

Summary about the 2021 EXCELLENCE Awards

About the 2021 LGNZ EXCELLENCE Awards

The LGNZ EXCELLENCE Awards recognise and celebrate excellent performance by councils in promoting and growing the well-being of their communities.

The Awards are judged on a combination of general and specific criteria, incorporating best practice and components from the CouncilMARK™ excellence programme's four priority areas.

The categories for 2021 are as below:

- EXCELLENCE Award for Social Well-being;
- EXCELLENCE Award for Economic Well-being;
- EXCELLENCE Award for Environmental Well-being; and
- EXCELLENCE Award for Cultural Well-being.

In addition, one or more individuals will be awarded the *Outstanding Contribution to Local Government Award*, and the conference dinner sponsor will also select the *Local EXCELLENCE Award* from among the finalists.

It is important to note that councils who have yet to participate in the Programme are at this stage still eligible to apply for the EXCELLENCE Awards.

EXCELLENCE Awards general criteria

To be considered worthy of an award, the project should not be merely a good idea yet to be demonstrated in practice. It must have been implemented to the point where the results are tangible. Evaluative evidence should be available to demonstrate that what the application was intended to achieve is being achieved. Some applications may take several years for the results to be tested or become visible. All entries will be judged on the real world outcomes for communities, not the process used to get there (regardless of good it is).

Entries should include a description of the real world benefits of the application and present some discussion of costs. Significance can be local, regional or national and should not be valued solely on the grounds of size and scale of benefits, it should present some discussion of costs also. It is not the size of the project that your entry will be judged on, but the positive change it made to the well-being of your community.

It is also desirable that the application's content has the potential to be replicated in some shape or form by other councils or locals government organisations.

Each of the entries will be judged according to criteria specific to each category as well as the following general criteria:

Leadership

- Demonstrates a clear vision, strategy and set of objectives;
- Presents good practice through decision-making and results;
- Demonstrates a commitment to openness and accountability;
- Presents exemplar leadership to others in the sector through professionalism and achievement; and
- The council exhibits meaningful engagement with iwi/hapū.

Innovation

- Demonstrates innovative and strategic approaches through research, creative concepts, new technologies or new policy development;
- Demonstrates cutting edge technology, or innovative business model development;
- Presents a cost-effective solution to an evident problem; and
- Demonstrates a collaborative partnership approach to service delivery involving other parties and/or a number of councils.

Results

- Demonstrates a measurable improvement in community well-being;
- Demonstrates an improvement in organisational performance in terms of productivity, and/or the quality of services provided;
- Demonstrates positive and effective impact on the quality of service to customers and communities; and
- Demonstrates positive and effective impact on New Zealanders' participation in, and satisfaction with, the processes of local government.

Specific awards criteria

EXCELLENCE Award for Environmental Well-being

The Award will be given to a Council with a project or programme that:

- has enhanced the environmental wellbeing of its city, district or region; and /or
- demonstrates a sustainable process, with durable results; and/or
- instances where significant improvements in health and safety have taken place.

EXCELLENCE Award for Economic Well-being

The Award will be given to a Council with a project or programme that:

- has enhanced the economic wellbeing of its city, district or region; and/or
- is responsible for sustained improvements in the performance of the Council or authority, while building organisational capability; and/or

- demonstrates strong adaptive ability to ensure effective performance in different contexts over time.

EXCELLENCE Award for Social Well-being

The Award will be given to a Council with a project or programme that

- has enhanced the social wellbeing of its city, district or region and/or
- demonstrates strong community involvement in the designated project of programme; and/or
- demonstrates improvement in the integration of information, service delivery and processes across the Council or authority, to ensure that the organisation is responsive, and citizen-centric.

EXCELLENCE Award for Cultural Well-being

The Award will be given to a Council with a project or programme that:

- enables its city, district or region to participate in or experience an arts and culture activity that delivers value for the community; and/or
- delivers accessible and responsive experiences or services that reflect the diversity of ethnic and social groups in their community; and/or
- supports the development of strong New Zealand arts and cultural identity and/or demonstrates support for the New Zealand arts sector.

Other awards

Local EXCELLENCE Award

Drawn from all finalists, one council will be presented with the Local EXCELLENCE Award in recognition of the increased value, benefit or improvements to the overall well-being of the people within their town, city, district or region, delivered through outstanding best practice governance and community engagement, and environmental, economic, social and cultural well-being.

