

2026 EMA of BC Environmental Management Awards Entry Rules

Member Organizations of the Environmental Managers Association (EMA) of BC in good standing, with dues paid for the member year January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026 are eligible to receive awards in recognition of their significant achievements.

An organization may become a member in order to nominate themselves by registering at emaofbc.com and paying the 2026 annual membership fee. A member may become an Entrant by submission of the nomination form, signifying their intent to enter and their acceptance of the entry rules.

The Awards that are open for nominations consist of three Technical Category Awards and one Emerging Environmental Professional Award. In addition, the Members Choice Award will be selected from among the finalists in the technical categories by the vote of attendees at the 2026 Awards Ceremonies.

Entrants may include proponents, consultants, environmental service providers, environmental laboratories, law firms, and others who have led the nominated project and demonstrated an exceptional contribution to environmental progress in one of the 2026 categories. A member organization may be nominated as an Entrant only once in each category. Otherwise, a member organization may have participated in any number of Projects that are nominated. An employee of the Entrant shall be identified as the *Lead Environmental Manager* and must have played a major role in the project.

Technical Category Awards

The *Project* must have been completed in BC within the past three years (2023 - present), either by a member organization, or under the direction or guidance of a member organization. All member organizations having participated in the project shall be mentioned in the nomination. The title and abstract of the project should be sufficient for judges, other members, and the public to understand the significance of the project.

Evidence of Permission for entry must be received from the *Owner* of the project (required).

Evidence of Societal Acceptance should be provided to further support the project. Such evidence may be in a form appropriate to the project (e.g., a certificate, approval in principle, carbon verification report, statement of no significant impacts, legal judgement, permit, or approval). If such an instrument is required or sought as part of the project submitted, indicate whether or not the instrument has been obtained. A statement of societal benefits sealed by a *Registered Professional* may also be deemed acceptable.

Nomination is a two-step process. The *Nomination Form* constitutes the first step, which is due on **April 17th, 2026**. Information will be screened to ensure that the entrance requirements have been met. Judges may reject or reassign submissions to an alternate category at their discretion. *Entrants* will be notified of acceptance by **May 8th, 2026**.

In the second step, successful entrants will be required to submit a final document with audio visual complements, which, taken together with the initial application, will form the package that will be judged. The second step document package is due **May 29th, 2026** and must contain the following:

- A *final submission document* - consisting of no more than 1,000 words (excluding evidentiary documents), up to six illustrations (graphs, photos, and tables), and up to four short testimonials or recommendations. The final submission document must maintain the same project title, lead member organization, and lead environmental manager. It should include evidence to support any claims made in the project, and it should explain why the nominated project should be selected for the award based on its significance, the accomplishments of EMA of BC members, and its recognition for excellence.
- A *project poster*. Initially this is to be prepared in PDF format and submitted by email for judging purposes. The project poster must identify the award category, project title, lead entrant, and lead

environmental manager. The Project Owners name may be included with their permission. The poster is to include a 75-word (maximum) inset describing the project and its significance. The same final poster is to then be rendered in hard copy format for display at the Awards ceremony entrance. The proponent shall mount the poster on stiff backing (no larger than 1 square meter in area) for display on an easel at the Awards Celebration. EMA of BC will provide easels.

- A *project PowerPoint presentation* for presentation at the Awards Ceremony. For judging purposes, this can initially be submitted by email in PDF format. This may be up to five slides, including a title slide, with a slide script for narration. The presentation may be accompanied by an electronic video. The same presentation will be made at the Awards Ceremony, so the proponent must submit the presentation in PowerPoint format in advance of the ceremony, or by bringing a thumb drive. The total presentation must not exceed two minutes in length. The presentation will be used for formally announcing the nominated project immediately in advance of the award for that category. The script will be judged as submitted, but may be edited for presentation at the Awards Celebration. A video may be included in the presentation; however, be aware that AV equipment at the Awards Celebration may not support video presentations.

Materials and information from award nominations and award recipients may be publicized on the EMA of BC website, in EMA of BC electronic newsletters, in press releases, and in announcements and displays at other events. All submission documents become the property of the Environmental Managers Association of BC, and may be used to promote the EMA of BC and its members' accomplishments.

