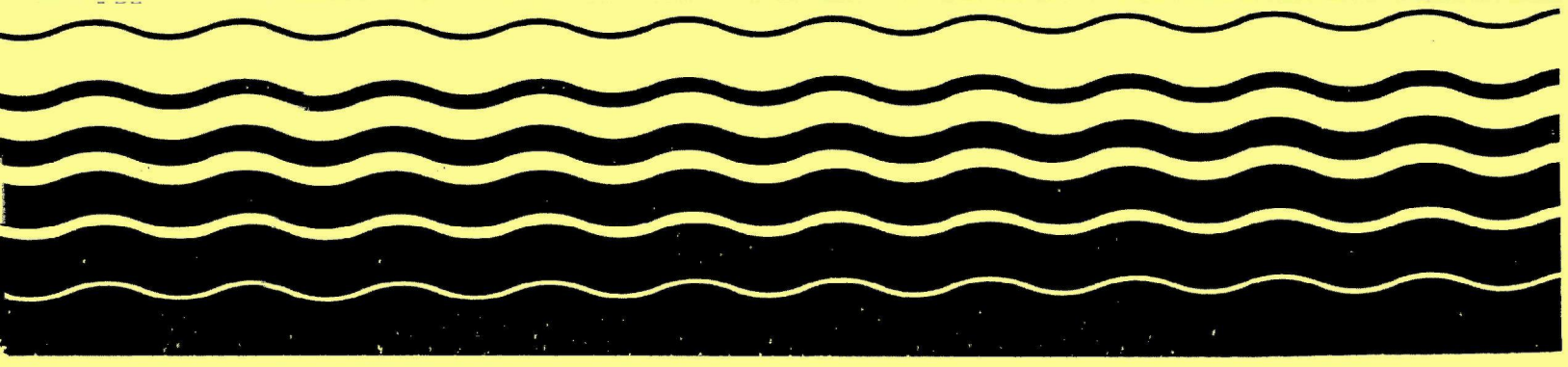




Nomination Guidance

1997 Beneficial Use Of Biosolids Awards Program: For Operating Projects, Technology Development, Research, And Public Acceptance



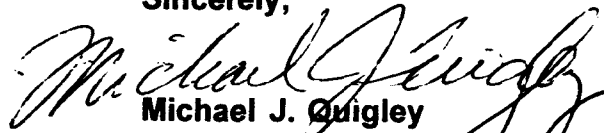
INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to announce the 1997 Beneficial Use of Biosolids Awards Program. This is the tenth anniversary of this highly successful program that recognizes outstanding operating projects, research studies, technological advances, and public acceptance activities which promote the beneficial use of municipal biosolids. EPA encourages your submission of nominations. The very process of preparing a nomination package has considerable benefit. It helps preparers focus on the relevance of their efforts and facilitates the spread of knowledge about excellence of nominated activities so that others might benefit. Transfer of information about all nominated activities is very important; so, please do not miss the opportunity for submission of nomination packages in the sometimes overlooked areas of technology development and research.

Based on the many excellent submissions last year, EPA is subdividing the Public Acceptance category into two areas: (i) municipal activities and (ii) activities by other entities. EPA continues to encourage states and regions to have local Beneficial Use of Biosolids Awards Program. These local programs increase the opportunity for recognition, promote public understanding of biosolids recycling at the local level, and emphasize the benefits and sound science behind use. Water Environment Federation (WEF) Member Associations will be encouraging nominations in this year's awards program. This expanded program significantly increases the number of deserving projects that receive recognition, and simultaneously helps achieve the goal of making the use of biosolids publicly acceptable by the year 2000.

This pamphlet describes the awards program in detail and provides guidance for preparing and submitting nominations. Please note that you need to send your nominations to the EPA's Regional Offices by the deadlines specified in this document so that your outstanding efforts can be considered by both our Regional and National competitions. The National awards will be presented in October 1997 at the Annual WEF Conference and Exposition (WEFTEC) in Chicago, Illinois.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Quigley", is written over the typed name and title.

**Michael J. Quigley
Director, Municipal Support Division
Office of Wastewater Management**

NOMINATION GUIDANCE

for the

1996 BENEFICIAL USE OF BIOSOLIDS AWARDS PROGRAM

OMB Control # 2040-0101

Expires 10-31-97

OMB NOTICE

Interested respondents may express their concerns regarding this nomination guidance. The respondents' burden for this collection of information is estimated to average eight hours per response. The collection burden includes the time for the respondent to review instructions, search existing data sources, gather and present the data needed, and complete and review the collection of information. EPA's burden is estimated to average six hours to review the responses.

Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden: to Chief, Information Policy Branch (2136), US Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street SW, Washington, D.C. 20460; and to Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C. 20503.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the awards program is to recognize significant contributions in the development and implementation of cost-effective, environmentally safe and publicly acceptable biosolids beneficial use practices which recycle nutrients, improve soil conditions, or otherwise conserve valuable natural resources. This excellence awards program helps EPA achieve its goal of promoting, collecting and disseminating information pertaining to the beneficial use of biosolids as authorized and encouraged under Section 405 (g) of the Clean Water Act.

AWARD CATEGORIES

Nominations will be accepted for recognition of excellence in a wide range of activities that have stimulated beneficial use of municipal biosolids. National awards may be presented in the following categories:

- o Operating Projects (large & small). Outstanding, full-scale, beneficial use technologies.**
- o Technology Development Activities. Significant technological improvements that have been developed and fully proven at the operational level; these may be pilot or full scale activities.**
- o Research Activities. Studies that have substantially contributed to an improved understanding of biosolids beneficial use practices, improved public acceptance, and/or advanced the technology.**
- o Public Acceptance Activities (municipal & others). Significant local, regional, and national activities that have increased the acceptance by the public of biosolids beneficial use practices.**

NOMINATION AND AWARD INFORMATION

- o Nominations for awards may be submitted by anyone including the nominee, EPA Regions, States, WEF Member Associations, municipalities, consultants, researchers, or other interested parties.**
- o Nominated entries may include both individuals and groups from private as well as public organizations.**
- o As these Nomination packages are prepared, it is important to tell the story about your biosolids beneficial use activity in a manner that clearly shows the benefits and simultaneously reduces natural public concern. This information can often be utilized locally for press releases, brochures and other public acceptance purposes.**
- o Previous first place winning projects or activities will not be considered as candidates for the same award category for a five-year period. In addition, special award winners in 1996 will not be considered for public acceptance awards for five years. However, second place winners can reapply after a one year wait to try for first place in the same award category. Unsuccessful nominees for awards may be immediately submitted again the next year. Persistence has paid off for many nominees that have won awards after submitting an improved application in subsequent years.**

- o Check with your Regional EPA office for any details about a possible local awards competition in your state.
- o For consideration in the National Awards Program, completed nomination packages (see specified format pages 6 & 7) must be received in duplicate by the EPA Region in which your primary office is located (see pages 9 & 10).
- o The tentative Regional deadlines for receipt of nominations are shown on page 9. Important--Please check with your Regional Office contact (page 10) for any Region-specific nomination guidance and for that Region's final submission deadline.
- o Entries will be considered for State and Regional Awards (where applicable) as well as National awards. Regions will forward one copy of each qualified Nomination package to EPA Headquarters by the June 2, 1997, National deadline.
- o Nomination packages (received for the National competition) will be reviewed by a panel consisting of representatives from EPA, WEF, and other groups against the evaluation criteria (see pages 4 & 5) during June 1997. State and EPA Regional offices (where applicable) will also review the nominations for a separate competition in their Region. Because the National and Regional award programs involve separate review panels and because all qualified entries may be considered in both competitions, it is possible that winners in the National award program may differ from the Regional award winners.
- o Nominated activities may sometimes be chosen for special recognition rather than a categorical award.
- o National award recipients will be notified by approximately July 21, 1997.
- o National awards consisting of a certificate and plaque will be presented in October 1997 at WEF's Annual Conference in Chicago, Illinois. Because of budgetary limitations, EPA will be unable to pay for travel to the awards program. Alternate provisions will be made to present awards to those unable to attend the National ceremony in October.
- o Short articles describing National award winning beneficial use activities will be developed by EPA and WEF for publication in WEF' *Operations Forum*. Subsequent publications describing those Regional as well as National activities will be encouraged. Photographs and key facts about both winning and non winning entries are very useful in EPA publications that encourage beneficial biosolids recycling.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The beneficial biosolids use award candidates will be evaluated against the following criteria.

