

NSW Environmental Education Awards 2026

The NSW Environmental Education Awards celebrate outstanding contributions to environmental and sustainability education across New South Wales. The 2026 Award categories are:

- **Environmental Educator of the Year:** *Recognising an individual who has made an outstanding and sustained contribution to environmental education in NSW.*
- **Emerging Environmental Educator of the Year:** *Recognising an individual (with less than 5 years experience) who has made an outstanding contribution to environmental education in NSW.*
- **Sustainable Schools NSW Teacher of the Year:** *Recognising a primary or secondary school educator who has demonstrated excellence in embedding sustainability in line with the values of Sustainable Schools NSW.*
- **Early Childhood Educator of the Year:** *Recognising an early childhood educator who is embedding sustainability into the early years and inspiring the next generation.*
- **Return and Earn Program Leader of the Year:** *Recognising a student, educator or parent who has excelled in embedding the Return and Earn program into their school*

REQUIREMENTS:

- A nominee may only be nominated in one category.
- A separate form must be submitted for each award nomination.
- All nominees must be based in NSW or carry out the majority of their work in NSW.
- Nominees do not need to be members of AAEE, though membership is encouraged.
- Nominations must be received by **COB Tuesday 15 September**.

NOMINATION PROCESS

- Complete your nomination [via this online nomination form](#).
- The nomination form must be fully completed, you cannot save and return to the form. We recommend you compose answers offline and then copy into this form.
- To support your nomination you are asked to provide 3 photographs/images, for potential use on awards night and ongoing promotion. Email your images to partnership@aaeensw.org.au with the email heading AWARD IMAGES FOR NOMINEE X. Label all images with nominee surname, eg Barnes_1. Sending and receiving large image files can be challenging. We recommend sharing via DropBox, WeTransfer or similar file share program
- This year we will be hosting our 2026 EENSW Awards event on Thursday 29th October at Camperdown Commons, Camperdown.

NOMINATION QUESTIONS

CATEGORY	NOMINATION QUESTIONS
NSW Environmental Educator of the Year	Describe with examples how the nominee has developed their environmental education practice and taken effective action for the environment in their work. (300 word limit maximum, dot points acceptable)
NSW Emerging Environmental Educator of the Year	Describe with examples how the nominee has demonstrated inspirational leadership in the area of environmental education. (250 word limit maximum, dot points acceptable) Provide a three sentence summary of your nominee activities and achievements. This summary may be used to introduce your nomination at the Awards night and may also appear in promotional materials.

Sustainable Schools NSW Teacher of the Year Early Childhood Environmental Educator of the Year	Describe how the nominee has embedded sustainability into their teaching practice and learning environment. (250 word limit maximum, dot points acceptable) Describe with examples how the nominee has demonstrated inspirational environmental leadership within their school and its community. (250 word limit maximum, dot points acceptable) Provide a three sentence summary of your nominee activities and achievements. This summary may be used to introduce your nomination at the Awards night and may also appear in promotional materials.
Return and Earn Program Leader Award	Describe how the nominee has championed your Return and Earn program and made the program a success. (250 word limit maximum, dot points acceptable) Provide details of the way you are using Return and Earn at your school including - how you collect and return your containers - funds raised and how fundraising is used - how students and the school community are engaged in the program (250 word limit maximum, dot points acceptable) The Return and Earn Impact Calculator is a great way to show your school community how small changes can have a big impact on our environment. Simply click here and enter the total number of cans and bottles you have returned for recycling through Return and Earn to find the corresponding energy, water, CO2 and landfill savings. Don't forget to include the results in your award submission. How many students are enrolled at your school? How long has your school been involved in the Return and Earn program?