



**Jacksonville Environmental
Protection Board**

2026 ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Nominations are now being accepted for the following awards:

Charles E. Bennett Champion of the Environment Award

Christi P. Veleta Environmental Award

Environmental Achievement Awards in the following categories:

Individual

Government / Institutional

Community / Civic

Business

(more than 50 employees and/or annual sales of more than \$5 million)

Small Business

(fewer than 50 employees and/or annual sales of \$5 million or less)

Deadline for Nominations: August 31, 2026

Annual Environmental Excellence Awards

This nomination packet is for any of the following awards. Please review the categories and select the award you believe best recognizes the individual or entity being nominated.

The **Charles E. Bennett Champion of the Environment Award** seeks to highlight and acknowledge an individual who has exhibited, over a long-term, professionalism, diligence and an unwavering commitment as a Champion of the Environment in protecting or preserving the natural resources of Duval County.

Past Winners include:

Congressman Charles Bennett
Neil Armingeon - St Johns Riverkeeper
Robert Schuster - EPB
Barbara Broward
Barbara Goodman
Tracey Arpen
Barbara Ketchum

Mayor John Delaney
Linda Bremer - Sierra Club
Mark Middlebrook - Preservation Project
Richard Maguire
William Brinton
Dr. Lucinda B. Sonnenberg, Ph.D.
Susan Caven

Walt Bussells - JEA
Dr. Todd Stack - EPB
Sen. John Thrasher
Warren Anderson
John Crescimbeni
Lisa Rinaman
Peggy Bryan

The **Christi P. Veleta Environmental Award** seeks to highlight and acknowledge an individual who has exhibited, over a long-term, environmental stewardship, displayed superior environmental initiative, and consistently promotes environmental education and outreach. The inaugural Christi P. Veleta Environmental Award was presented to Ms. Veleta at the 2010 Environmental Symposium.

Past Winners include:

2010 – Christi P. Veleta
2013—Ron Littlepage
2016—Lucy Giardino Cortese
2019 - Mark Mummaw
2023 - Dr. Gerry Pinto

2011 – Mark Middlebrook
2014 — Dr. Quinton White
2017—Sarah Boren
2021 - Anna Dooley
2024 - Gloria McNair

2012—Kevin Songer
2015 - Felicia Boyd
2018—Jimmy Orth
2022—Melissa Ross
2025 - Larry Figart

Environmental Achievement Awards seek to recognize individuals and organizations in several public and private sectors for their contributions to environmental protection. Nominations are accepted for activities currently in progress, completed within the past year or will be started before 12/31/2026. Award categories are as follows:

Individual

This award seeks to highlight the accomplishments of an individual who has demonstrated leadership, creativity and commitment in support of the environment.

Government/Institutional

This award seeks to highlight the accomplishments of public sector organizations or educational institutions who have demonstrated leadership, creativity and commitment in support of the environment.

Community / Civic

This award seeks to highlight the accomplishments of nonprofit, civic or social groups, neighborhood associations, etc. which have demonstrated leadership, creativity and commitment in support of the environment.

Business

This award seeks to highlight the accomplishments of business entities, with more than 50 employees and/or annual sales of more than \$5 million, who have demonstrated leadership, creativity and commitment in support of the environment.

Small Business

This award seeks to highlight the accomplishments of companies with fewer than 50 employees and/or sales less than \$5 million annually who have demonstrated leadership, creativity and commitment in support of the environment.

Nominations Deadline: All nominations must be received on, or before August 31, 2026.

Award Criteria

The Jacksonville Environmental Protection Board annually recognizes individuals who have steadfastly put forth efforts to preserve, protect and enhance the environment and thus, improve the quality of life for all residents. The selected individual(s) will have demonstrated professionalism, principle, conviction and commitment in protecting the environment and promoting sustainable practices. The JEPB will consider, but won't be limited to, the following criteria:

Environmental Initiative or Cause: The activities addressed a specific environmental need or improved environmental conditions.

Commitment: Activities can be sustained over time; funding is in place

Partnerships/Community Awareness: Activities reached out to partners and the community to increase the overall impact and awareness of environmental issues.

Evidence of Impact: There are specific, measurable benefits from the efforts and demonstration of how available resources were used to achieve an environmental impact.

Announcement of Winners

The winners will be announced in October and will be recognized at a luncheon event to be held Thursday, November 19, 2026. Winners and the public will be notified in advance of the event.

Application Process and Judging

Judging, by members of the Jacksonville Environmental Protection Board, will be based entirely on the entry provided, including supporting information. The judges reserve the right to not select a recipient in any of the award categories. Self-nominations are permissible. All nominations will be evaluated based on the information provided.

All Environmental Achievement Awards are open to any individual(s), project(s) or program(s) whose actions impacted Duval County. The application process is as follows:

- Nominations should be submitted for only one category, however the JEPB reserves the right to consider nominees in other categories.
- **Nominations are due electronically by 11:59 PM EST on August 31, 2026.**
- The [Google Form submission](#) **is required** for each award nomination submitted.
- A 1,200-word or less summary narrative **is strongly suggested**. It should describe the nomination in detail and consider how the project/entity meets the award criteria. Judges will look specifically for information pertaining to the following questions:
 - 1) What environmental need within the community or organization did the nominee address?
 - 2) What kind of solution did the nominee develop to address the identified need? Describe any creative, unique or innovative aspects of the initiative, particularly any special challenges overcome as part of the implementation.
 - 3) What effect or impact did the nominee have on the environment? (Base your answer on environmental benefits related to community awareness, environmental quality, the local economy, the public, technical contributions, etc.)
 - 4) What specific examples, data, or other evidence demonstrates the environmental effect or impact described above?
 - 5) What other pertinent information about this nominee would you like the judges to consider?
- **Electronic submissions of any supporting items as one document is required.** They should be limited to 10Mb in size in order to ensure delivery. Inclusion of videos and/or other visuals (PPTs, Prezi, etc.), podcasts, etc. are welcomed and can be made using Dropbox, Google Docs (or other similar site) or links to a WWW site. These items will not count against the 10Mb limit.
- External validation, in the form of two endorsement letters from stakeholders or community participants describing the positive value and outcomes of the nominee **is strongly encouraged**.

Please submit all inquiries, nominations and supporting documentation to the following address: epb@coj.net