



Product Stewardship Excellence Awards 2023

Awards Criteria and
Information for applicants



**Product
Stewardship
Centre of
Excellence**

The Product Stewardship Centre of Excellence is proud to launch its Product Stewardship Excellence Awards program for 2023. Our program recognises excellence and action in product stewardship and seeks to raise the profile of stewardship in business, government and NGOs. The aim is to celebrate outstanding achievements and innovative initiatives that are advancing the principles of product stewardship in Australia.

Timing

Applications open 10 July, 2023 and close 31 August, 2023. Award winners will be announced on Thursday, 2 November 2023.

Enter the awards [here](#).

Award Concept

There are six award categories that organisations 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

The awards are open to organisations from diverse backgrounds and sectors, including, business, government, technology, NGOs and social enterprise organisations. Entrants should be guided by the category requirements and clearly articulate how specific criteria have been met.

Submissions

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

Award submissions need to be uploaded by entrants to our awards portal addressing the key criteria.

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

Our Judging Panel

The judging panel brings extensive knowledge and expertise in product stewardship, circular economy, and business sustainability. Our judges have been drawn from business, industry associations, all levels of government, NGOs and research intuitions.

The judging panel for 2023:

- **Pip Kiernan** – Chair, Clean up Australia
- **Chloe Bird** – Branch Head, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment & Water
- **Dr Brenden Gien** – Chief Executive Officer, Good Design Australia
- **Tom Metzner** – President, Product Stewardship Institute
- **Jason Robertson** – Director Policy, Sustainability ad Impact, Australian Retailers Association
- **Justine Rowe** – Chief Sustainability Officer, Telstra
- **Kathy Giunta** – Director, Circular Economy Projects, NSW Environment Protection Authority
- **Omer Soker** – Chief Executive Officer, Charitable Recycling Australia
- **Rebecca Brown** – Manager, Waste & Environment, Western Australia Local Government Association
- **Gayle Sloan** – Chief Executive Officer, Waste Management & Resource Recovery Association

The judging panel is being 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

Award Winners

There is one winner per category. Winners will be presented with a trophy and digital assets to use on email signatures, websites and social media.

Awards Promotion

The awards program will be promoted through the Centre's network of stakeholders. Targeted public relations and media by the Centre will highlight specific category winners to further celebrate excellence and action in product stewardship, seeking to raise the profile of stewardship in business, government, and NGOs.

Sponsors for 2023

GOLD



SILVER

hmd.

BRONZE



KINGFISHER

Award Categories and Criteria

There are six categories that organisations can enter, and an additional category, Product Stewardship Champion of the Year that will be conferred by the directors of 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> <p>Entrants should demonstrate how their company initiative, product or product-service approach reflects a strong design-led approach that achieves measurable circularity and sustainability outcomes by design.</p> <p>Judges will assess the following four components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Circular design features and production benefits2. Consumption activities and benefits3. Post consumption activities and benefits4. Social and economic outcomes <p>You will need to demonstrate these outcomes through submission of data, case studies and third party evaluation or references and how stewardship has provided environmental and human benefits within the product or material's lifecycle.</p> <p>Judges will allocate 20 points against each of the four criteria. Each criteria have mandatory requirements for the award submission. Use the following explanatory notes for guidance:</p> <h2>1. Circular design features and performance</h2> <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><u>Notes</u> <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> |

| CATEGORY | CRITERIA |
|---|---|
| 1. Best Stewardship Outcomes – Collective Scheme (continued) | <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> <p><u>Notes</u> <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.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></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><u>Notes</u> <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.</i></p> <p><i>High scoring schemes or initiatives will demonstrate excellence and innovation in effectively communicating the role, benefit and value of product stewardship.</i></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><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 the economic benefits of the scheme or initiative</i> <i>clear evidence, data and or case-studies demonstrating the social benefits of the scheme or initiative</i> <p><i>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.</i></p> |

