

Tidy Towns
Sustainable Communities

2026 AWARDS

Celebrating regional and remote community action.

Entry kit



The Awards

2026

The Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards are Keep Australia Beautiful WA's flagship awards program, celebrating the positive actions and achievements of regional and remote communities across Western Australia.

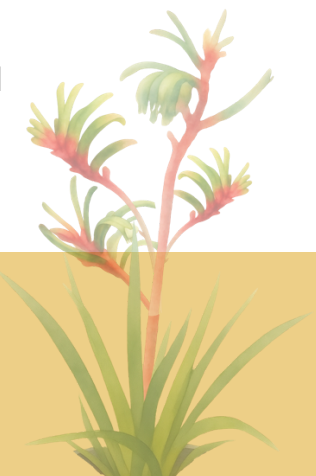
The Awards acknowledge projects and initiatives that demonstrate positive environmental, sustainability and community outcomes, from reducing litter and waste to celebrating culture, education and local leadership. They recognise contributions from individuals, schools, community groups, businesses, local governments and organisations.

By celebrating local action and partnership, the Awards highlight the pride, innovation and commitment that help communities grow stronger, more connected and more sustainable, while supporting efforts to keep local places beautiful and litter-free.

The ten Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Award categories celebrate the diverse ways communities across Western Australia are taking action to build more sustainable and connected places.

- Litter Action Award
- General Appearance Award
- Community Action and Wellbeing Award
- Heritage and Culture Award
- Young Legends Award
- Leadership Award
- Environmental Education Award
- Community Containers for Change Award
- Waste Management Award
- Environmental Sustainability Award

To be eligible for the State Title Award, a community must enter 6 or more categories.



Timeframe

12 June	<u>Entries open</u>
27 July	Win a bench seat
21 Aug	Entries close
7 - 18 Sept	Judging visits to communities
October	Finalists announced
27 Nov	State Awards Event, Optus Stadium



2026

Register and order entrant signs

Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities entrant signs are available complimentary to all entrants. These signs are a great way to promote the program within your community and to showcase your town to visitors.

New entrants to the program may order up to two signs.

Order entrant stickers

If you already have entrant signs, you only need to order updated stickers to keep your signage current.

Register and order your signs or stickers [here](#).



Award categories

2026

Litter Action Award

Recognises innovation and achievements in reducing and managing litter, including actions that reduce litter and promote prevention and education.

Judges look for:

- Community and/or local government litter clean-up activities.
- Litter prevention and education initiatives.
- Integration of litter management into broader waste management strategies.
- Community or regional actions that support long-term litter reduction.
- Cigarette butt disposal facilities in parks and public areas.

General Appearance Award

Recognises improvements to a community's general appearance, including town approaches, public spaces, parks, buildings and footpaths.

Judges look for:

- A tidy and well-maintained community, including parks and streets.
- Projects that have enhanced a streetscape - ie murals, buildings, signs.
- Restoration or completion of prominent buildings.
- Water wise roadside planting.

Community Action and Wellbeing Award

Sponsored by Rural Aid Australia

Recognises achievements that build healthy, vibrant communities through strong engagement, partnerships and inclusive community facilities and activities.

Judges look for:

- Good working relationships between the community and the Shire or council.
- Includes town management strategies and development of facilities.
- Involvement of youth groups, schools and clubs in positive activities.
- Fauna and flora protection and/or rehabilitation activities.
- Provision for an accessible community ie playground, parks.

Heritage and Culture Award

Recognises commitment to conserving and celebrating Indigenous and non-Indigenous heritage, culture and community identity.

Judges look for:

- Successful outcomes addressing preservation of cultural or natural history buildings and sites.
- Development and/or implementation of plans relating to historic or cultural preservation and/or restoration.
- Research into, the protection, and display, of culturally significant sites, records and artefacts.
- Celebration, of community significant events and traditions.

Award categories

2026

Young Legends Award

Sponsored by Bank of IDEAS

Recognises youth-led or youth-focused initiatives that demonstrate leadership and positive community impact. This category is open to an individual or group of young people aged 25 years or under.

Judges look for:

- Demonstrated leadership, initiative and positive action.
- Meaningful contribution to one or more Tidy Towns award categories.
- Projects or actions that inspire others and create positive change.

Environmental Education Award

Sponsored by WA Landcare Network

Recognises education initiatives that build environmental awareness, skills and behaviour change within schools or communities.

Judges look for:

- Education initiatives/awareness programs on sustainability, the environment and conservation.
- Education leading to empowerment and behaviour change.
- 5 • Youth education in environment and conservation activities.

Leadership Award

Sponsored by Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

Recognises outstanding leadership demonstrated by an individual (not a group) who has inspired positive change within their community.

Judges look for

- Driving or coordinating a positive community project across any of the Award Categories.
- Mentoring and inspiring volunteers.
- Encouraging broad community involvement with impactful projects.
- Ongoing commitment for positive change in their community.

Community Containers for Change Award

Sponsored by Containers for Change

Recognises projects that use Containers for Change to deliver broader environmental, social or community benefits.

Judges look for:

- An initiative that has impacted the community. Schools, local councils, business, organisations or individuals can lead the initiative.
- It's not the amount of refunds that are assessed but the positive benefit to the community.

