



**SAVE TEXAS WATER**

# **BLUE LEGACY AWARDS**

2024 Nomination Packet

Presented by the Water Conservation  
Advisory Council

**DO YOU KNOW A PROJECT THAT IS WORTHY OF A BLUE LEGACY AWARD?**

## Water Sustains Texas

Texas is a diverse state with unique resources and industries that sustain our economy and our lives. To ensure that Texas is sustainable in the 21st century, we will need to rely on the smart management of the state's water resources. Meeting that challenge will require improvements in the efficiency of water use and protection of our water resources in all areas of the state. Texas leaders have increasingly recognized that water conservation is an important part of long-term water planning to meet future needs. Many communities around the state have taken significant strides in ensuring wise water use and have found conservation programs to be a cost-effective method of meeting increased water demands while postponing expensive supply or capacity expansion. The water savings that water conservation measures can provide are real, practical, and offer significant untapped potential. The Water Conservation Advisory Council created the Blue Legacy Awards to identify and showcase responsible stewardship of our water resources and to honor those whose practices enhance conservation of water. The Water Conservation Advisory Council promotes Blue Legacy Award winners as credible spokespersons, sharing their success stories and encouraging others to improve their own water conservation practices. The call for award applications occurs biennially, once every two years.

### IMPORTANT DATES



#### **July - August**

Call for award applications open

#### **September 5, 2024**

Application deadline  
(applications received after the  
deadline will not be considered)

#### **October**

Award winners notified

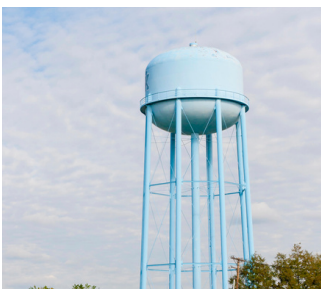
#### **January 27-29, 2025**

Winners will be announced at the  
Water for Texas conference.

## Eligibility Criteria

Application for the Water Conservation Advisory Council's Blue Legacy Awards is open to any individual, organization, business, local government, agricultural producer, or other group that has implemented exemplary water conservation programs or practices in Texas.

- The programs and/or initiatives must be located in Texas.
- Water conservation efforts and/or achievements must have occurred or continued within the past two years.
- Award applicants must choose a single category and may not submit the same program, initiative, or project for multiple awards.
- Past applicants who were not selected may reapply, provided the project/initiative has been ongoing or completed within the past two years. Prior winners may also reapply provided they submit a completely different project or initiative from their previous submission.
- Applicants for the awards are required to substantiate their submission with data demonstrating the integration of water efficiency or savings within their organization, program, or initiative, with the exception of the Best in Flow award.
- Submissions will be evaluated by an impartial panel of judges according to the following criteria:
  - o Extent of data provided with the submission
  - o Extent of the organization or program's impact in fostering water efficiency and/or conservation
  - o Ease of replication
- A maximum of one award will be given in each of the five categories. The panel of judges reserves the right to refrain from presenting an award if the submissions fail to meet the qualifications or criteria for the award.
- Judges reserve the right to reclassify a submission as they deem appropriate.



## **Award Categories**

Awards will be given in the following five (5) categories:

### **Legacy of Efficiency**

Celebrates the implementation of long-lasting water efficiency measures. From agricultural, industrial, and municipal conservation to businesses and non-profit organizations, this award recognizes projects and organizations who are reshaping Texas by doing more with less water.

- up to 30 points: Does the data show a significant savings over current standard practices?
- up to 20 points: Provides transparent, readily accessible data for tracking water usage.
- up to 20 points: Is the project designed to facilitate easy comprehension and learning by others? Is it easily replicated?
- up to 10 points: Importance of the subject or problem presented. Does it represent a significant and realistic step towards a more secure water future for Texas?
- up to 10 points: How creative and innovative was the project's approach to a solution?
- up to 10 points: Timeliness of the contribution.

### **Legacy of Source**

Recognizes initiatives that protect and establish water resources for present and future generations. Whether through innovative conservation measures, the establishment of conservation easements, or water recycling and water reclamation endeavors, these champions ensure that future generations inherit a legacy of abundant freshwater resources.

- up to 40 points: Does the data provided accurately and transparently document the volume of water protected for recharge, pollution reduction, or other relevant metrics?
- up to 30 points: What is the sustainability of the project over the long term?
- up to 10 points: Importance of the subject or problem presented. Describe the value of this water and its intended use.
- up to 10 points: How creative and innovative is the project's approach to a solution?
- up to 10 points: Timeliness of the contribution.

## **Legacy of Awareness**

Recognizes individuals or organizations that instill the public with passion and a drive to understand, preserve, and conserve water resources. A sustainable water future is only possible if people care about their water. These advocates and initiatives are advancing the cause and raising awareness in a meaningful way.

- up to 40 points: Providing data that documents actions taken and quantifies the impact, such as the number of individuals reached or other relevant metrics.
- up to 20 points: Is the project designed to facilitate easy comprehension and learning by others? Is it easily replicated?
- up to 20 points: Does the effort advance conservation beyond individual water usage? Does the initiative extend to broader conservation efforts such as community-wide or environmental conservation measures?
- up to 10 points: How creative and innovative was the project's approach to a solution?
- up to 10 points: Timeliness of the contribution.

## **Legacy of Commitment**

Acknowledges individuals or organizations who have sustained and maintained documentation on the reduction of water consumption. We strongly encourage past Blue Legacy Award recipients to apply.

