

Product Stewardship Excellence Awards 2022

Awards Criteria and Information for applicants



**Product
Stewardship
Centre of
Excellence**

The Product Stewardship Excellence Awards recognise excellence and action in product stewardship and seek to raise the profile of stewardship in business, government and NGOs.

Timing

Applications open Monday, 1 August 2022 and close Wednesday, 31 August 2022.

The award winners will be announced on Thursday, 27 October 2022.

Enter the awards [here](#).

Award Concept

There are six award categories that schemes, businesses and NGOs can enter, and one category, Product Stewardship Champion of the Year, that will be directly conferred by the Centre of Excellence (see **page 4** for details).

Who can enter

Schemes, businesses, associations, other organisations including NGOs are eligible to enter the awards. Entrants should be guided by the category requirements and clearly articulate how specific criteria have been met.

Submissions

There will be a \$400 fee for each entry in each category. If an organisation or individual wishes to enter the same submission into more than one category, the \$400 fee applies to each category entered.

Award submissions will be uploaded by entrants to our awards portal addressing the entry criteria.

Judges seek written answers to each entry criteria, and supporting information in the form of video, static visual, data or reports are encouraged.

Awards Jury

The Awards jury brings extensive knowledge and expertise in product stewardship, circular economy and business sustainability. Judges have been drawn from business, industry associations, all levels of government, NGOs and research institutions.

The jury for the 2022 comprises:

- Rob Coombs – Managing Director, Interface Australia
- Matt Genever – Interim Chief Executive Officer, Sustainability Victoria
- Brandon Gien – Chief Executive Officer, Good Design Australia
- Cameron Hutchison – Assistant Secretary, Waste Policy and Planning, DCCEE
- Dr Helen Lewis – Adjunct Professor, UTS Institute for Sustainable Futures
- Tom Metzner – President, Product Stewardship Institute
- Meredith Newell – Project Officer, Local Government Association of the Northern Territory
- Tennant Reed – Head of Climate, Energy and Environment Policy, Australian Industry Group
- Jason Robertson – Director, Policy, Sustainability and Impact, Australian Retailers Association
- Suzanne Toumbourou – Chief Executive Officer, Australian Council of Recycling
- Alex Young – Director, Container Deposit Scheme, NSW EPA

The jury will be chaired by Professor Damien Giurco, Director, Product Stewardship Centre of Excellence and Associate Director Research at UTS Institute for Sustainable Futures.



**Best Stewardship Outcomes
Collective Scheme**



**Best Stewardship Outcomes
Individual Business or Brand
(Large companies)**



**Best Stewardship Outcomes
Individual Business or Brand
(SMEs)**



**Excellence in Design
for Product Stewardship**



**Excellence in Digitalisation
for Product Stewardship**



**Excellence in Emissions
Reduction through
Product Stewardship**



**Product Stewardship
Champion of the Year**

Awards/Prizes

There is one winner per category. Winners will be provided a trophy and awards artwork for use on email signatures, websites and social media.

Awards Promotion

The awards will be promoted through the Centre's channels, Australian Industry Group and Department channels. Targeted public relations and media by the Centre will highlight specific category winners to further recognise excellence and action in product stewardship and seek to raise the profile of stewardship in business, Government and NGOs.

Sponsorship

The Centre is seeking sponsors at the following levels:

- **Gold Sponsor: \$10,000** (one sponsor only)
- **Silver Sponsor: \$7,500** (one sponsor only)
- **Bronze Sponsor: \$5000** (one sponsor only)

Sponsors will be acknowledged on the awards website, the Centre's social media channels, media releases, at the awards ceremony and on all awards materials. We have a database of close to 900 individuals and organisations passionate about product stewardship.

Most of all, sponsors will be demonstrating their commitment to excellence in product stewardship. Further information for potential sponsors can be found in our sponsorship prospectus.

More information

Email: awards@stewardshipexcellence.com.au

www.stewardshipexcellence.com.au

 **@StewardshipAU**

Award Categories and Criteria

There are six award categories that schemes, businesses, associations and other organisations including NGOs can enter, and one category, Product Stewardship Champion of the Year, that will be directly conferred by the Centre of Excellence.