**FOR OPERATING PROJECTS [Two Categories: (1) ≤ 5 MGD (2) > 5 MGD
(Note: Categorization is based upon the actual average daily flows, and not the design capacity. If the facility only processes biosolids, then the two categories are (1) ≤ 5 dry tons per day [DTPD] and (2) ≥ 5 DTPD)**

- o Significant recycling/reuse of natural resources (e.g., nutrients, organic matter, and energy).**
- o Sustained (several years), full-scale, proven operation.**
- o Consistent, cost-effective operation.**
- o Public acceptance.**
- o Compliant with applicable Federal, State, and local regulations.**
- o Excellence in project management.**

FOR TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION OR DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

- o Sustained excellence in advancing our knowledge of technologies that recycle biosolids (e.g., improved design criteria or operational practice).**
- o National application -- technology that has potential for use in many other areas across the country.**
- o Operationally proven.**
- o Resolved previous biosolids management or utilization problems.**

FOR RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

- o Greater public acceptability of biosolids recycling.
- o Greatly improve our understanding of the environmental effects associated with beneficial use of biosolids.
- o Substantial contribution toward the development of improved technological design and operation.
- o Key information generated for the development of improved sludge biosolids regulations and guidance.

FOR PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE [Two Categories: (1) Municipalities (2) All Others]

- o Demonstrated increases in both public acceptance and public demand (meeting WEF Biosolids 2000 goal). The term "*public*" is meant to include regulatory agencies, agricultural organizations, water quality professionals, public health officials, environmentalists, academic institutions, and the news media as well as the general public. Indicators of "*demand*" include such factors as waiting lists and users paying for biosolids.
- o Characterized by dedicated and successful individual and team efforts.
- o Demonstrated willingness to share information and approaches for gaining public acceptance.
- o Proactive successful approaches for working the press and other groups explaining the benefits of biosolids use, cultivating and gaining allies, and educating against unfounded alarmist stories that may arise.
- o Excellence in local information transfer and training efforts that have made a positive local difference, (e.g., on-site demonstrations and collaborative efforts involving the involvement of municipalities, citizens, universities, and others).

NOMINATION FORMAT

The information described in the Nomination Format should be supplied in the nomination package. The completeness of information provided and the manner in which the nomination addresses the Evaluation Criteria in both the Executive Summary and the text is especially important.

All nominations must be submitted in duplicate in the following format to the appropriate EPA Regional Office (see pages 9 & 10).

1. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION (See sample front page form at the end of this section)

Name, address, affiliation, telephone number, NPDES number (if applicable), and the spokesperson for the project or activity. Please also indicate the applicable government officials that you would like notified should your entry win an award (see form on page 8).

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (2 pages or less)

Describe the project or activity indicating the award category for which the nomination is proposed and how it meets the evaluation criteria.

3. FACILITY/ACTIVITY INFORMATION (4-5 pages)

Provide the following relevant information, if applicable, to adequately support the nomination.

- (a) Biosolids type, quantity (expressed as dry solids used per day, week or year), quality (nutrient and pollutant concentrations compared with Part 503 Table 3 pollutant concentration limits), processing information, and other details relevant to the beneficial use practice or activity. Be specific regarding the unit processes, including biosolids production and processing details. Account for the types and amounts of biosolids going to each beneficial use practice (and disposal practice -- if any).
- (b) Duration and size of the project or activity; extent of ability to operate at design level; and cost and effectiveness information.
- (c) Describe the project monitoring program as it determines compliance, keeps the public informed of biosolids transport and use, evaluates performance, and helps modify practices.
- (d) Describe the contributions of the cooperating parties to the beneficial use project or activity.

- (e) Provide sufficient information so that the awards judges can determine the compliance of nominated projects with applicable local, State, and Federal regulations.
- (f) Describe important project management activities that maintain and promote excellence and maximize the benefits of biosolids use, (e.g., hold down costs; improve biosolids quality; use a written code of good practice or other means to promote compliance with rules, manage nutrients and minimize odors and other nuisances; and promote acceptance via working with allies, press and the public).
- (g) Describe training activities which have improved operations, performance, and public acceptance.
- (h) Describe the effectiveness of the local pretreatment program that has resulted in better quality and easier use of biosolids.
- (i) Describe special innovative practices or activities.
- (j) Discuss how obstacles (technical, political, public acceptance, or other) have been overcome as a result of the nominated activity.
- (k) Give evidence of the enhanced benefits that have resulted from the activity such as lower costs for biosolids management, lower energy consumption, payments for biosolids by users, enhanced soil properties, better crop productivity and quality, enhanced plant disease resistance, lower human health risks, greater National adoption of practice, and improved public acceptance and demand for biosolids products.