Award recipients will receive the following:

- Presentation of award and photo opportunity with a one-minute acceptance speech
- Announcement of winners on EMA of BC webpage
- Personal Award trophy for the Lead Environmental Manager
- Award plaques for both the Lead Member Organization and Project Owner (if different)
- Press release announcements and photos for media
- Electronic announcements (LinkedIn, e-mail)
- Opportunity to submit a feature article by winner for publication on EMA of BC webpage

Participation Rules

1. Nomination forms will be accepted now through **April 17th, 2026** from EMA of BC member firms.
2. Only projects under the responsibility of EMA of BC member firms may be nominated. Responsible EMA of BC member firms may be either the owner/proponent of the project or one of the leading members of the project team (e.g., project owner, legal counsel, environmental consultant, environmental contractor, key equipment supplier, or analytical laboratory).
3. The award will name the *Project Owner* (if permitted) and *EMA of BC Member Organization* and will be presented to the *Lead Environmental Manager*.
4. A member organization may be nominated as an *Entrant* only once in each category. Otherwise, a member organization may have participated in any number of projects that are nominated. An employee of the *Entrant* shall be identified as the *Lead Environmental Manager*.
5. The Lead Environmental Manager should be a person who worked directly on the project, as differentiated from a company executive or senior manager with broad oversight responsibility.
6. Every nomination must receive the written consent of the *Project Owner* for the *Member Organization* to enter and be publicly recognized. The *Project Owner* may request that their name be excluded from publication.
7. Judging will be by a panel of environmental practitioners whose decisions shall be final. Judges must abstain from voting in categories in which they have an interest, either directly or indirectly, in a nominated project.
8. Finalists will be announced in advance of the Award Ceremonies, when those entries are deemed to have met the qualification requirements of the final submission package.
9. Announcements of the winning project in each category will be reserved until the Awards Celebration (**June 23, 2026**).
10. The Members' Choice Award will be determined based on the number of votes cast by attendees present at the Gala.
11. Winning Projects and Organization Names will subsequently be published on the EMA of BC webpage and will be released to the public and media.

Judging of the Technical Categories

1. A panel of three to six judges may be appointed by the EMA of BC Board of Directors. EMA of BC members and non-members, and representatives from other associations are encouraged to act as judges.
2. Nominations will close **April 17th, 2026**. The first step will be the verification of nomination information and approval of the short list of nominees. The judging panel will inform verification of acceptance criteria by **May 8th, 2026**. Accepted nominations will not be publicized.
3. Final nomination packages are due to be submitted for final judging by 11:59 pm **May 29th, 2026**. Judges will meet to discuss entries and assign scores in each category.
4. Final award winners will be selected by **June 12th, 2026**, and will be sealed in envelopes until the Awards Celebration. The decisions of the judges are final.

Emerging Environmental Professional Award

Nominations for the Emerging Environmental Professional Award will be accepted in accordance with the rules for that award. The nomination consists of a simple application form with recommendations. See further information at www.EMAofBC.com

Judging of the Emerging Environmental Professional Award

The nominations for the Emerging Environmental Professional Award will be judged by representatives of the Board of Directors of the EMA of BC. The final Emerging Environmental Professional Award winner will be selected by **June 12th, 2026**, and will be sealed in an envelope until the Awards Celebration. The decisions of the judges are final.

Description of Category Criteria for Environmental Awards

Three of the six technical awards are available for consideration each year. The Emerging Professional Award is recognized each year.

2026 AWARDS:

Environmental Assessment

The Environmental Assessment Award recognizes the methods and completeness of environmental assessment, and the innovative application of design modifications and mitigation strategies. This category also includes the innovative mapping, establishment or preservation of ecosystems, including fisheries, wild land, developments or adapted landscapes.

Technological Innovation

The Award for Technological Innovation recognizes the role of applying new technologies, including acceptance of the inherent risk of failure, to the wide range of environmental challenges faced by Environmental Managers in BC.

Organizational Environmental Programs

The Award for Organizational Environmental Programs recognizes success in internal or external organizational environmental management including such areas as sustainability, social acceptance and social responsibility, quality of work life, community and employee engagement, professional ethics, and sharing of environmental knowledge and experiences.

***12th Annual* Emerging Environmental Professionals**

The Emerging Environmental Professionals Award recognizes an individual in their first 5 years in the environmental industry who has shown leadership within their company and the industry; demonstrated excellence in their practices; demonstrated commitment to the delivery of quality projects or results; accomplished outstanding achievements in their applicable fields; and shown leadership in the community.

2027 AWARDS:

Remediation and Restoration

The Remediation and Restoration Award recognizes outstanding work in the investigation and remediation or restoration for the environmental improvement of a site under either federal or provincial jurisdiction. Completion of the investigation and remediation or restoration involving scientific advancement, innovation, and application of sustainable principles must have occurred in the past two years.

Emissions/Discharge Control

The Award for Emissions/Discharge Control recognizes outstanding work in the investigation of emissions or discharges to air, water, or land and implementation of controls to meet or exceed local, regional, provincial, or federal regulations or voluntary improvement targets.

Regulatory Challenge Award

The Regulatory Challenge Award recognizes the unilateral effort, cost, and uncertainty assumed by organizations and environmental managers that have improved the regulatory environment for themselves and others by either 1) challenging the fairness or validity of regulations, or regulatory rulings, policies or practices, or 2) meeting the challenges of regulatory decisions, uncertainty, or demands with fortitude, fairness and innovation.

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