AWARD PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Outstanding Sustainability Award recognizes projects or programs, which drive sustainable practices within the Arizona water/wastewater industry related to energy efficiency and water conservation.

BACKGROUND

Starting in 2018, the AZ Water Association will recognize individuals or organizations that significantly contribute to improving the sustainability in our industry through energy and water conservation and sustainable management practices. The Energy Management and Sustainability Committee's focus targets awareness of the importance of the water and energy nexus. Additionally, the Committee’s goal is to educate the water industry in Arizona on the technical, operational, and financial considerations involving energy efficiency, water conservation and sustainable projects and programs. These awards highlight and encourage ongoing efforts throughout Arizona related to this vital resource connection.

An award will be given in one of the two categories:

- **Outstanding Sustainability Project** – A completed project that significantly conserves or reduces water or energy use, greenhouse gas emissions, or uses recycled fuel sources, etc. (Example may include: pump system improvement, solar facility, cogeneration facility, biomass, etc.)
- **Outstanding Sustainability Program** – A program that increases awareness about energy issues and/or provides management training of water operators. (Examples may include: Training of AWWA standards for lost and unaccounted for water; Better Plants DOE Program; strategic energy management program training)

SELECTION COMMITTEE

The Energy and Sustainability Committee will form the Selection Committee. Additional representation from the AZ Water Awards Program Committee may be added as needed.

Nominations are distributed to the selection committee for review and ranking. The committee will discuss the nominations and select an award recipient. For nominees who are not selected, the nomination can be resubmitted in subsequent years; however, a person can receive the award only once. Only one of each award may be given out each year. An award is
not necessarily given out every year if a deserving award recipient cannot be selected from the field of nominees. The selected award recipient will be notified by the committee prior to the annual conference.

**GENERAL CRITERIA**

The following are general criteria for nominees:
1. Complete all fields of the “Outstanding Sustainability Award Entry Form” and upload the required additional information indicated below in the Nomination Process Section.
2. All nominees shall at a minimum be a member in good standing of the AZ Water Association.
3. The Selection Committee reserves the right to determine eligibility of all entries.
4. Entries received after the posted deadline will not be accepted.
5. For design/construction projects, construction of the project shall have been substantially completed between March 1 of the previous year and March 1 of the current year.

**JUDGING**

Entries will be judged on the basis of the rating guidelines listed herein.

**Rating Guidelines**

Evaluation criteria will include the nominee’s:
1. Contribution to the Water/Wastewater industry
2. Contributions to the AZ Water Association, WEF, and AWWA
3. Energy and Water efficiency and conservation
4. Sustainable practices at water and wastewater facilities
5. Renewable Energy

**NOMINATION PROCESS**

In order to enter a nominee for the Outstanding Sustainability Awards, complete all fields of the Outstanding Sustainability Award Entry Form on the Awards Program Committee webpage, provide one (1) recommendation letter from a person (include name and position) in the industry, and one (1) recommendation letter from the nominee’s employer (include name and
position). In addition, up to 3 letters of recommendation from employers, peers, regulating agencies or others in the water/wastewater industry can be submitted but are not required.

ENTRY FORMS ARE TO BE SUBMITTED ONLINE ONLY

AWARD PRESENTATION

The award style is determined by the Awards Program Committee.

The award is presented at the AZ Water Association Annual Conference & Exhibition. Afterwards, a photo is taken of the award recipient with the AZ Water President, which will be displayed throughout the conference on available screens.