4. ATTACHMENTS

Supporting materials may be attached. The attachment should include a short cover index page that lists the various supporting materials and gives about a 4- to 6-line description of each item.

Photographs of the activity are strongly encouraged. Please provide the actual photographic prints rather than Xerox copies of prints, since only the prints are suitable for printing in publications. EPA and others would like to use your prints in publications that promote beneficial use of biosolids and provide greater recognition of your activity.

Note: Sheer bulk of information is not desirable. Be concise and attach items that truly substantiate the importance and relevance of the beneficial use project or activity. Please do not send materials that you wish to have sent back because application materials are not returned.

SAMPLE FRONT PAGE (1996 Biosolids Beneficial Use Awards Program)

I. Proposed Award Category _____

II. Facility Identification Name

**a) Official Name and Address of Award Entity to be Engraved on Plaque
and Certificate** _____

b) Type of Ownership _____
(e.g., corporate, private or public, university, etc.)

Zip Codes of Service Area _____
(used to notify US Representatives)

c) Contact Person Regarding the Nomination _____

Their Title, Address, Telephone No. _____

III. Award Notification

**a) Name, Organizational Title, Address and Telephone No. of Local
Official (e.g., Mayor, Authority Board President, Corporate
President, Department Chairman, etc.):**

b) Federal and State Political Notifications

US Senators & Representatives (list names only) _____

State Governor's Name & Address _____

c) Other _____

TENTATIVE REGIONAL DEADLINES FOR NOMINATIONS

EPA Region	Tentative * Deadline Dates	States
<hr/>		
1	05-19-97	Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont
2	03-15-97	New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands
3	05-19-97	Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia
4	05-19-97	Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee
5	05-19-97	Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin
6	05-19-97	Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas
7	05-19-97	Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska
8	05-19-97	Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming
9	05-19-97	Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, American Samoa, Guam
10	05-19-97	Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington

* These deadline dates for receipt of award nomination packages are tentative. Please check with your Regional Office for verification.

EPA REGIONAL CONTACT: (See List of States in Each Region, Page 6)

Region	Address	Contact	Telephone
1	EPA Municipal Evaluation Section One Congress Street, (SPN) John F. Kennedy Federal Building Boston, MA 02203	Charles Conway	617-565-3517 Fax: 617-565-4939
2	EPA Water Management Division 290 Broadway, 24th Floor New York, NY 10007-1866	Alia Roufaeal	212-637-3864 Fax: 212-637-3891
3	EPA Water Protection Division 841 Chestnut Street (3WP23) Philadelphia, PA 19107	Jim Kern	215-566-5788 Fax: 215-566-2302
4	EPA Water Management Division Atlanta Federal Center 100 Alabama St, SW Atlanta, GA 30303-33104	Jim Adcock	404-562-9248 Fax: 404-562-9224
5	EPA Water Division (WN-16J) 77 West Jackson Chicago, IL 60604	Pankaj Parikh	312-886-6707 Fax: 312-886-7804
6	Outreach Team, Customer Svc Br Water Quality Protection Div (6WQ-CO) 1445 Ross Avenue Dallas, TX 75202	Karen Bick	214-665-7539 Fax: 214-665-6490
7	EPA NPDES & Facilities Management Branch 726 Minnesota Avenue Kansas City, KS 66101	Mike Turvey	913-551-7424 Fax: 913-551-7765
8	Biosolids Mgmt Program (P2-W-P) 999 18th Street, Suite 500 Denver, CO 80202-2466	Bob Brobst	303-312-6129 Fax: 303-312-7084
9	EPA Clean Water Act Compliance Office (WTR7) 75 Hawthorne Street San Francisco, CA 94105	Lauren Fondahl	415-744-1909 Fax: 415-744-1235
10	EPA NPDES Permits Unit (OW130) 1200 Sixth Avenue Seattle, WA 98101	Dick Hetherington	206-553-1941 Fax: 206-553-1280
Also Contact:	The Water Environment Federation Attention: Technical & Educational Services 601 Wythe Street, Alexandria, VA 22314		703-684-2400 Fax: 703-684-2492

