Pollution is nothing but the resources we are not harvesting. We allow them to be dispersed because we’ve been ignorant of their value.

– R. Buckminster Fuller

Applications Due by Midnight Eastern Time on January 15, 2021

2014 Gold Award: City and County of Honolulu H-POWER

2015 Gold Award: Pasco County, Florida
The Waste Conversion and Energy Recovery Award recognizes excellence in the design, management and operations of projects that produce renewable energy from solid waste, whether through direct combustion or through other methods.

SWANA’s Waste Conversion and Energy Recovery Technical Division has established the following items by which waste-to-energy facilities will be evaluated for excellence. Please organize your application according to the seven main scoring sections. The eighth section is used by the judges to evaluate the quality of the application as a whole.

The statements and questions under each section are guidelines for what judges would like to see in each category. You may include other pertinent information that demonstrates excellence. Include any third-party documentation such as awards, letters of support or summaries of audit/inspection data to document the information in the application. When including documents, you may reduce them in size to fit multiple documents on a page, as long as they are readable, or include a link to a website that contains the requested document.

IMPORTANT: Read all directions carefully. Applications that are unreadable, exceed page limits or do not provide required information will be disqualified. Due to different scoring and evaluation procedures in each Technical Division, an award may NOT be presented for each level (Gold, Silver and Bronze).

1.) Executive Summary 5 Points
In addition to describing your waste-to-energy facility, explain why you are applying in this category and why you deserve to win an award. Review the category descriptions carefully before applying. Judges will use this statement to decide if your application is in the appropriate category. Applications judged to be in an inappropriate category will NOT be moved. They will NOT be scored, and you will be encouraged to reapply next year.

OPTIONAL: In addition to a written executive summary of no more than 150 words, you may include a link to a video of no more than 90 seconds that tells the story of your waste-to-energy facility and its results.

2.) Facility History 15 points
Describe your waste-to-energy facility, how it generates energy and the uses for the energy generated. How did you plan the initial creation of the facility? Provide a timeline for construction and opening of your facility. Describe challenges that occurred and how you overcame them. What changes have you made since the facility’s initial operation? How is the facility integrated with the community’s solid waste management system? How has your facility influenced the industry? What is unique about your facility that makes it deserve an excellence award?

3.) Design and Construction of the Facility 15 points
What are the key elements of your facility design? What features impact the type of waste that can be accepted? What elements of sustainable design did you incorporate (e.g., water, energy, resilience). How does the facility’s appearance fit in with the community? What equipment is innovative or state-of-the-art? Have you had to replace any equipment, and if so, what prompted the replacement and how did you decide what new equipment to install? How has new equipment improved the operation of your facility?

4.) Environmental Controls and Regulatory Compliance 15 points
What design features and controls are in place to ensure that the facility contributes to environmental protection? What is the overall impact of the facility on human health, environmental quality and resource conservation? How can you demonstrate that the facility complies with local, state and federal regulations? How does your facility impact climate change? What are you doing in terms of ash management, metals recovery, beneficial reuse of materials, or other recycling and materials recovery efforts? How do you address special waste handling arrangements (pharmaceuticals, illegal drugs, manufactured product disposal)? Include any third-party documentation that your facility is environmentally sound.
5. **Coordination and Relationship with the Community**  
10 points  
Describe concerns of your community (city, county or region) to your facility and how you responded to them. What are your community outreach and engagement efforts? What is your customer service approach and how is it measured? What results have you achieved with your community relations programs? Have you received any awards? Which ones? How does your organization promote WTE and the facility nationally or internationally?

6. **Worker Health and Safety**  
15 points  
How did you address safety issues in your planning and designing your facility, as well as in current practice? How often do you provide training to employees? What type of training do you provide? What is your injury rate, and what are you doing to improve it? What engineering and operational controls have you implemented to limit exposure to workplace hazards? What general key performance indicators do you use to measure the effectiveness of the facility’s health and safety program and what are the results? Does your facility have a health and safety incentive/recognition program? If so, how are recipients selected and recognized? Does your facility have any third-party certifications related to health and safety standards (e.g. OHSAS 18001)? Which ones? Describe any awards or recognition of excellence in health and safety performance from any of the following in the past three years: Clients, Industry, Regulatory Authorities, Other

7. **Performance, Economics and Cost Effectiveness**  
20 points  
What are your sources of revenue and how do they compare to your operating expenses? Describe the operating agreement and other contractual commitments and how they relate to cost-effective operation. What methods do you use to analyze how well your facility is performing, and what results are you obtaining from your analysis? How do you use these results for continuous improvement of your facility? Do your results meet or exceed the goals established in your planning process? How do you determine whether your facility operation is cost effective and what are your current results? Describe your maintenance schedule to ensure regular operation. Do you have a recovery plan for service interruptions due to equipment malfunctions or natural disasters? If so, describe the plan and how often it is updated. How are you meeting challenges due to changes in the power market?

8. **Application Quality** (this is a judges category only, not to be addressed in your application)  
5 points  
Your application will be judged on its organization and presentation, and on editorial and technical quality.