EXCELLENCE Award for Outstanding Contribution to Local Government

This award will be presented to one or more individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to local government. This Award will be chosen by the National Council of LGNZ. Both National Council and LGNZ will be able to put forward nominations. This award will not be open for nominations to councils like the project awards above.

Eligibility

- Entry is open to any New Zealand local authority or council controlled organisation (CCO). There is no limit on the number of times a single local authority or CCO may enter. Multiple entries in the same category are permitted.
- Late entries will not be permitted.

- Entries can be for any project/programme/initiative that demonstrates, through narratives and documentary evidence, excellence and/or innovation over a cumulative period of not less than two years and concluding not more than one year prior to submission date.
- Awards will be presented at the 2021 LGNZ Conference & EXCELLENCE Awards Dinner being held at Stadium 2000 in Blenheim on Friday 16 July 2021. There is no entry fee, but it is a condition of entry that finalists have at least one representative attend the dinner.
- The judges' decision on the award recipients is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- From time to time LGNZ invites selected finalists to present their entries at various LGNZ events. It is a condition of entry that the entrant organisation agrees that it will make itself available to present at up to two such events (prior to 31 December 2021) if called upon with LGNZ covering any required travel costs. LGNZ will endeavour to give reasonable notice in respect to this requirement.
- All organisations that enter must provide LGNZ with assurances that all material included within their entry is theirs to use. It is a condition of entry that entrants agree to indemnify LGNZ from any financial or non-financial consequences in the event that their entry contains intellectual property that belongs to a third party. LGNZ reserves the right to request amendments or reject an entry under this clause.
- LGNZ reserves the right to reject entries that exceed the word limits prescribed.

How to apply

Expression of Interest

Councils interested in submitting an entry are invited to complete an Expression of Interest form first. This is essentially a shorter version of a full EXCELLENCE Award entry, and is intended to make the shortlisting process as easy and efficient for judges and entrants alike. It should be noted that EOI entries should aim to meet the judging criteria set out above, particularly the focus on measureable outcomes.

For Expression of Interest forms to be considered we need to receive the following:

- A completed and signed written EOI as prescribed in this form.
- Confirmation of your intention to participate in a two to three-minute video of your project (if a finalist) suitable for display at the LGNZ Conference & EXCELLENCE Awards dinner, social media and on LGNZ's website. The video will summarise the key points of your entry and will be arranged by LGNZ.
- Confirmation of your intention to have a representative at the LGNZ Conference & EXCELLENCE Awards dinner to represent your Award entry (if a finalist). Please note that a representative/s from your organisation will need to be in attendance.

Completed, signed and scanned **EOI forms** must be submitted by email to Excellence Awards administrator excellenceawards@lgnz.co.nz by 5pm on 19 March 2021 with *2021 LGNZ EXCELLENCE Awards Expression of Interest* in the subject line.

Shortlisted finalist application

For shortlisted finalist application forms to be considered we need to receive the following:

- A completed and signed written application as prescribed in this form.
- Your organisation's logo in a high-resolution format suitable for printing.
- Six high resolution images suitable for printing relating to your project for use in social media and promotional material if needed. Video footage of your project is useful too.

Shortlisted finalists will be required to submit completed, signed and scanned **application forms** by email to Excellence Awards administrator excellenceawards@lgnz.co.nz by 5pm on 30 April 2021 with *2021 LGNZ EXCELLENCE Awards Application* in the subject line.

Awards timeline

Process and timeline detailed below.

EXCELLENCE Awards launched	One day	Mid-late February 2021 (TBC)
Entrants complete Expression of Interest form	Six weeks	Due 19 March 2021
LGNZ to compile EOI forms for assessment	One week	22-26 March 2021
Judges select shortlist	Half day	31 March 2021
LGNZ to notify shortlist	One day	1 April 2021
Shortlist complete full application	Three weeks	Due 30 April 2021
LGNZ to compile applications for assessment	Two days	3-7 May 2021
Judges select award recipients and Sponsor selects overall category recipient	Half day	11 May 2021
LGNZ to notify finalists	One day	14 May 2021
Award recipients notified under embargo	One day	20 May 2021
Finalists publicly announced	One day	20 May 2021
Award recipient videos created with LGNZ	Six weeks	June 2021
Conference dinner and EXCELLENCE Awards recipients announced	One day	Friday 16 July 2021

NB: School holidays Saturday 17 April - Sunday 2 May (includes ANZAC day).