

**Alabama Association of Resource Conservation and Development
Councils
Award Guidelines
Award Year 2018
Awards Presented in 2019**

Awards Time Frame:

1. All awards nominations must be submitted to the AARC&DC by February 21st, 2019.
2. Awards judging shall commence on February 22nd, 2019.
3. Judges will be selected at random and will have no conflict of interest with RC&D.
4. All award winners will be notified by March 15th, 2019.

Awards Criteria

RC&D Council of the Year:

This award recognizes the RC&D Council that makes the greatest impact on the priority concerns of the local community and beyond by developing partnerships that contribute to the overall area plan, fostering participation by partners and local citizens (including underserved groups), facilitating efforts to implement projects and ensuring the sustainability of the RC&D Program through good non-profit management. Please assess the extent to which the RC&D Council is:

1. Promoting projects with meaningful and sustainable social, economic, environmental, and/or conservation outcomes, especially projects that can be adapted by other RC&D Councils throughout the state;
2. Using innovative approaches in solving local natural resource and community development needs;
3. Moving toward sustainability through good non-profit management;
4. Promoting the inclusion of underserved groups in RC&D Council membership, incorporating the insights and skills offered by underserved groups in RC&D Council work, and addressing the needs of underserved groups in the community; and
5. Promoting lasting partnerships and coordination among project partners

RC&D Council Member of the Year:

This award recognizes the RC&D Council member who most exemplifies the ideals of the RC&D Program by demonstrating effective leadership skills, fostering participation by partners, bringing local citizens (including underserved groups) and RC&D Councils together to implement projects, integrating the views of various community members within the area and recognizing the contributions of all participants in RC&D activities. The RC&D Council member:

1. Demonstrates tireless and committed leadership;
2. Provides guidance and acts as a mentor to other potential leaders on the RC&D Council, including youth and underserved individuals;
3. Uses innovative approaches (including fundraising) in solving local natural resource and community development needs;

4. Advocates good nonprofit management policies and practices;
5. Fosters and coordinates local community participation in RC&D Council projects, including incorporating the particular skills of youth and underserved groups;
6. Promotes the RC&D Program and shares project partner information outside the immediate RC&D community;
7. Participates in the wider RC&D community, facilitating the sharing of technical and marketing information through communications with their RC&D Councils and the AARC&DC.

Outstanding Completed RC&D Council Project:

This award recognizes an outstanding project, completed within the past year, that exemplifies the RC&D concept and the spirit of local leadership. The project should embody how an RC&D Council can “Make Things Happen” in its area through the effective use of participant time, materials, and/or funding. The project should have a meaningful impact while meeting the natural resource and/or community development needs within the RC&D Council area. Please describe how the project:

1. Addresses local natural resource or community development needs that are an integral part of the RC&D Council’s area plan;
2. Has achieved measureable results that are sustainable into the future and has had a meaningful impact on the RC&D Council’s community;
3. Offers an innovative framework that can be replicated throughout the country;
4. Fosters partnerships and coordination among the RC&D Council, project partners, and the general community; and
5. Has been marketed to enhance the RC&D Council and statewide RC&D network.

McCarty Award for Outstanding RC&D Council Employee:

This award recognizes an RC&D Council employee who effectively initiates and manages RC&D Council projects and empowers his or her RC&D Council to utilize the resources available through the RC&D Program. This is achieved by communicating effectively with RC&D Council members, partners, and the community; training RC&D Council leaders (including underserved groups); and enabling effective operations and good non-profit management. Please detail how the employee:

1. Facilitates and empowers the RC&D Council in carrying out its area plan through effective project management and helps find innovative ways to overcome barriers to the implementation of RC&D Council goals and objectives;
2. Generates public awareness and support in the RC&D Council area and beyond for the RC&D Council’s activities;
3. Helps the RC&D Council meet its organizational obligations, makes valuable contributions to RC&D Council management, and goes above and beyond requirements, e.g., by suggesting ways to make RC&D Council operations more efficient and effective;
4. Recognizes the special perspectives and skills offered by members of underserved groups and supports their inclusion in RC&D Council work through the RC&D Council’s composition and project implementation;
5. Facilitates the RC&D Council’s access to various federal and non-federal resources;
6. Helps the RC&D Council to form partnerships with an array of community groups, corporations, foundations, government entities, and individuals to further project implementation; and
7. Has had an impact that goes beyond the RC&D Council’s local area.

Outstanding Supporting Partner(s) of the Year:

This award recognizes a sponsoring partner(s) that plays a major role in the leadership and implementation of an RC&D activity through an infusion of time, materials, and/or funding that result in meaningful project implementation while meeting the resource needs of the local community.

1. Supports innovative solutions to local resource concerns through council projects;
2. Promotes the local RC&D Council to other organizations and individuals, which contributes to the implementation of community wide activities, cultivation of new leadership, innovative projects and overall council excellence;
3. Supports the council through financial, technical or other resources to help implement local RC&D objectives;
4. Fosters partnerships and coordination among project partners, individuals and the local RC&D Council.

Outstanding Youth Involvement:

The award recognizes a youth who contributes unselfishly for the betterment of their community in concert with the RC&D Council while encouraging other youth to take part in the RC&D program, thus helping “RC&D - Making Things Happen!”

1. Makes a substantial commitment to the ideals of the RC&D program;
2. Takes a leadership role in implementing the goals and objectives of the council;
3. Involves other youth and organizations in council activities; and
4. Is committed to bettering the local community through RC&D council projects.