



**Clean Air Excellence Awards  
Program  
(CAAAC Meeting)  
June 25, 2024**

# Program Overview

- The Clean Air Excellence Awards (CAEA) Program, established at the recommendation of the Clean Air Act Advisory Committee (CAAAC), periodically recognizes and honors outstanding innovative efforts to help make progress in achieving cleaner air.
- Award-winning entries must directly or indirectly reduce pollutant emissions, demonstrate innovation, offer sustainable outcomes, and provide a model for others to follow.
- Seven Award Categories: Clean Air Technology, Community Action, Education/Outreach, State/Tribal/Local Air Quality Policy Innovations, Transportation Efficiency Innovations, Gregg Cooke Visionary Program, and Thomas W. Zosel Outstanding Individual Achievement.
- Award ceremony has historically been held during a full CAAAC meeting.

# Award Process

- Call for applications via Federal Register notice and Agency outreach
  - Open period is typically 60-90 days
- Applications are screened (to meet program's general criteria)
- Applications are reviewed and scored
- OAR AA makes final decision on awardees
- Awardees are notified and celebrated at the Clean Air Excellence Awards Ceremony



# Application Review and Selection Process

- CAEA Program Lead conducts an initial screening of all applications
- OAPPS OD solicits reviewers from OAR IO/Programs, Regions and the CAAAC
  - Each application will have three EPA reviewers
- All applications go through the OECA preliminary screening process
- CAAAC reviewers will score top two to four applications in each category (based on EPA reviews)
- Projects go through a final OECA screen (criminal and civil)

# Application Review and Selection Process

*(continued)*

- CAAAC recommendations go to OAR AA
- AA makes final decision
  - Selections may be different from CAAAC nominations
  - Considers results of final OECA Screen
- Award winners are notified
- A ceremony is held (typically at the EPA)
  - We will make arrangements for virtual participation

## **CAAAC Support**

- We will forward the outreach distribution list to the CAAAC to ensure that we have a full and robust list of organizations that will spread the word about the program.
- We will solicit the CAAAC to review and score applications.
- We will seek volunteers to help present the winning projects at the CAEA ceremony.



# NEXT STEPS

- We plan to kickoff the next CAEA cycle next month (July) via a Federal Register Notice.
- We will solicit projects for the CAEA Program via a mass distribution list (including past applicants, OAR Programs, CAAAC's recommendations, etc.).
- We will provide instructions and a timeline for the CAAAC's review of applications.

# Thank you!

**Clean Air Excellence Awards Team  
(Ruth Morgan, Marie Catanese, and  
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