

**SWANA KANSAS
SUNFLOWER
CHAPTER
AWARDS PROGRAM
2026**





SWANA KANSAS SUNFLOWER CHAPTER AWARDS PROGRAM

The Kansas Chapter of SWANA has established its annual awards program to recognize outstanding solid waste projects, programs, and individuals throughout the state.

WHY APPLY?

Receive the recognition you, your facility, and/or program deserve. What a better way to be recognized for all your hard work?! The SWANA Kansas Chapter will present the awards at the Kansas Solid Waste Management Conference on October 3-5 in Mulvane.

DEADLINE

Your award entry must be submitted no later than **Monday, August 31, 2026.**

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for a Kansas Chapter SWANA Award, at least one person from the organization receiving the award must be a member in good standing as of August 1, 2026.

AWARD CATEGORIES:

The following award categories have been established for solid waste programs and professionals.

Outstanding Solid Waste Project Award

This award will recognize solid waste projects that demonstrate outstanding environmental or solid waste management benefits for the Kansas public and/or solid waste management industry. The projects will typically employ an entirely new process not previously available or will utilize emerging technologies that result in enhanced performance both environmentally and economically.

Outstanding Solid Waste Management Award

This award will recognize outstanding solid waste management operations/programs in Kansas. Programs and operations will be scored on the facility's design, planning and operations, regulatory compliance record, public perception/aesthetics, and innovation/creativity.

Outstanding Solid Waste Professional Award

This award will recognize solid waste professionals who have made outstanding contributions to the Sunflower Chapter, solid waste management in Kansas, and/or public health and environmental protection. Awards may be given both at the solid waste operator and solid waste manager levels.



Best Safety Innovation

This award will recognize solid waste professionals who have developed and/or implemented a new safety innovation. Awards may be given both at the solid waste operator and solid waste manager levels.

Best Safety Improvement

This award will recognize solid waste professionals who have developed and/or implemented a new safety improvement to an existing safety program. Awards may be given both at the solid waste operator and solid waste manager levels.

AWARD RECIPIENT RECOGNITION:

Award recipients will be recognized publicly during the at the SWANA Kansas Chapter Fall Conference and on the SWANA Kansas Chapter website located at www.swanaks.org.

HOW TO APPLY:

- ✓ Complete Award Application Form and Required Attachments / Information
- ✓ Submit Completed Award Nomination to:

SWANA Kansas Sunflower Chapter
ATTN: Susan Erlenwein
1144 S Seneca
Wichita, KS 67213
email: susan.erlenwein@sedgwick.gov

QUESTIONS:

Contact Susan Erlenwein at susan.erlenwein@sedgwick.gov or by phone at (316) 660-7205 ext. 302.

SWANA KANSAS SUNFLOWER CHAPTER AWARDS APPLICATION FORM

Nominee Name (Person or Program) _____

Category (*select only one*): _____ Outstanding Solid Waste Project Award
_____ Outstanding Solid Waste Management Award
_____ Outstanding Solid Waste Professional
_____ Best Safety Innovation
_____ Best Safety Improvement

Application submitted by:

SWANA Member name and ID# _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Phone #: _____ Fax #: _____

Email: _____

If selected for an award, how would you like the name of the professional or program to read on the award? _____

Application Checklist (please make sure the following items are included in your submittal packet):

- ✓ Award Application Form (this form).
- ✓ Executive Summary - This award recognizes valuable, and distinguished, contributions to SWANA, the employing organization, and the general public. The summary should explain what the nominee has done to be considered "outstanding" in our field.
- ✓ Up to five photos.
- ✓ There is NO APPLICATION FEE for Kansas Sunflower Chapter Award Submittals.
- ✓ **Applications should be mailed to:**

SWANA Kansas Sunflower Chapter
ATTN: Susan Erlenwein
1144 S Seneca
Wichita, KS 67213
email: susan.erlenwein@sedgwick.gov



Release Statement: *I certify that the information provided in this application is accurate and correct to the best of my knowledge. SWANA Kansas Sunflower Chapter reserves the right to publish the enclosed information. Nominations become the property of SWANA Kansas Sunflower Chapter. My signature gives SWANA the right to reprint or make available for purchase any portion of this submittal.*

Signature: _____ Date: _____

All Entries Must Be Submitted by Monday, August 31, 2026.