CATEGORY	CRITERIA
1. Best Stewardship Outcomes - Collective Scheme	<p>This award is open to product stewardship collective schemes representing more than one business or brand, and covers four components of product stewardship.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Circular design features and performanceManufacture, use and end-of-lifeConsumer engagementSocial and economic outcomes <p>Entrants need to demonstrate through submission of data, case studies and third-party evaluation or references, how stewardship has provided environmental and human benefits within the product or material's life cycle.</p> <p>Judges have five points to award against each of the four criteria (20 points overall).</p> <p>Each criteria states mandatory requirements for award submissions, and, explanatory notes for judges and entrants.</p> <p>1. Circular design features and performance</p> <p>Submissions should describe and demonstrate how product design and development among member companies is being used to deliver circular design outcomes that enable improved product stewardship outcomes.</p> <p>Submissions should describe and demonstrate how the product stewardship scheme or program contributed to these circular design outcomes among member businesses or brands.</p> <p><i>Notes</i> <i>Submissions are encouraged to cover, but are not limited to, improvements in durability, reparability, reusability, recyclability, elimination of hazardous substances, safe use of chemicals, product safety and human health.</i></p> <p>2. Manufacture, use and end-of-life</p> <p>Submissions should describe and demonstrate how member companies are delivering excellence in supply chain management from raw materials sourcing (including creating demand for recycled materials as raw material) manufacturing efficiency, product use and reuse, and end-of-life management. Judges will be looking for where collective action fostered by product stewardship has created benefits.</p>

CATEGORY	CRITERIA
<p>1. Best Stewardship Outcomes - Collective Scheme (continued)</p>	<p><i>Notes</i> Submissions are encouraged to cover, but are not limited to, innovation and change in production through attention to better product design and materials choices, responsible supply chain practices and efficient resource use including cleaner production and emissions management and/or use of renewable energy and decarbonised logistics.</p> <p>Clear evidence, data and/or case studies showing excellence and innovation in product stewardship outcomes at the use and end-of- life stage will be favorably judged. This may include attention to consumer information promoting better product use, innovative business models, high quality and more durable products, as well as repair services and product buy-back. End-of-life features may include providing take-back services and improving access and convenience as well as improved material recovery, recycling and developing new end-markets.</p> <p>Judges understand that some schemes may focus mainly on end of life, and entries that focus on some but not all aspects of supply chain management will be competitive.</p> <p>3. Consumer and user awareness/engagement</p> <p>Submissions should describe and demonstrate how member companies and the collective maximise consumer and user awareness of the product stewardship scheme.</p> <p><i>Notes</i> Judges are looking for clear evidence, data and or case-studies showing how stakeholder engagement is an ongoing and positive process in the scheme's operation.</p> <p>High scoring schemes or initiatives will demonstrate excellence and innovation in effectively communicating the role, benefit and value of product stewardship.</p> <p>4. Social and economic outcomes</p> <p>Submissions should describe and demonstrate how the scheme, program and member companies, through a product stewardship approach, create social and economic benefit.</p> <p><i>Notes</i> Judges will be looking for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clear evidence, data and or case-studies demonstrating the economic benefits of the scheme or initiative • clear evidence, data and or case-studies demonstrating the social benefits of the scheme or initiative <p>Benefits can be framed in terms of, but not limited to, return on investment, job and skill creation, positive impacts on local communities, health and safety outcomes and dealing with issues such as modern slavery and conflict minerals.</p>

CATEGORY	CRITERIA
<p>2. Best Stewardship Outcomes – Individual Business or Brand (Large companies)</p>	<p>This category is specifically for large businesses with 200 + employees.</p> <p>This award is open to single businesses or brands (not schemes or collectives), and covers four components of product stewardship:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Circular design features and performance Manufacture, use and end-of-life Consumer awareness and engagement Social and economic outcomes <p>Entrants need to demonstrate through submission of data, case studies and third-party evaluation or references, how stewardship has provided environmental and social benefits within the product or material's life cycle.</p> <p>Judges have five points to award against each of the four criteria (20 points overall).</p> <p>Each criteria states mandatory requirements for award submissions, and explanatory notes for judges and entrants.</p> <p>1. Circular design features and performance</p> <p>Submissions should describe and demonstrate, where relevant, how product development is being used to deliver circular design outcomes that enable or facilitate improved product stewardship outcomes.</p> <p>Submissions should describe and demonstrate how the program within a brand or business contributed to these outcomes.</p> <p><i>Notes</i> <i>Submissions are encouraged to cover, but are not limited to, improvements in durability, reparability, reusability, recyclability, elimination of hazardous substances, safe use of chemicals, product safety and human health.</i></p> <p>2. Manufacture, use and end-of-life</p> <p>Submissions should describe and demonstrate how the brand or business is delivering excellence in supply chain management from raw materials sourcing (including creating demand for recycled materials as raw material), manufacturing efficiency, supply chain operation and end-of-life management.</p> <p>Judges will be looking for where action fostered by product stewardship has created benefits and delivered measurable impact.</p>

