



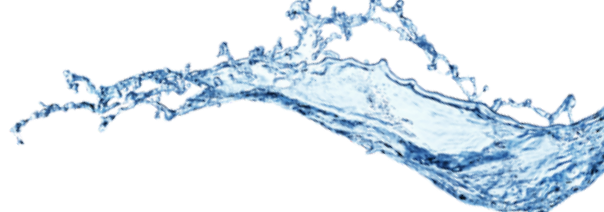
SAVE TEXAS WATER

BLUE LEGACY AWARDS

2026 Nomination Packet

Presented by the Water Conservation
Advisory Council

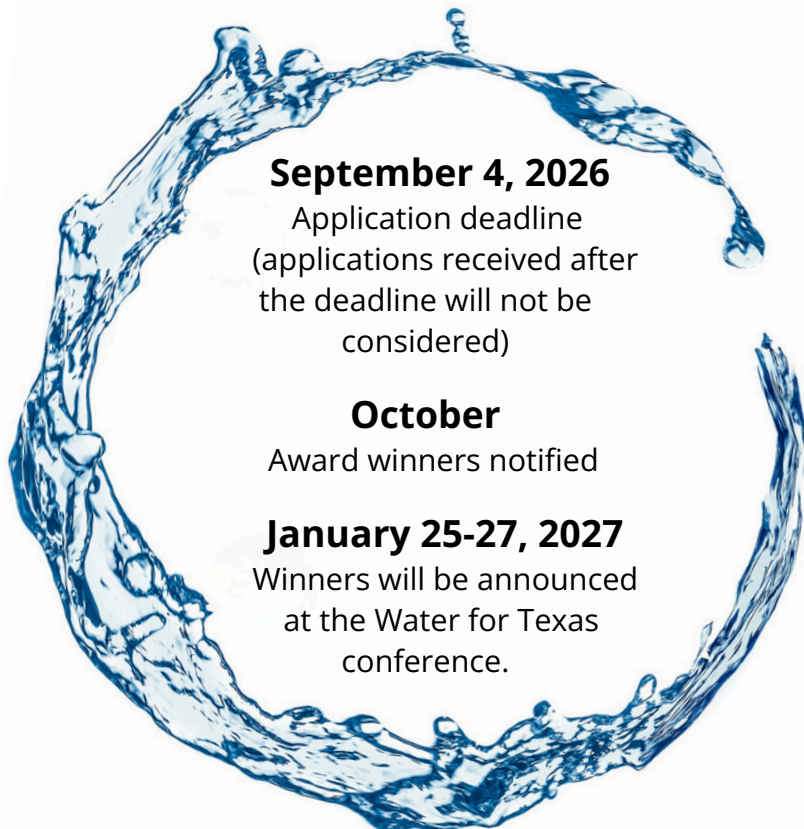
DO YOU KNOW A PROJECT THAT IS WORTHY OF A BLUE LEGACY AWARD?



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 across Texas have made significant progress in using water wisely, demonstrating that strong conservation programs are a cost-effective method to meet growing demand while delaying costly new supplies or capacity expansion. Water conservation measures provide tangible, practical savings 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 entities whose practices enhance the conservation of water. The Water Conservation Advisory Council promotes Blue Legacy Award winners as models of effective water stewardship, showcasing their successes to inspire and encourage others to improve their water conservation practices. The call for award applications occurs biennially, once every two years.

IMPORTANT DATES



September 4, 2026

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

October

Award winners notified

January 25-27, 2027

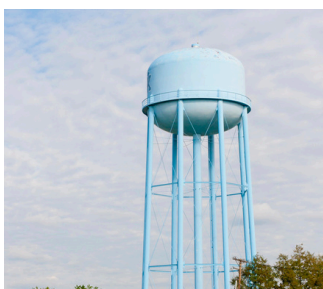
Winners will be announced
at the Water for Texas
conference.