For your convenience, an electronic version of this form may be downloaded at www.swanaks.org.



AWARDS SCORING CRITERIA

OUTSTANDING SOLID WASTE PROJECT/ MANAGEMENT AWARD

- Recycling/Composting

The SWANA Kansas Sunflower Chapter Board of Directors has established selection criteria by which nominated projects are to be evaluated. The following are the criteria and maximum point values for which nominations will be judged. Nominations should address each criteria specified. No points will be assigned if that category is not addressed.

General Information: 5 points

- Provide a general project description that highlights important project features and challenges.

Project Implementation: 10 Points

- Describe the project implementation phase including planning and design, public participation, construction management, challenges overcome, etc.
- Indicate whether the project was completed within schedule and budget.
- Indicate whether the project was completed safely.

Innovation/Creativity: 35 points

- Discuss the complexity of the problem or situation that the project addresses.
- Explain how the project is innovative and utilizes a new process or emerging technologies to address the problem.

Environmental and Economic Benefits: 35 points

- Discuss the environmental and economic benefits realized from the project. Please provide quantitative data to support your claims where possible.
- Explain the impact of the project on long and short term operations.

Potential for Replication at Other Facilities: 10 Points

- Discuss whether the project could be replicated at other facilities.
- Describe benefits to the broader solid waste industry in Kansas realized from the project.

Application Quality (*this is a judges category only, not to be addressed in your application*): **5 points**

- Overall quality and appearance of the application, including editorial and technical quality, proper grammar and spelling and consistent formatting.
- Easiness to read, neatness, and organization.



AWARDS SCORING CRITERIA

OUTSTANDING SOLID WASTE PROJECT/ MANAGEMENT AWARD

- Transfer Station

The SWANA Kansas Sunflower Chapter Board of Directors has established selection criteria by which nominated projects are to be evaluated. The following are the criteria and maximum point values for which nominations will be judged. Nominations should address each criteria specified. No points will be assigned if that category is not addressed.

General Information: 5 points

- Provide a general project description that highlights important project features and challenges.

Project Implementation: 10 Points

- Describe the project implementation phase including planning and design, public participation, construction management, challenges overcome, etc.
- Indicate whether the project was completed within schedule and budget.
- Indicate whether the project was completed safely.

Innovation/Creativity: 35 points

- Discuss the complexity of the problem or situation that the project addresses.
- Explain how the project is innovative and utilizes a new process or emerging technologies to address the problem.

Environmental Controls and Regulatory Compliance: 35 points

- Discuss the environmental and economic controls realized from the project. Please provide quantitative data to support your claims where possible.
- Demonstrate that the transfer station complies with local, state, and federal regulations.

Worker and Customer Health and Safety: 10 Points

- Discuss how safety issues are addressed at the facility.
- Describe the training program and what is being done to improve it.

Application Quality (*this is a judges' category only, not to be addressed in your application*): **5 points**

- Overall quality and appearance of the application, including editorial and technical quality, proper grammar and spelling and consistent formatting.
- Ease to read, neatness, and organization.

AWARDS SCORING CRITERIA

OUTSTANDING SOLID WASTE PROJECT/ MANAGEMENT AWARD

- Solid Waste Collection Systems

The SWANA Kansas Sunflower Chapter Board of Directors has established selection criteria by which nominated projects are to be evaluated. The following are the criteria and maximum point values for which nominations will be judged. Nominations should address each criteria specified. No points will be assigned if that category is not addressed.

General/ History of the program Information: 5 points

- Provide a general project description that highlights important project features and challenges.
- Describe how the collection system was integrated into a comprehensive solid waste program for the community.

