



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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MWRD seeks applicants for Sustainable Landscaping and Biosolids User awards *Applications due September 2, 2016*

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) is accepting applications for its 2016 Sustainable Landscaping and Biosolids Beneficial Reuse Awards until September 2.

The awards will recognize the activities and innovations of individuals and organizations in Cook County such as park districts, villages, schools, golf courses, and athletic clubs in two separate categories: sustainable landscaping and beneficial use of biosolids. Biosolids are a product of the MWRD's water treatment process and are a sustainable alternative to chemical fertilizers.

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

- Continuous commitment to maximize and improve the cost-effectiveness of using biosolids.
- Promotion such as, but not limited to, referrals and field demonstrations.
- Educational efforts on the environmental/economic benefits of using biosolids.

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.

Green infrastructure includes:

- Rainwater Harvesting, i.e. through rain barrels
- Rain Gardens
- Native Landscaping
- Stormwater Trees
- Porous Pavement
- Bio-Swales
- Green Roofs
- Greenways
- Wetlands
- Green Alleys, Streets, and Parking Lots

Activities completed after January 1, 2011 are eligible for an award, and an individual or organization is eligible once every five years. There is no formal application form. Documentation should include figures, illustrations, narrative, and photos to help further explain the efforts. The evaluation process may include a site visit.

Submit application packages to TianG@mwrdd.org or mail to:

Guanglong Tian

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 fourth annual Sustainability Summit later this year. For more information about the biosolids program, awards or Sustainability Summit, contact (312) 751-6633.

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Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

Established in 1889, the MWRD (www.mwrdd.org) is an award-winning, special purpose government agency responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.