Eligibility Criteria

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

- The programs, initiatives, and/or projects must be located in Texas.
- Water conservation efforts and 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 program, initiative, or project is still active or completed within the past two years.
- Previous award recipients may also submit a new application, provided it features a completely different program than the one previously recognized.
- Applicants must substantiate their submission with data that clearly demonstrates the incorporation of water efficiency or water-saving measures.
- Submissions will be evaluated by an impartial awards selection committee 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 (how easily others could implement similar practices)
- Utilities that are required to file a water conservation plan with the TWDB must have a current plan on file before applying.
- A maximum of one award will be given in each of the categories. Awards will be based on merit and may not be issued in every category.
- The Awards Selection Committee reserves the right to reclassify a submission into another category as they deem appropriate.





Award Categories

Applications may be submitted in one of the following four (4) 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 that 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 by other entities?
- 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 organizations and other entities 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 by other entities?
- 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

Recognizes organizations and other entities that have demonstrated sustained, well-documented reductions in water consumption. Past Blue Legacy Award recipients are encouraged 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

This award will be granted biennially at the sole discretion of the Awards Selection Committee following a thorough review of all Blue Legacy Award entries. The committee may select an award winner based on the award criteria and merit.

This award recognizes significant contributions in the water industry and celebrates trailblazing contributions that have turned ripples into waves, leaving a lasting impact that flows through communities far and wide.

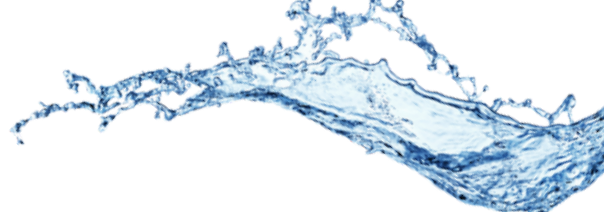
Selection Process

To ensure independence and integrity, all entries are comprehensively assessed by an impartial Awards Selection Committee.

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.
- Applicants 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.
- Supporting documentation should not exceed more than five (5) pages.



Category Winners Receive

- An award presented during 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 future conference or webinar.

Blue Legacy Award



Reimagined in 2025, the award features an engraved custom pitcher crafted from hand-blown blue glass and a stand carved from a slice of historic sustainably harvested wood, all created exclusively for this program. Each piece is individually shaped by skilled Texas artisans, giving it a fluid, organic form that reflects the movement of water. The rich blue tone symbolizes stewardship of Texas' water resources, while the handcrafted nature of the pitcher underscores the creativity, care, and commitment demonstrated by each award recipient. No two pitchers are identical, making every award as unique as the projects and initiatives it honors.

Blue Legacy Awards

NOMINATION FORM

The application, nomination form, and supporting documentation must be received by September 4, 2026.
Email completed application and supporting documentation to: wcac@twdb.texas.gov

Applicant Contact Information

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Name of Program, initiative or Project

Full Name: _____

Location: _____

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

Email completed application and supporting documentation to: wcac@twdb.texas.gov

Questions?
Contact: Denise Livingston
Email:
Denise.Livingston@twdb.gov
Phone: (512) 475-1851



Application

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

Section I. Description of Organization and Stewardship Practices

1. Describe the water conservation program, activities, or initiatives being submitted for the award. Include a brief description of the organization and history of its 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/.

Section II. Measuring Results

3. Describe your project's results. Can its contribution to water conservation, water efficiency, or protection of water resources be measured? Describe the quantitative and/or qualitative measures used to demonstrate the project's effectiveness.
4. Include the measured or estimated savings data that demonstrate the success of the program and explain how those values were obtained. Also, include data showing water savings, cost savings, and the application of efficiency improvements that demonstrate the success of the program or project and how those values were obtained.
5. Describe the importance of the water conservation initiative and why that action should be recognized with a Blue Legacy Award.

Section III. Water Conservation

6. Describe the importance of the water conservation initiative and why the organization or entity should be recognized with a Blue Legacy Award.



Section IV. Supporting Information

7. Feel free to include photos or a video to represent your story.
8. 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.
9. Supporting documentation is limited to five (5) pages.

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.