Collection System Design and Technology: 10 Points

- Describe the project implementation phase including planning and design, public participation, construction management, challenges overcome, etc.
- Describe what equipment is innovative or state-of-the art in current collection practice.
- Describe how new equipment or operational changes improved the collection system.

Performance, Economics, and Cost Effectiveness: 35 points

- Discuss the methods used to analyze how well your collection system is performing.
- Discuss the goals established during the planning process and whether or not they are being met.

Environmental Controls and Regulatory Compliance: 35 points

- Discuss the environmental and economic controls realized from the project. Please provide quantitative data to support your claims where possible.
- Demonstrate that the transfer station complies with local, state, and federal regulations.

Worker and Customer Health and Safety: 10 Points

- Discuss how safety issues are addressed.
- Describe the training program and what is being done to improve it.

Application Quality (*this is a judges category only, not to be addressed in your application*): **5 points**

- Overall quality and appearance of the application, including editorial and technical quality, proper grammar and spelling and consistent formatting.
- Easiness to read, neatness, and organization.



OUTSTANDING SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AWARD

- Landfill Management- Small Arid
- Landfill Management- Subtitle D
- Landfill Management-C&D Landfill

The SWANA Kansas Sunflower Chapter Board of Directors has established selection criteria by which nominated programs are to be evaluated. The following are the criteria and maximum point values for which nominations will be judged. Nominations should address each criteria specified. No points will be assigned if that category is not addressed if it is applicable to the type of solid waste operation nominated for award.

General Information: 5 points

- Provide information on area serviced, tons per day / scale of operation, how long the facility has been operating, and other related site operations.

Facility Siting, Design & Construction: 20 points

- Discuss final site development, anticipated facility life and capacity.
- Discuss siting (e.g., site soils, hydrology/geology, access, buffer, adjacent and nearby land uses, etc.); design (including solid waste capacity); and site preparation, including construction techniques (e.g., MQC, CQC, CQA, leak detection surveys, etc.).
- Describe any innovative approaches employed to extend the life of the facility or to increase disposal capacity at the site.
- Discuss design and site preparation in regard to environmental protection and to mitigate any siting deficiencies.
- Discuss overall planning and end-use.

Environmental Controls and Monitoring: 15 points

- Discuss surface water, groundwater and leachate monitoring; leachate collection and treatment methods, including quantities produced/collected; and materials used for leachate collection system (e.g., liners, filter layers, piping, pumping, etc.). Include photographs and schematics as necessary.
- Discuss landfill gas management/control, beneficial use and monitoring of structures and property boundary for LFG.
- Discuss air monitoring and efforts undertaken to mitigate odors.
- Discuss erosion and sediment control practices, including any monitoring of storm water discharges.
- Discuss overall impact since start-up on human health, environmental quality, and resource conservation; such as compatibility with the environment and sustainability.
- Illustrate monitoring results with tables/charts/graphs (with text summary).

Regulatory Compliance: 10 points

- Discuss the facility's role in the local community's integrated solid waste management plan and system.
- Summarize the permits which are applicable for the site and briefly discuss their purpose.
- Demonstrate and document that the site has been in environmental compliance for the past three years from the date of this application and indicate what, if any, non-compliance issues were and how they were addressed or resolved. Explain time gaps in inspections.

Planning & Operations (please include quantifiable data wherever possible): 10 points

- Describe the facility's operation program to meet design, regulatory and operational objectives.
- Demonstrate that it is a "state-of-art" facility or operation.
- Discuss inputs (types and quantities) to the site.
- Discuss health and safety training, waste screening program, and any other on-site programs, e.g., yard materials composting and mulching, segregation of materials for re-use or recycling, household hazardous waste collection, residents' acceptance or drop-off centers.
- Discuss whether the site is able to or plans to expand capacity and/or able to initiate expanded programs on-site.