CATEGORY	CRITERIA
<p>2. Best Stewardship Outcomes – Individual Business or Brand (Large companies) (continued)</p>	<p><i>Notes</i> Submissions are encouraged to cover, but are not limited to, innovation and change in materials sourcing and recycled content, energy (carbon intensity) and water use, waste avoidance across the supply chain, cleaner production techniques, low impact and efficient logistics.</p> <p>Clear evidence, data and/or case studies showing excellence and innovation in product stewardship outcomes at the post-consumer or end-of-life stage will be favourably judged.</p> <p>Judges understand that some schemes may focus mainly on end-of-life, and entries that focus on some but not all aspects of supply chain management will be competitive.</p> <p>3. Consumer and user awareness/engagement</p> <p>Submissions should describe and demonstrate how the business or brand maximises consumer and user awareness of product stewardship.</p> <p><i>Notes</i> Judges are looking for clear evidence, data and or case-studies showing how stakeholder engagement is an ongoing and positive process in the scheme’s operation.</p> <p>High scoring schemes or initiatives will demonstrate excellence and innovation in effectively communicating the role, benefit and value of product stewardship.</p> <p>4. Social and economic outcomes</p> <p>Submissions should describe and demonstrate how the initiative, through a product stewardship approach, creates social and economic benefit.</p> <p><i>Notes</i> Judges will be looking for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clear evidence, data and or case-studies demonstrating the economic benefits of the initiative; and • clear evidence, data and or case-studies demonstrating the social benefits of the initiative. <p>Benefits can be framed in terms of, but not limited to, return on investment, job and skill creation, positive impacts on local communities, health and safety outcomes and dealing with issues such as modern slavery and conflict minerals.</p>

CATEGORY	CRITERIA
<p>3. Best Stewardship Outcomes – Individual Business or Brand (SMEs)</p>	<p>This category is specifically for Small and Medium Enterprises with up to 199 employees.</p> <p>This award is open to single businesses or brands (not schemes or collectives), and covers four components of product stewardship:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Circular design features and performance b. Manufacture, use and end-of-life c. Consumer awareness and engagement d. Social and economic outcomes <p>Entrants need to demonstrate through submission of data, case studies and third-party evaluation or references, how stewardship has provided environmental and social benefits within the product or material's life cycle.</p> <p>Judges have five points to award against each of the four criteria (20 points overall).</p> <p>Each criteria states mandatory requirements for award submissions, and explanatory notes for judges and entrants.</p> <p>1. Circular design features and performance</p> <p>Submissions should describe and demonstrate, where relevant, how product development is being used to deliver circular design outcomes that enable or facilitate improved product stewardship outcomes.</p> <p>Submissions should describe and demonstrate how the program within a brand or business contributed to these outcomes.</p> <p><i>Notes</i> <i>Submissions are encouraged to cover, but are not limited to, improvements in durability, reparability, reusability, recyclability, elimination of hazardous substances, safe use of chemicals, product safety and human health.</i></p> <p>2. Manufacture, use and end-of-life</p> <p>Submissions should describe and demonstrate how the brand or business is delivering excellence in supply chain management from raw materials sourcing (including creating demand for recycled materials as raw material), manufacturing efficiency, supply chain operation and end-of-life management.</p> <p>Judges will be looking for where action fostered by product stewardship has created benefits and delivered measurable impact.</p>

CATEGORY	CRITERIA
<p>3. Best Stewardship Outcomes – Individual Business or Brand (SMEs) (continued)</p>	<p><i>Notes</i> Submissions are encouraged to cover, but are not limited to, innovation and change in materials sourcing and recycled content, energy (carbon intensity) and water use, waste avoidance across the supply chain, cleaner production techniques, low impact and efficient logistics.</p> <p>Clear evidence, data and/or case studies showing excellence and innovation in product stewardship outcomes at the post-consumer or end-of-life stage will be favourably judged.</p> <p>Judges understand that some schemes may focus mainly on end-of-life, and entries that focus on some but not all aspects of supply chain management will be competitive.</p> <p>3. Consumer and user awareness/engagement</p> <p>Submissions should describe and demonstrate how the business or brand maximises consumer and user awareness of product stewardship.</p> <p><i>Notes</i> Judges are looking for clear evidence, data and or case-studies showing how stakeholder engagement is an ongoing and positive process in the scheme’s operation.</p> <p>High scoring schemes or initiatives will demonstrate excellence and innovation in effectively communicating the role, benefit and value of product stewardship.</p> <p>4. Social and economic outcomes</p> <p>Submissions should describe and demonstrate how the initiative, through a product stewardship approach, creates social and economic benefit.</p> <p><i>Notes</i> Judges will be looking for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clear evidence, data and or case-studies demonstrating the economic benefits of the initiative; and • clear evidence, data and or case-studies demonstrating the social benefits of the initiative. <p>Benefits can be framed in terms of, but not limited to, return on investment, job and skill creation, positive impacts on local communities, health and safety outcomes and dealing with issues such as modern slavery and conflict minerals.</p>

