



2026 Arkansas Recycling Coalition

Annual Awards



Deadline for submitting application is May 15, 2026

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Annual Awards

2026 ARC Annual Awards Program

The Arkansas Recycling Coalition (ARC) unites industry professionals, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, private and public businesses and individuals in a common effort to promote Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose and Recycle as the primary means of Sustainable Materials Management in Arkansas. Comprised of over 250 members, ARC fosters a sharing of ideas by providing its members with opportunities to further their knowledge, increase their industry awareness and network with other like-minded leaders from across the nation. With this mission, ARC strives to increase the effectiveness of resource recovery in Arkansas.

ARC's Annual Awards Program recognizes individuals, organizations and industry leaders who have made a significant contribution to the advancement of waste reduction, recycling, and sustainable materials management in Arkansas over the past year. This year, the 2026 ARC Annual Awards Program will be held in conjunction with the ARC Annual Conference & Trade show scheduled for August 31 - September 2, 2026, at the Oaklawn Casino Convention Center, in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Announcement and presentation of the ARC awards will be made at a special ARC Awards Luncheon to be held during the Conference on Sept 1.

Recipients, in addition to receiving recognition at the Awards Luncheon, can request assistance in obtaining media coverage in their local communities. If requested, an ARC representative will be available to participate in a re-presentation of the award at a location and to the group determined by the award recipient. Photos taken during the presentation and a Press Release will be sent electronically to the Recipient.

The ARC's Annual Awards Program is open to both members and non-members. If you applied in a previous year and did not receive an award, you may reapply in the same or a different category. However, recipients of any ARC Award within the previous three years are NOT eligible to apply.

Award Categories

Individual Recycler of the Year Award

The Individual Recycler of the Year Award honors an individual who has made a significant contribution to the advancement of waste reduction, recycling, and sustainable materials management in Arkansas over the past year. Judges will be looking for an individual who demonstrates professional leadership in the pursuit of an integrated approach to waste reduction, recycling and sustainability; who is a positive community role model and leads by example; seeks opportunities to promote recycling, sustainability and apply their experience/expertise within his/her community; uses innovative approaches to educate others; and has a willingness to share information and encourage other persons/businesses/agencies to implement an effective sustainable materials management program.

Community Involvement Award

To receive the Community Involvement Award, a business, organization or individual must have met two (2) criteria. First, the nominee must be a positive community role model. Secondly, nominee must visibly promote source reduction, beneficial reuse, landfill diversion, and sustainable materials management within the community or region in which it is located. The ideal candidate will support city, county, regional or state recycling activities by being actively involved in the community's waste reduction efforts; seek opportunities to promote recycling and sustainable materials management efforts within the community; educate citizens and peers about recycling; and encourage others to take recycling efforts home.



Annual Awards

Corporate Recycler of the Year Award

The Corporate Recycler of the Year Award recognizes a business or organization who has implemented a culture of effective sustainable materials management in its corporate affairs, operations, procurement practices, and downstream waste management methods. Judges will be looking for applicants whose culture includes implementation of an integrated materials management program that incorporates an ongoing, comprehensive employee education program, adopted administrative policies that demonstrates its commitment to sustainable materials management and continuous improvements in sustainability; demonstrates a long-term commitment to fund the program; adopted waste conscious procurement policies for materials and supplies; works upstream with its suppliers to reduce waste and wasteful practices; facilitates a willingness to share information and encourage other businesses, suppliers and the public to implement waste reduction/recycling program. This award will not be given to a business that relies on recycling as its primary means of income.

Government Recycler of the Year Award

The Government Recycler of the Year Award recognizes a public employee, public agency, public institution or nonprofit organization that has taken a leadership role in the development and promotion of recycling as a viable waste management tool. Judges will be looking for a candidate who has implemented a successful Integrated Waste Reduction Program incorporating source reduction, beneficial reuse, recycling and sustainable materials management; utilizes a comprehensive publicity/education program targeting residential and/or commercial sources within that community; has developed/implemented waste conscious procurement policies; purchase recycled/recyclable products for use in their administrative offices and/or operations; pursues an ongoing marketing plan which continually considers the highest/best use for each waste stream; and a program that continually seeks innovative approaches to further expand waste reduction programs within the community.

