



HONOR THE
"BEST OF THE BEST"
2026 NGWA AWARDS

NGWA

Outstanding Groundwater Project Awards

Project by project, NGWA members work to advance the industry and the resource through imagination, creativity, innovation, and excellence. They deserve to be recognized and celebrated!

Nominated projects should demonstrate:

- Originality or uniqueness on providing new insights into groundwater supply, protection, remediation, or public awareness
- Creativity and imagination in engineered or constructed solutions
- Use of solid groundwater principles.

Applaud the projects, and the people behind them, that advance the industry, profession, and resource by making a nomination today!

★ **Groundwater Supply Award**

This NGWA award recognizes outstanding science, engineering, and/or contractor innovation that resulted in recent significant positive change, in the area of supplying groundwater.

NGWA requires that nominated projects demonstrate the following criteria for consideration in the groundwater supply category:

1. Excellence in providing groundwater to an intended end-use; groundwater storage and recharge projects, as well as geothermal projects, may be submitted under this category
2. Originality or uniqueness in providing new insights into groundwater supply
3. Creativity and imagination in the engineering or constructed solution
4. Backed by solid well (or spring) construction and groundwater protection principles.

★ **Groundwater Protection Award**

This NGWA award recognizes outstanding science, engineering, and/or contractor innovation that resulted in recent significant positive change, in the area of protecting groundwater.

NGWA requires that nominated projects demonstrate the following criteria for consideration in the groundwater protection category:

1. Excellence in protecting groundwater from either overdraft or contamination; projects relating to saltwater intrusion, groundwater/surface water interference, and conjunctive use may be submitted under this category
2. Originality or uniqueness in providing new insights into groundwater protection
3. Creativity and imagination in the engineered or constructed solution
4. Backed by solid groundwater protection principles.



★ Groundwater Remediation Award

This NGWA award recognizes outstanding science, engineering, and/or contractor innovation that resulted in recent significant positive change, in the area of remediating groundwater.

NGWA requires that nominated projects demonstrate the following criteria for consideration in the groundwater remediation category:

1. Excellence in restoring contaminated groundwater or overdrafted groundwater resources; projects involving the use of contaminated groundwater for a new beneficial purpose may be submitted under this category
2. Originality or uniqueness in providing new insights into groundwater remediation
3. Creativity and imagination in the engineered or constructed solution
4. Backed by solid groundwater remediation principles.

★ Groundwater Awareness Award

This NGWA award recognizes outstanding and innovative groundwater public awareness/public relations programs, projects, and campaigns that resulted in recent significant positive change.

NGWA requires that nominated projects demonstrate the following criteria for consideration in the groundwater awareness category:

1. Excellence in creating groundwater public awareness; projects involving comprehensive, strategic, year-round communications programs, public engagement, crisis communication and response, and special communication projects/campaigns may be submitted under this category
2. Originality or uniqueness in developing the awareness and knowledge of the general public on the importance of groundwater issues
3. Creativity and imagination in communicating groundwater science and facts
4. Well-developed strategy for maximum public outreach backed by solid groundwater science principles.

Awards of Excellence

Ross L. Oliver Award

The Ross L. Oliver Award, established in honor of Ross L. Oliver by his family, is the most prestigious award given by NGWA. It is presented to a member who has made outstanding contributions to the groundwater industry.

M. King Hubbert Award

The M. King Hubbert Award is presented to a person who has made major science or engineering contributions to the knowledge of groundwater through research, technical papers, teaching, and practical applications.

Robert Storm Intersectional Cooperation Award

The Robert Storm Intersectional Cooperation Award is presented to a person or team that through their activities or written works contribute to promoting collaboration, enhancing cooperation, and fostering community among all groundwater professionals and to advancing the mutual interest of all those interested in communicating the importance of the Earth's water resources.

Technology Award

The Technology Award is presented to a person who has made a major contribution to the groundwater industry in the development of ideas, tools, and equipment; techniques of well construction; exemplary service to coworkers throughout the industry in sharing these developments; and/or performing service for the protection of the groundwater resource and the consuming public.

