

2026 Fall Conference Award Descriptions

Commonwealth Award

Recognizes a business, organization, or individual that gives its time, talent, and treasure to the community in which it operates to improve the natural environment or health, welfare, and common good for all stakeholders through better materials management.

End Market of the Year Award

Presented to a local, regional, or international member organization that utilizes recycled commodities from Nebraska recycling generators, processors, collectors and haulers for the manufacture of new goods. The organization is committed to the highest ethical standards that support the recovery of Nebraska's resources.

Green Team of the Year Award

Recognizes a highly-organized, mature green team with the capacity to sustain itself and engage other employees. The team will have implemented systems to identify impacts, set goals, prioritize and implement projects, measure performance and review processes.

Advocacy Champion Award

Recognizes an individual, municipality, organization, or elected official for significant achievements in advancing resource recovery in Nebraska by working to challenge and change policies, systems, or practices. This individual or entity has performed a vital and critical role in our society through their advocacy efforts, demonstrating leadership and perseverance in supporting recycling and waste diversion systems. This is the only award that does not necessarily require NRC membership.

Waste Diversion Project/Product/Service of the Year Award

Presented to a business, community, or organization for a project, product, or service that demonstrates exemplary, innovative, and measurable waste reduction, eliminates or replaces hard-to-recycle materials, and/or creates a closed loop system for recycling or reuse. The recipient applies the highest possible standards for responsible resource management.

Member of the Year

Chosen by staff and recognizes an outstanding member of the Nebraska Recycling Council. This member exemplifies the mission of NRC and is a valued part of our organization.