CATEGORY	CRITERIA
<p>4. Excellence in Design for Product Stewardship</p>	<p>This award recognises the role and value of circular design that enables or achieves positive stewardship outcomes across the product life cycle. This award has a particular focus on product design as a creative and technical approach that maximises sustainability performance and addresses key circular economy principles.</p> <p>This award is open to single businesses or brands (not schemes or collectives), and covers the key circular economy objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Designing-out waste and pollution b. Prolonging the life, value and circularity of products c. Restorative and regenerative outcomes d. Activating sustainable consumption patterns <p>Judges have five points to award against each of the four criteria (20 points overall).</p> <p>1. How waste, pollution and emissions have been designed-out of a product and/or product system</p> <p>Judges are looking for the problem or opportunity that design is addressing, and evidence of effectiveness and impact that enables stronger stewardship outcomes. This may include, but is not limited to specific material choices that maximise renewable materials, post-consumer recycled content, the elimination of hazardous substances and chemicals, or design features that result in safe and efficient use of products. It may also include design decisions that reduce greenhouse gases and are focused on decarbonisation.</p> <p>2. How design has contributed to prolonging the life, value and circularity of products</p> <p>Judges will want to understand how the design process resulted in products and/or product-systems that prolong the life of products through improved durability and reparability, greater reuse, sharing, leasing, and/or increased levels of recyclability and recycling. How was design harnessed to keep products, components and materials circulating in the economy and is there evidence of closed loop solutions.</p> <p>3. How design has resulted in restorative and regenerative outcomes</p> <p>Judges are looking for evidence that a design-led process or product design outcome has contributed to building economic, environmental and social capital. Has design resulted in a noteworthy positive impact as opposed to ‘less harm’?</p>

CATEGORY	CRITERIA
<p>4. Excellence in Design for Product Stewardship (continued)</p>	<p>4. The role of design activating sustainable consumption patterns</p> <p>Submissions should describe or demonstrate how design across different domains or disciplines has been utilised to achieve or enable tangible stewardship outcomes across the product life cycle that encourage new patterns of consumption that are circular and sustainable. How has circular design been applied in specific disciplines such as industrial and products design, textiles and fashion design, graphic design and visual communication, service design and digital design.</p> <p><i>Notes</i> Judges will be looking for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clear evidence, data and/or case-studies demonstrating a design-led approach • benefits of the initiative; and • clear evidence, data and or case-studies demonstrating specific circular design features and performance outcomes • clear evidence that design thinking and systems thinking were major priorities for a particular product, range of products or related initiative. <p>High scoring initiatives will show evidence, data and/or case-studies of how good design was applied to educate, inform, engage and activate consumers in a way that enabled or achieve improved stewardship outcomes.</p>



CATEGORY	CRITERIA
<p>5. Excellence in Digitalisation for Product Stewardship</p>	<p>This award recognises use of digital thinking and technology in schemes, initiatives or program operations, communications and/or education to maximise sustainability performance and circularity. This category is open to product stewardship initiatives including collective schemes and individual business initiatives and brands.</p> <p>Judges have five points to award against each of the four criteria (20 points overall).</p> <p>1. How digital thinking was embedded into scheme/ company program design</p> <p>Judges are looking for the problem or opportunity that digitisation is addressing, and, evidence of effectiveness and impact. This may include, but is not limited to, product and material tracking, data collection, billing systems, forecasting and engaging communications.</p> <p>2. How technology platforms or bespoke systems were assessed and selected</p> <p>Judges will want to understand how the process was undertaken to deliver the outcome, and, was the outcome innovative compared to industry standards.</p> <p>3. Specific attention to social responsibility associated with technology use</p> <p>Judges will assess whether the outcome addressed accessibility, online safety and privacy, and, systems in place to ensure reliable content and credible fact-based information was presented.</p> <p>4. Demonstrating the value-add of digital thinking in terms of (including, but not limited to)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circular design features/performance • Manufacture, use and end-of-life • Consumer and user awareness/engagement • Social and economic outcomes