- up to 40 points: Does the data show a commitment to long term implementation?
- up to 40 points: Does the data indicate improvement, prevention of regression, or effective problem solving?
- up to 10 points: Was the data easily available to the public and how was the data retrieved?
- up to 10 points: How much effort was required to sustain this long term commitment to conservation, efficiency, and data tracking?

## Best in Flow

Recognizes projects, organizations, and individuals who have made impactful ripples and significant contributions in the water industry. This award celebrates trailblazing contributions that have turned ripples into waves, leaving a lasting impact that flows through communities far and wide.

**Nomination Procedure:** Candidates must be nominated for this award by an applicant who is not affiliated with their respective organization or project. Self-nominations will not be accepted.

- up to 60 points: Demonstrates creativity, initiative, innovative, or game changing contributions in the water industry and inspires you to share it with others.
- up to 20 points: Significance of contribution.
- up to 20 points: Timeliness of the contribution.

## Selection Process

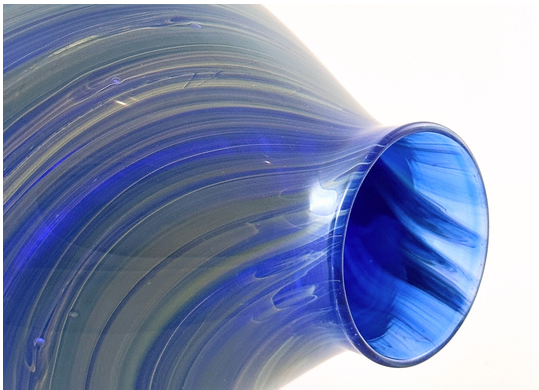
To ensure independence and integrity, all entries are comprehensively assessed by an independent panel of judges. **Helpful tip:** The key to a successful nomination application is to provide specific examples of implemented conservation practices supported by water usage reduction and cost-savings data.

## Applications

- Must be fully completed.
- Should include actual and not projected or estimated water savings, or water protection from the project or initiative, if applicable.
- Should include data demonstrating the integration of water efficiency within the organization or program, if applicable.
- Can and are encouraged to include photos and/or video.
- Samples that support the achievements such as brochures, maps, data charts, press clips, letters of support, etc. may be submitted as an attachment to the application.

## Category Winners Receive

- An award presented at the closing ceremony of the Water for Texas Conference before water leaders from across Texas, heads of state agencies, and political leaders.
- A custom-made hand-blown glass water pitcher with a stand made of a slice of historic sustainably harvested wood from Texas, engraved with the name of the winner and etched to mark the droughts of the past century via the tree rings.
- Acknowledgement (name and logo) featured on social media reels by the Texas Water Foundation and throughout the Water for Texas conference; a full-page acknowledgment in the Water for Texas program; submitted data from the application shared with research universities, conservation practitioners, and the public.
- Acknowledgement on the Water Conservation Advisory Council's website.
- Winners may be asked to participate in a panel discussion at a conference or webinar.



Awards will be created by San Antonio glass artist Glen Andrews of Caliente Hot Glass. Images of the new design will be provided soon.

# Blue Legacy Awards

# NOMINATION FORM

The application, nomination form, and supporting documentation must be received by September 5, 2024.

I am completing this information on behalf of:  Myself  Someone Else

## My Contact Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## Nominee's Contact Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## Who is Being Nominated?

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Individual(s) to be Recognized (if any)

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Award Category

Select one category. Applicants may not submit the same program, initiative, or project for multiple awards.

Legacy of Efficiency  Legacy of Source  Legacy of Awareness

Legacy of Commitment  Best in Flow

### Questions?

Contact: Denise Livingston  
Email: [Denise.Livingston@twdb.gov](mailto:Denise.Livingston@twdb.gov)  
Phone: (512) 475-1851

### Submission Instructions

Email completed application and supporting documentation to:  
[wcac@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:wcac@twdb.texas.gov)



## **Application**

Please type your responses for the sections below into a separate document no more than 5 pages in length.

### **Section I. Description of Business or Organization and Stewardship Practices**

1. Describe the water conservation program and/or activities being submitted for the award including the nature of the business and history of the operation.
2. Describe the use of best management practices or innovative practices as they pertain to water quality, water conservation, or efficient use of water resources. A list of best management practices for water conservation can be viewed at [www.twdb.texas.gov/conservation/BMPs/](http://www.twdb.texas.gov/conservation/BMPs/).

### **Section II. Measuring Results**

3. Describe your project's results. Can we measure its contribution towards water conservation, water efficiency, or protection of water resources? Describe either or both the quantitative and qualitative forms of measurement that are used to demonstrate the effectiveness of the project effort or program.
4. Please include measured or estimated savings data that demonstrate the success of the program and how those values were obtained. Also, include data showing water savings, cost savings, and application of efficiency improvements that demonstrate the success of the program or project and how those values were obtained.

### **Section III. Water Conservation**

5. Please describe the importance of the water conservation initiative and why the individual or organization should be recognized with a Blue Legacy Award.

## Section IV. Supporting Information

6. Please feel free to include photos or a video to represent your story.
7. Samples that support the achievements such as photos, brochures, maps, data charts, press clips, letters of support, etc. may be submitted as an attachment to the application.

*By submitting photos to the Blue Legacy Awards program, you hereby grant permission to the Water Conservation Advisory Council, Texas Water Foundation, and support staff at the Texas Water Development Board to use the photos and other material at their discretion in publications, websites, and other media outlets. Please provide preferred credit to be referenced, if any, and circumstances under which you do not grant permission for the use of a photo. If any subjects in the photo(s) are under 18, consent for use must be provided by a parent or legal guardian.*