Recycling Education Program of the Year Award

The Recycling Education Program of the Year Award is presented to the organization, school or individual that has established a proven Recycling Education Program, which offers an integrated approach incorporating source reduction, beneficial reuse, recycling, and sustainable materials management into a comprehensive educational program within a community or region. To further this cause, the ideal education program will include a comprehensive publicity/education curriculum targeting all age groups (including weekend or nontraditional work hours); will have recognized program success within the community or region by demonstrating positive long-term behavioral changes.

School/College/University Recycler of the Year Award

The School/College/University Recycler of the Year Award will be given to an outstanding school, college or university that demonstrates a long-term commitment to waste reduction, recycling and sustainable material management both in the classroom and as a means to manage the school's solid waste stream. Judges will be looking for applicants whose efforts include implementation of an Integrated Waste Reduction Program; a long-term commitment to fund that program; utilizes waste conscious procurement policies which include the purchase of recycled-content/recyclable products; implementation of a comprehensive education program to instruct students, faculty, and staff about waste reduction and recycling efforts; an ongoing volunteer recruitment and retention plan; and student's enthusiasm and ownership of the program.

2025 Award Recipients

Corporate Recycler of the Year
CARDS Holding LLC

Kimberly-Clark Corporation

Community Involvement Award
McKee Foods Corporation

Government Recycler of the Year
City of Siloam Springs

School Recycler of the Year
Razorback Food Recovery - UofA

2024 Award Recipients

Corporate Recycler of the Year
J.D.& Billy Hines Trucking Inc

Recycling Education Program of the Year
Peco Foods

Community Involvement Award
Goodwill Industries of Arkansas

School Recycler of the Year
Bryant Elementary School (Green Team)

Individual Recycler of the Year
Brian Watson

Government Recycler of the Year
Carroll County Solid Waste District

2023 Award Recipients

Corporate Recycler of the Year
Nucor-Yamato Steel Company

Community Involvement Award
Keep Little Rock Beautiful

Recycling Education Program of the Year
Trex Company and Keep Arkansas Beautiful

School Recycler of the Year
Forest Park Elementary

College Recycler of the Year
National Park College

Individual Recycler of the Year
Billy Sawyer

2022 Award Recipients

Corporate Recycler of the Year
Lockheed Martin Missiles & Fire Control

Community Involvement Award
Big River Steel Environmental Team

Recycling Education Program of the Year
AR Environmental Education Association

Small Business Recycler of the Year
The Green Corner Store

Individual Recycler of the Year
Craig Douglass

Lifetime Achievement Award
Don Curran

2021 Award Recipients

Corporate Recycler of the Year
Dassault Falcon Jet

Government Recycler of the Year
Garland County Environmental Services

Recycling Education Program of the Year
City of Fayetteville

Community Involvement Award
E-Waste Warriors NWA

2020 Award Recipients

Corporate Recycler of the Year
Revolution

Community Involvement Award
Peco Foods

Recycling Education Program of the Year
Boston Mountain Solid Waste Management District

Government Recycler of the Year
City of Fairfield Bay

Small Business Recycler of the Year
Pack Rat Outdoor Center

Individual Recycler of the Year
Jacob Gould

2019 Award Recipients

Corporate Recycler of the Year
Mountain Harbor Resort and Spa - Mount Ida

Recycling Education Program of the Year
Conway Department of Sanitation - Conway

School Recycler of the Year
St. Joseph School - Conway

Community Involvement Award
Nucor-Yamato Steel Company - Blytheville

Director's Recognition Award
Max Tackett - Nashville

Application
Procedure

There are two methods to apply and/or nominate an individual or organization:

- 1. Online – The preferred method for transmitting your Awards Application Form is by applying online at the ARC website: www.recycleark.org (All videos and photos must be uploaded and attached to your application form)
- 2. Video – Submit your Awards Application video - DVD format. Be sure to include each of the required award criteria as indicated on the Application Form.

Should you not have the means to file the application electronically, please contact the ARC office for assistance.

Deadline for submitting an application is May 15, 2026.

Be advised that should you receive an ARC Award and be notified of such by email, you agree to allow ARC to release your company name, address and contact information to the media selected at ARC's discretion. ARC will not provide any additional information externally unless authorized by the award recipient. Should you have any questions about this consent, please do not hesitate to contact the ARC office – 866-290-1429.

For more information contact:
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