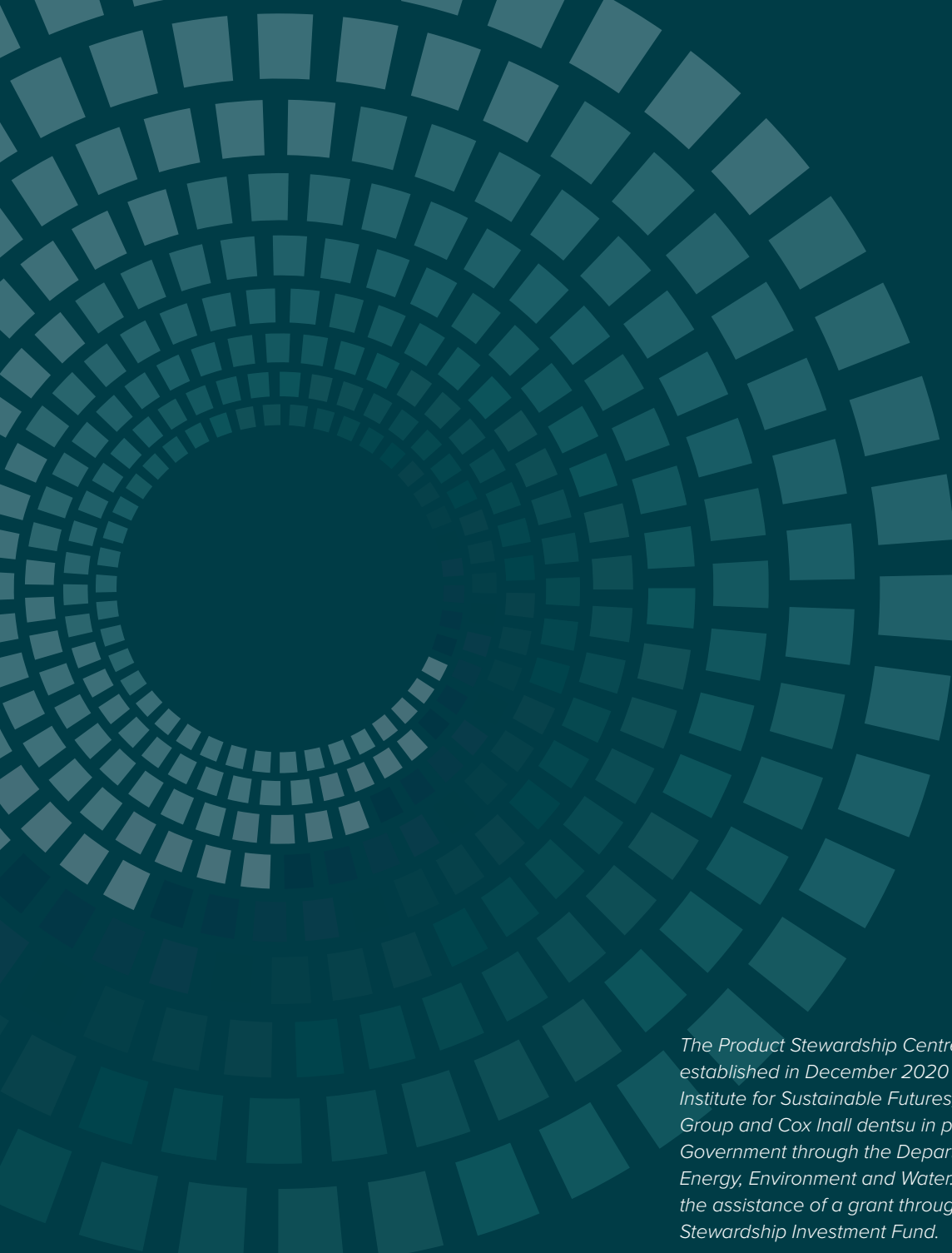
CATEGORY	CRITERIA
<p>6. Excellence in Emissions Reduction through Product Stewardship</p>	<p>This award recognises demonstrated action to eliminate and/or reduce greenhouse gas emissions directly associated with the development and implementation of a product stewardship initiative.</p> <p>The award seeks to recognise greenhouse gas emission reductions achieved by a collective scheme or an individual business initiative either within its operations and/or in the manufacture, use or end of life of the product/s.</p> <p>This category is open to product stewardship initiatives including collective schemes and individual business initiatives and brands, and covers four components of product stewardship:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Circular design features and performance b. Manufacture, use and end-of-life c. Consumer awareness and engagement d. Social and economic outcomes <p>Entrants need to demonstrate through submission of data, case studies and evidence, how stewardship has demonstrated action to eliminate and/or reduce greenhouse gas emissions directly associated with their product stewardship initiative.</p> <p>Judges have five points to award against each of the four criteria (20 points overall).</p> <p>Each criteria states mandatory requirements for award submissions, and explanatory notes for judges and entrants.</p> <p>1. Circular design features and performance</p> <p>Submissions should demonstrate how specific design features and strategies in a scheme, program or business or brand eliminated or reduced emissions that contribute to climate change. Submissions should provide evidence, data and/or case studies that clearly explain how emissions reduction was a key product stewardship outcome.</p> <p><u>Notes</u> <i>Judges will be looking for:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>clear evidence, data and/or case-studies demonstrating a design-led approach to emissions reduction;</i> • <i>clear evidence, data and or case-studies demonstrating measurable performance outcomes;</i> • <i>clear evidence that emissions reduction was a priority activity as part of the development and implementation of a product stewardship scheme or company initiative; and</i> • <i>clear evidence, data and or case-studies demonstrating the use of renewable energy and noteworthy levels of energy productivity where relevant.</i>