Award categories

2026

Waste Management Award

Recognises achievements in reducing, reusing and managing waste, including recycling, resource recovery and innovative waste solutions.

Judges look for:

- Integration of recycling, resource recovery and waste management activities into a broader waste management strategy, new tip facilities and management.
- Accessible and visible recycling bins in public areas.
- Recovery and re-use of resources including organics, green materials, glass, circular economy or recovered resources such as composting.

Environmental Sustainability Award

Recognises actions that protect, restore or enhance the natural environment, including biodiversity and long-term environmental stewardship.

Judges look for:

- **Water** - Water management or waste water re-use.
- **Energy/climate adaptation**- Sustainable energy management focusing on energy efficiency measures. Programs which encourage community involvement in renewable energy and climate change issues.
- **Nature conservation** - Strategies focusing on environmental protection. Examples include wildlife corridors, feral animal management plans, weed eradication or addressing salinity and soil erosion.

State Title Award

To be a contender for the overall State Title 2026, entrants must enter at least six of the ten categories.



Be inspired

Browse the [2025 Snapshots](#) booklet to find out about the projects entered by the finalists and category winners.

Entering

2026

Eligibility

Projects must have been started, maintained, or completed between July 2025 and June 2026 to be eligible for the 2026 Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards.

Entries are open to all regional and remote towns, cities, localities and Indigenous communities across Western Australia.

Eligible projects are those that have been initiated, completed, or are ongoing between July 2025 and June 2026. Projects can be entered by

- individuals
- schools
- community groups
- Local Government Authorities (LGAs)
- businesses
- associations

All entering organisations and partners involved in projects will be recognised as part of the Awards.

How to enter

Download the entry form (Word document) from the Keep Australia Beautiful WA website at this [link](http://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/keep-australia-beautiful-wa/enter-tidy-towns-sustainable-communities-awards-2026). www.wa.gov.au/organisation/keep-australia-beautiful-wa/enter-tidy-towns-sustainable-communities-awards-2026

Record details about your project/s for the categories you are entering.

Sections for each project are -

- Project title
- Description of the project
- List the proponents (who was involved)
- Outline of project outcomes

Communities can enter more than one project in each category.

All entries are to be emailed by 21 August to tidytowns@kabc.wa.gov.au



Judging

2026

Visits to communities

Judges visit each community to learn more about the projects submitted. This visit is a highly valued and important part of the Awards process. Judges come from a wide range of backgrounds and share a strong passion for regional and remote Western Australia.

Showcase your project

During the two-hour community visit, entrants have the opportunity to showcase their projects and give judges a real sense of their community.



State judging panel

Following the community visits, a State judging panel reviews all judges' reports and recommends finalists and winners to the KAB Council, which makes the final determination. Finalists in each category are announced in October, and representatives from all finalist communities are invited to attend the State Awards.

State Awards event

Winners are announced at the State Awards ceremony held in November at Optus Stadium.



Benefits of entering

2026

Recognition and engagement

The Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards are Keep Australia Beautiful's flagship program and are highly regarded across Western Australia.

Supported by the Minister for Environment and the Governor of Western Australia, the Awards provide an important platform to highlight the positive environmental and community outcomes that are happening in regional and remote communities.

Entering the Awards gives communities of all sizes the opportunity to receive state-wide recognition for their projects, partnerships and community champions. It is also a chance to celebrate achievements, build community pride and share your story with a wider audience.

Participating in Tidy Towns helps focus us all to raise the bar in what we do in our communities. There is always more to do, but important that we celebrate along the way.

Peter Stubbs, CEO Williams



Finalist communities are invited to attend the State Awards event, opened by the Governor of Western Australia, where participants can connect with other regional communities, exchange ideas and celebrate the collective efforts that are shaping sustainable communities across WA.

The State Awards Event

2026

Attending the State Awards Event

All finalists communities will receive complimentary tickets for representatives to enjoy a luncheon at the state event at Optus Stadium.

Applications for a small travel grant will be open to finalists. The grant is designed to reduce some costs of attending the Awards event.

Prizes

All Award category winners receive prize money, details are outlined on the website under each category.

The Overall State Title Winner will represent WA in the National Tidy Towns Sustainability Awards.

In addition, a range of special prizes may be awarded at the State Awards event, including mentoring opportunities, printing vouchers, a live painting by Helen Ansell, and bench seating for community spaces.

The certificate frames are made by Men's Sheds throughout WA, meaning a little bit of history is given at the Awards.

Benches

Four benches, donated by Natsales and featuring artwork by Helen Ansell, will be awarded to communities as part of the 2026 Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards.

Win a bench seat - enter by 27 July 1. Enter your community project/s in the Awards. 2. Fill in the bench form and tell us why you should get a bench seat 3. Send a photo of where the bench seat would be installed.

The recipient of one bench will be announced during Keep Australia Beautiful Week (3 - 9 August).



Sponsors

We gratefully acknowledge and thank our sponsors and supporters for their collaboration and valued support of the Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards 2026.



Department of
**Primary Industries and
Regional Development**



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OUTDOOR ADVERTISING



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KEEPING IT BEAUTIFUL



For details on entering your community and your projects, visit kabc.wa.gov.au

Contact: tidytowns@kabc.wa.gov.au
Telephone: 6364 6643