Awards of Excellence

Life Member Award

The Life Member Award is presented to retired members, or members of retirement age, who have contributed a special service in the furtherance of the groundwater industry or to NGWA. Life members selected from the active membership shall retain all the privileges of an active member, but are exempt from membership fees.

Honorary Member Award

The Honorary Member Award is presented to persons of eminence from outside of the groundwater industry who have contributed some special service to the industry or to NGWA. Honorary members are exempt from membership fees and are entitled to all privileges and benefits as established by the NGWA Board of Directors.

Equipment Design Award

The Equipment Design Award is presented to an individual or team for excellence in the design of equipment or a product that promotes safety as well as efficiency and ease of operation. This equipment or product must have been in production for no less than one year. This contribution may or may not be eligible for a patent.

Special Recognition Award

The Special Recognition Award is presented to an individual or organization that demonstrates dedication, service, and commitment to the groundwater industry and community through involvement and achievement on a local or regional level. This award may recognize a single achievement or achievements over a long period of time that would not normally be known at the national level.

Individual Safety Advocate Award

The Individual Safety Advocate Award recognizes an individual who has made a contribution to promote, improve, maintain, and enhance safety in daily working operations. This individual's contribution may be evidenced by one or more of the following:

- He/she acted in response to an existing accident or injury in order to reduce the risk of future accidents or injuries
- He/she reduced the incidence of previous accident occurrences
- He/she may have developed a specific product to achieve a safer working environment
- He/she may have established a safe working practice that could have widespread industry application.

Groundwater Protector Award*

The Groundwater Protector Award recognizes people in government, industry, and the private sector for their public service efforts in conjunction with groundwater conservation and protection.

Standard Bearer Award

The Standard Bearer Award is presented to an outstanding volunteer involved in the legislative process on behalf of NGWA and its initiatives.

**Nominations made by the NGWA Government Affairs Committee.*



Sectional Awards

John Hem Award

The John Hem Award for Excellence in Science & Engineering is presented by the Scientists and Engineers Section of NGWA in recognition of a significant, recent (within the past five years) scientific or engineering contribution to the understanding of groundwater.

The award is presented annually for a significant contribution to either a single publication or a body of works. This award is designated for NGWA members, volunteers, or other Significant groundwater notables. NGWA stars are ineligible to receive this award. Current NGWA or sectional board members are ineligible to receive awards during their tenure.

Keith E. Anderson Award

The Keith E. Anderson Award acknowledges outstanding contributions made to NGWA. This award is designated for NGWA members, volunteers, or other significant groundwater notables. NGWA staff are ineligible to receive this award. Current NGWA or sectional board members are ineligible to receive awards during their tenure.

Manufacturers Section Special Recognition Award

The Manufacturers Section Special Recognition Award is given as a means of honoring an individual's accomplishments in the groundwater manufacturing industry including, but not limited to, industry improvements, special education contributions, and patents and technology.

Supplier of the Year Award

The Equipment Design Award is presented to an individual or team for excellence in the design of equipment or a product that promotes safety as well as efficiency and ease of operation. This equipment or product must have been in production for no less than one year. This contribution may or may not be eligible for a patent.



Submission

Complete nomination package must reach NGWA headquarters no later than June 1. Nominations may be submitted via email to NGWA Awards at awards@ngwa.org, or by filling out an on line nomination form and then sending all supporting documentation via email. Nominators will be contacted confirming their nomination was received and informed of any additional documentation required to complete the package. Nominators who submit incomplete nominations will have until the submissions deadline to send in missing items.

Review of Nomination

The NGWA Awards Committee reviews all eligible nominations within 60 days after the submission deadline.

Assistance

If you have any questions concerning the NGWA Awards Program or need assistance in preparing a nomination for submission, please contact NGWA Awards Committee Staff Liaison, at (800) 551-7379 or (614) 898-7791, fax (614) 898-7786; email awards@ngwa.org.