CATEGORY	CRITERIA
<p>6. Excellence in Emissions Reduction through Product Stewardship (continued)</p>	<p>2. Manufacture, use and end-of-life</p> <p>Submissions should demonstrate how the initiative is delivering excellence in emissions reduction. From raw materials sourcing (including creating demand for low-carbon materials or recycled materials as raw material), manufacturing and process efficiency, product use, reuse and repair to end-of-life management and reducing transport emissions.</p> <p>Judges will be looking for where action fostered by product stewardship has created benefits and delivered measurable emissions reduction.</p> <p><i>Notes</i> Judges will be looking for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clear evidence, data and or case-studies demonstrating measurable performance outcomes; • clear evidence that emissions reduction was/is a priority activity across the product life cycle as it related to the implementation of a product stewardship initiative; and • clear evidence, data and or case-studies demonstrating the use of renewable energy and noteworthy levels of energy productivity where relevant. <p>3. Consumer and user awareness and engagement</p> <p>Submissions should demonstrate how the initiative communicated, informed and educated consumers and users about emissions reduction activities. Additionally, submissions should demonstrate how the use of services and or membership in initiative contributes to emission reductions.</p> <p><i>Notes</i> Judges will be looking for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clear evidence, data and/or case-studies demonstrating an explicit awareness-raising approach to communicating the emissions reduction activities; • clear evidence that emissions reduction was a priority activity as part of the development and implementation of a product stewardship initiative; and • clear evidence, data and or case-studies demonstrating the use of renewable energy and noteworthy levels of energy productivity where relevant.

CATEGORY	CRITERIA
<p>6. Excellence in Emissions Reduction through Product Stewardship (continued)</p>	<p>4. Shift to renewable energy and/or energy efficiency</p> <p>Submissions should demonstrate how product stewardship led to a shift to renewable energy or greater energy efficiency.</p> <p><i>Notes</i> Judges will be looking for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clear evidence, data and or case-studies demonstrating measurable performance outcomes; • clear evidence that emissions reduction was a priority activity as part of the development and implementation of a product stewardship initiative; and • clear evidence, data and or case-studies demonstrating the use of renewable energy and noteworthy levels of energy efficiency.

CATEGORY	CRITERIA
<p>Product Stewardship Champion of the Year</p>	<p>The Centre directors will identify and directly award (no entries accepted or required) an Australian individual or team who has had a singular impact in leadership, technology, policy or operations that has driven product stewardship forward in Australia in 2022.</p> <p>The individual or team may be involved in a business, a collective scheme, an industry association, government, NGO or social enterprise. Relentless persistence, focus, commitment and impact are qualities to be acknowledged.</p>





The Product Stewardship Centre of Excellence was established in December 2020 by a consortium of UTS Institute for Sustainable Futures, the Australian Industry Group and Cox Inall dentsu in partnership with the Australian Government through the Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water. It was established with the assistance of a grant through the National Product Stewardship Investment Fund.

More information

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