Equipment/Systems and Technologies (including leachate pumps, fueling stations, etc.): 10 points

- Discuss types of equipment being utilized, including their efficiency and effectiveness.
- Discuss routine maintenance and employee training on equipment, including pre- and post-op inspections.
- Discuss back-up and contingency systems, if any, e.g., for loss of electricity, adverse weather; availability of back-up equipment, redundant designs.

Public Acceptance, Appearance and Aesthetics: 10 points

- Discuss the overall site appearance and how it is kept neat and clean.
- Discuss community relations and demonstrate the facility's efforts to educate the community and to provide excellent customer service.
- Discuss landscaping, dust control, control of windblown materials and on-site facilities.

Innovation and Creativity: 15 points

- Discuss any innovative or creative aspects of the facility / operation.

Application Quality (*this is a judges' category only, not to be addressed in your application*): 5 points

- Overall quality and appearance of the application, including editorial and technical quality, proper grammar and spelling and consistent formatting.
- Easiness to read, neatness, and organization.



AWARDS SCORING CRITERIA

PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

The SWANA Kansas Sunflower Chapter Board of Directors has established selection criteria by which nominated persons are to be evaluated. The following are the criteria and maximum point values for which nominations will be judged. Nominations should address each criteria specified. No points will be assigned if that category is not addressed.

Application Completeness: 5 points

- Has all required information been included?

Innovation/Creativity/Excellence of Work: 25 points

- Describe the innovative, creative and/or excellent aspects of the person.
- How well does the person advance and/or represent the Kansas solid waste management industry?

Customer Service: 30 points

- Does the person have a “customer first” attitude?
- Provide examples of how the person interacts with customers in a positive manner.

Respect Among Co-Workers: 20 points

- Provide examples that demonstrate that the person is respected/valued by his or her co-workers.

Respect of Peers: 20 points

- Provide examples that demonstrate that the person is respected/valued by his or her SWANA Kansas Sunflower Chapter peers.

Application Quality (*this is a judges' category only, not to be addressed in your application*): **5 points**

- Overall quality and appearance of the application, including editorial and technical quality, proper grammar and spelling and consistent formatting.
- Easiness to read, neatness, and organization.



AWARDS SCORING CRITERIA

BEST SAFETY INNOVATION

The SWANA Kansas Sunflower Chapter Board of Directors has established selection criteria by which nominated persons are to be evaluated. The following are the criteria and maximum point values for which nominations will be judged. Nominations should address each criteria specified. No points will be assigned if that category is not addressed.

Application Completeness: 5 points

- Has all required information been included?

Innovation/Creativity/Hazards: 25 points

- Describe the safety innovation implemented and hazards that were addressed.
- Describe how was the results of the program measured.

Program Details: 30 points

- Describe a comparison of the old program and program after innovation.
- Describe the results of the innovation and how they compare to the baseline that was previously established.

Application Quality (*this is a judges' category only, not to be addressed in your application*): **5 points**

- Overall quality and appearance of the application, including editorial and technical quality, proper grammar and spelling and consistent formatting.
- Easiness to read, neatness, and organization.



AWARDS SCORING CRITERIA

BEST SAFETY IMPROVEMENT

The SWANA Kansas Sunflower Chapter Board of Directors has established selection criteria by which nominated persons are to be evaluated. The following are the criteria and maximum point values for which nominations will be judged. Nominations should address each criteria specified. No points will be assigned if that category is not addressed.

Application Completeness: 5 points

- Has all required information been included?

Innovation/Creativity/Hazards: 25 points

- Describe the safety program and what hazards that were addressed.
- Describe how was the results of the program measured.

Improvement Results: 25 points

- Describe a comparison of previous years and now after the improvement.
- Describe what the improvements of the safety program were attributed to.

Application Quality (*this is a judges' category only, not to be addressed in your application*): 5 points

- Overall quality and appearance of the application, including editorial and technical quality, proper grammar and spelling and consistent formatting.
- Easiness to read, neatness, and organization.