PREVIOUS NATIONAL BENEFICIAL BIOSOLIDS USE AWARD WINNERS

Category	Winner [Activity]	Award*/Year
Operating Projects (>5 MGD)	King County, WA WPC Div [<i>Forest & Farm</i>]	1st 1996
	County San Distr of LA, CA [<i>Diverse</i>]	2nd 1996
	City of Austin, TX, [<i>Multiple Uses</i>]	1st 1995
	Tacoma Utilities Services, WA [<i>Land Ap, TAGRO Soil Mix</i>]	2nd 1995
	City of Los Angeles, CA [<i>Multiple Uses</i>]	1st 1994
	City of Columbus, OH [<i>Multiple Uses</i>]	2nd 1994
	Clayton Co, Water Authority, GA [<i>Heat Dry, Comp.</i>]	1st 1993
	City of Austin Water & WW Util, TX [<i>Comp, Air Dr</i>]	2nd 1993
	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Util. Dist., NC [<i>Land Ap</i>]	1st 1992
	Truckee Meadows Water Reclaim, Dist., CA [<i>Land Ap</i>]	2nd 1992
	City of Omaha, NE [<i>Land Appl.</i>]	1st 1991
	Miami-Dade, FL [<i>Air Dry, Composting, Marketing</i>]	2nd 1991
	Vallejo San. & Flood Control Dist., CA [<i>Land Ap</i>]	1st 1990
	Cape May County Mun. Util. Auth., NJ [<i>Composting</i>]	2nd 1990
	Hampton Roads, VA [<i>Nutragreen - Land Ap., Comp.</i>]	1st 1989
	Clayton Co., GA [<i>Comp, Heat Dry, Tree Prod.</i>]	tie 2nd 1989
	Pima County, AZ [<i>Land Application</i>]	tie 2nd 1989
	Seattle Metro, WA [<i>Forest & Ag. Land Use</i>]	1st 1988
	San. Dist of Los Angeles Co., CA [<i>Composting</i>]	2nd 1988
Operating Projects (≤5 MGD)	Newton, IA WPC Facility [<i>Anaerob L App</i>]	1st 1996
	Port Townsend, WA Biosolids Composting Facility	2nd 1996
	Elizabethton, TN [<i>Co-composting</i>]	1st 1995
	Chippewa Falls, WI [<i>Land Ap by Injection</i>]	2nd 1995
	Cumberland County Util Auth, NJ [<i>Land Ap</i>]	1st 1994
	City of New Smyrna Beach, FL [<i>Land Ap</i>]	2nd 1994
	Lafayette Wastewater Trtment Plant, GA [<i>Land Ap</i>]	1st 1993
	Chillicothe Munic Util WW Tmt Plt, MO [<i>Liq Land Ap</i>]	2nd 1993
	The City of St. Peters, MO [<i>Land Appl.</i>]	1st 1992
	The Sussex Co. Mun. Util. Auth., NJ [<i>In-Vess, Comp</i>]	2nd 1992
	Alpena, MI [<i>Revegetate Industrial Waste Site</i>]	1st 1991
	Blackfoot, ID [<i>Land Appl., Outreach</i>]	2nd 1991
	Hannibal, MO, Bd of Pub. Works [<i>Econ Land Ap</i>]	1st 1990
	Redwood San. Sewer Service Dist., CA [<i>Co-Compost</i>]	2nd 1990
Technology Development	King County, WA WPC Div [<i>Forest Bios App System</i>]	1st 1996
	WSSC Montgomery Co., MD Regional Compost. Fac. [<i>Scrubber and Mixing Advances/Comp. Odor Cont</i>]	1st 1992
	City of Lancaster, PA [<i>Composting Odor Cont.</i>]	2nd 1992
	N-Viro [<i>Alkaline Stabilization of Sludge</i>], OH	1st 1990
	WSSC Montgomery Co., MD Regional Compost. Fac. [<i>Thermal Odor Control</i>]	2nd 1990
	Austin, TX [<i>Accelerated Air Drying</i>]	1st 1989
	WSSC Montgomery Co. MD, Regional Compost. Fac. [<i>Chemical Odor Control</i>]	1st 1988
	Sussex Co., NJ [<i>Compost Odor & Process Control</i>]	2nd 1988

(continued on next page)

*1st and 2nd place awards are not always given

PREVIOUS NATIONAL BENEFICIAL BIOSOLIDS USE AWARD WINNERS (cont.)

