual or organization is eligible once every five years. Submittals should include figures, illustrations, narrative, and photos to help further explain the efforts. The evaluation process may include a site visit.

This year's awards applications will be accepted electronically. The applications can be found at <https://bit.ly/2VlOeq6>. If you have difficulties using the electronic form, please email TianG@mwrld.org to request a print version by email.

Submit application packages by September 15, 2021 to TianG@mwrld.org or mail to:

Guanglong Tian

Biosolids Utilization and Soil Science

Monitoring & Research Department

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

6001 W. Pershing Road

Cicero, IL 60804

Awards will be presented at the MWRD's ninth annual Sustainability Summit later this year. For more information about the biosolids program, awards or Sustainability Summit, contact (312) 751-6633. This year's Sustainability Summit will be held virtually using Microsoft Teams on October 12 from 10 a.m. to noon. This event is open to the public. Register at:

<https://mwrld.org/form/sustainability-summit-2021-regis>

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Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

Established in 1889, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) is an award-winning, special purpose government agency responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois. Learn more at mwrld.org.