



Blue Skies Awards

The Blue Skies Awards recognize individuals and organizations taking exemplary action to improve air quality in the PAMZ region. The awards recognize achievements in:

- Innovation and application of technology to reduce energy use and air pollution;
- Environmental protection activities that reduce air pollution, conserve energy, or protect environmental health;
- Public education and outreach activities that reduce air pollution to protect and promote a healthy environment.

Eligibility

Individuals, businesses, educational institutions, local government agencies and not-for-profit organizations whose exemplary actions occur in the PAMZ region are eligible, and may be nominated by themselves or others.

Nomination Process

Nominations must be submitted to info@pamz.org by midnight on Friday, April 14, 2023.

Please describe:

- What the nominee initiated, developed, implemented, or managed that made a positive environmental contribution (one-page maximum);
- Why you believe the nominee deserves this award (one-page maximum);
- Resulting benefits or expected benefits to the environment (one-page maximum);
- Levels of participation and awareness by others in the community (one-page maximum);
- Demonstration of leadership, creativity, innovation and social responsibility (one-page maximum).

Include at least two letters of reference. One letter can be from the nominator, if the nominator is not also the nominee.

Nominations may include samples of the initiative, if available such as pictures, videos, reports, etc.

Selection of Recipients

The PAMZ Selection Committee will award recipients based on the information submitted. All nominees will be contacted to advise them of the decisions of the PAMZ Selection Committee. The number of award recipients is at the discretion of the PAMZ Selection Committee. Recipients will be advised of the award by May 1st, 2023, and contacted to coordinate award acceptance for the planned virtual event.

For more information, contact Sarah MacLeod at comm@pamz.org.

In-person event

The awards ceremony will be held in-person on June 22nd, 2023. The ceremony will showcase a video airing their achievements. Award recipients will be asked to accept their award either by direct participation at the in-person event or through a pre-recorded message provided in advance. Method of acceptance will be discussed with recipients following award selection and will be coordinated with the support of the PAMZ Communications Committee.

2021 Award Recipients

The **Red Deer Association for Bicycle Commuting (RDABC)** hosted Cyclovia events in Red Deer in 2018 and 2019. The 2019 event saw several major downtown streets closed to motor-vehicle traffic for four hours to allow people of all ages and abilities to use them for any non-motorized activity. Encouraging active transportation is important because emissions from motor vehicles are one of the largest sources of air pollution in Red Deer. Cyclovia's goal of reducing motorized transportation helps both The City and the Province achieve their emissions reduction goals.

Lacombe County was recognized for their longstanding dedication to environmental stewardship. In 2013 they implemented an environmental policy and completed a comprehensive State of the Environment Report. They made firm commitments to the environment when they released their 2014-16 and 2021-2026 Environment Management Plans (EMP). In 2021 they installed a 115.2 kWh solar photovoltaic system on the roof of their shop building.

The **Town of Innisfail and Elemental Energy** collaborated on the Innisfail Solar Farm to produce clean, sustainable energy. The Innisfail Solar Farm uses some of the most current technology to generate electricity. As demand for electricity continues to increase and environmental issues are of growing concern to energy consumers, solar power provides an alternative to traditional methods of power generation. The resulting community funding that came as a result of the collaboration between the Town of Innisfail and Elemental Energy is unique and provides obvious social benefits to the community.

Ermineskin Cree Nation created the Sundancer Solar Project. The Sundancer Solar Project is a solar generation plant that started producing energy on March 25, 2020 and had exported 1707 MWh of solar energy to the grid as of April 21, 2021. During that time, the project offset the equivalent of 973 tonnes of carbon dioxide. After the success of the first project was proven, the Ermineskin Cree Nation immediately began planning for the development of a second MW expansion that will double the size and value of the solar farm.



Blue Skies Awards Nomination Form

Nominator:

Contact Name: _____

Company Name (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Nominee:

Contact Name: _____

Company Name (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Is the nominee aware of the nomination? _____

Include at least two letters of reference. One letter can be from the nominator, if the nominator is not also the nominee.

You may also include samples of the initiative if available such as website links, pictures, videos, reports, etc. Please be specific and concise (use of bullets is acceptable).

Please forward completed nomination form to info@pamz.org by midnight on Friday, April 14, 2023.

Please describe what the nominee initiated, developed, implemented, or managed that made a positive environmental contribution (one-page maximum).

A large empty rectangular box intended for the user to provide a description of the nominee's environmental contributions.

Please describe why you believe the nominee deserves this award (one-page maximum).

Please describe the resulting benefits or expected benefits to the environment, as a result of the nominee's initiative(s) (one-page maximum).

Please describe the nominee's level of participation and awareness by others in the community (one-page maximum).

Please describe the nominee's demonstration of leadership, creativity, innovation and social responsibility (one-page maximum).