Category	Winner [Activity]	Award*/Year
Research Activities	City of Phila. Water Dept, PA [<i>Comp Opns & VOC's</i>]	1st 1995
	Dr. Terry Logan, Ohio State Univ, OH	1st 1994
	Rocky Mt. Forest & Range Exp Sta, NM	2nd 1994
	Los Angeles County San Dist, CA [<i>Comp Odor/VOC</i>]	1st 1993
	Drs. Al Page & Andrew Chang, Univ of CA, Riv.	1st 1991
	Dr. Paul Giordano, Tenn Valley Authority, AL	2nd 1991
	Dr. Rufus Chaney, US Dept. of Agriculture, MD	1st 1990
	Dr. Michael Overcash, NC State University	2nd 1990
	Univ. of MN, USDA Research Team	1st 1989
	W124/W170 Regional Research Comm., USDA, CSRS	1st 1988
Public Acceptance	Allentown, PA/Penn State U, Palmerton [<i>Reveg</i>]	2nd 1988
	Memphis, TN, TE Maxson WW Trt Plt (Municipal)	1st 1996
	City of Tacoma, WA (Municipal)	2nd 1996
	New England Interstate WPC Commission (Other)	1st 1996
	Rocky Mts. Water Environ Association (Other)	2nd 1996
Special Recognition	Dr. Lee Jacobs, Mich State Univ., MI	1st 1995
	Mountains to Sound Greenway Biosolids Forestry Program, WA [<i>Stakeholders Use Biosolids Env Ben</i>]	1996
	Environ. Waste Recycling Inc., NC [<i>Pub Acpt & Opns</i>]	1996
	Northwest Biosolids Mgmt Assoc, WA [<i>Pub Acpt</i>]	1994
	Maine Waste Water Control Assoc, ME [<i>Pub Acpt</i>]	1994
	Oyzboyd Environmental Svc, GA [<i>Vert Bed Dewater</i>]	1994
	City of Tampa, FL Hookers Point WW Trt. Plant [<i>Optimizing Use of Digester Gas</i>]	1992
	Dr. Arthur E. Peterson, Dept of Soil Sci, Madison, WI [<i>Sludge Research in WI</i>]	1992
	The College of Forest Resources, Univ of WA [<i>Cooperative R&D, Appl to Forest Ecosystems</i>]	1992
	NutraLime, St. Paul, MN [<i>Incin. Ash + Water Treatment Sludge for Land Improvement</i>]	1991
	Metro. Water Reclam. Dist. of Greater Chicago [<i>Long Term Multiple Contrb. to Beneficial Use</i>]	1991
	BioGro Systems, Inc., MD [<i>Sustained Service & Enhanced Public Acceptance</i>]	1990
	City of Los Angeles, CA & Ag Tech Co., AZ [<i>Public-Private Team from Ocean Disp. to Ben Use</i>]	1989
	East Bay Municipal Utilities Dist., CA [<i>Sustained Contribution to Beneficial Use & Composting</i>]	1989
Honorable Mention	Winston-Salem, NC, Archie Elledge WWTP [<i>L A</i>] (OP)	1996
	Littleton/Englewood, CO WW Trt Plt [<i>Dryland</i>] (OP)	1996
	Louisville, CO WW Trt Plt [<i>Windrow Comp</i>] (OP)	1996
	Rochester Water Reclamation Plant, MN [<i>Pub Acpt</i>]	1996
	Bloomington & Normal Water Rec Dist, IL [<i>L AP</i>] (OP)	1995
	Knoxville, TN Util Bd [<i>Land Ap, Strip Mine</i>] (OP)	1995
	St Charles MO River Trt Fac, [Land Ap] (OP)	1995
	City of Salem, OR [<i>Land Ap</i>] (OP)	1994
	Reedy Creek Improv Auth, FL [<i>Comp</i>] (OP)	1994
	Broward County, FL [<i>Mkt & Product</i>] (Res)	1994
	Benton Harbor-St. Joseph, MI WW Trt Plt. [<i>L Ap</i>] (OP)	1992
	Madison, WI, Metro-Gro [<i>Land Use</i>] (OP)	1988
	Lime Lakes, OH, PPG Corp. [<i>Priv. Svc. Reclaim Alk Site</i>] (OP)	1988
	Hannibal, MO [<i>Land Application</i>] (OP)	1988
	Bowling Green, KY [<i>Land Application</i>] (OP)	1988
	Fallbrook, CA [<i>Vermicomposting</i>] (TD)	1988
	Ohio State Univ, Wooster, OH [<i>Composting Biotech.</i>] (Res)	1988

*1st and 2nd place awards are not always given