| CATEGORY | CRITERIA |
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| 2. Best Stewardship Outcomes – Individual Business or Brand (Large companies) | <p>This category is specifically for large businesses with over 200 employees. The award is open to single business or brands, not schemes or collectives.</p> <p>Entrants need to demonstrate how their stewardship strategy, program or activity has helped eliminate or reduce the environmental and human health impacts across the product or material lifecycle. The award is open to single businesses or brands, not schemes or collectives.</p> <p>Judges will assess the following four components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Circular design features and production benefits 2. Consumption activities and benefits 3. Post consumption activities and benefits 4. Social and economic outcomes <p>You will need to demonstrate these outcomes through submission of data, case studies and third party evaluation or references and how stewardship has provided environmental and human benefits within the product or material's lifecycle.</p> <p>Judges will allocate 20 points against each of the four criteria. Each criteria have mandatory requirements for the award submission. Use the following explanatory notes for guidance:</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> <p><i>Notes</i> <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.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> |

| CATEGORY | CRITERIA |
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| 2. Best Stewardship Outcomes – Individual Business or Brand (Large companies) (continued) | <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><u>Notes</u> <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.</i></p> <p><i>High scoring schemes or initiatives will demonstrate excellence and innovation in effectively communicating the role, benefit and value of product stewardship.</i></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><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 the economic benefits of the initiative; and</i> • <i>clear evidence, data and or case-studies demonstrating the social benefits of the initiative.</i> <p><i>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.</i></p> |



| CATEGORY | CRITERIA |
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| 3. Best Stewardship Outcomes – Individual Business or Brand (SMEs) | <p>This category is specifically for small to medium enterprises with up to 199 employees. The award is open to single business or brands, not schemes or collectives.</p> <p>Entrants need to demonstrate how their stewardship strategy, program or activity has helped eliminate or reduce the environmental and human health impacts across the product or material lifecycle. The award is open to single businesses or brands, not schemes or collectives.</p> <p>Judges will assess the following four components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Circular design features and production benefits 2. Consumption activities and benefits 3. Post consumption activities and benefits 4. Social and economic outcomes <p>You will need to demonstrate these outcomes through submission of data, case studies and third party evaluation or references and how stewardship has provided environmental and human benefits within the product or material's lifecycle.</p> <p>Judges will allocate 20 points against each of the four criteria. Each criteria have mandatory requirements for the award submission. Use the following explanatory notes for guidance:</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> |

| CATEGORY | CRITERIA |
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| 3. Best Stewardship Outcomes – Individual Business or Brand (SMEs) (continued) | <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> <p><u>Notes</u> <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.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></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><u>Notes</u> <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.</i></p> <p><i>High scoring schemes or initiatives will demonstrate excellence and innovation in effectively communicating the role, benefit and value of product stewardship.</i></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><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 the economic benefits of the initiative; and</i> <i>clear evidence, data and or case-studies demonstrating the social benefits of the initiative.</i> <p><i>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.</i></p> |

| CATEGORY | CRITERIA |
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| 4. Excellence in Design for Product Stewardship | <p>This award recognises the role and value of circular design that enables or achieves positive stewardship outcomes across the product lifecycle. The award has particular focus on product design as a creative and technical approach that maximises sustainability performance and addresses key circular principles.</p> <p>Entrants must demonstrate how a company initiative, product or product service approach reflects a strong design led approach that achieves measurable secularity and sustainability outcomes by design.</p> <p>Judges will assess the following four components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Designing out waste and pollution 2. Prolonging the lifespan value and functionality of products, components, and materials 3. Fostering regenerative and restorative outcomes 4. Encouraging responsible consumption patterns <p>Design disciplines and domains can encompass industrial and product design, fashion and textile design, graphic and visual communication, service and digital design, or a combination of these.</p> <p>You will need to demonstrate these outcomes through submission of data, case studies and third party evaluation or references and how stewardship has provided environmental and human benefits within the product or material's lifecycle.</p> <p>Judges will allocate 20 points against each of the four criteria. Each criteria have mandatory requirements for the award submission. Use the following explanatory notes for guidance:</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> |

| CATEGORY | CRITERIA |
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| 4. Excellence in Design for Product Stewardship (continued) | <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> <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><u>Notes</u> 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 |
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| 5. Excellence in Digitalisation for Product Stewardship | <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>Entrants should demonstrate how the innovative use of digital technology has improved sustainability outcomes and promoted circularity in your product stewardship scheme, product or initiative in terms of operations and promoting awareness to maximise sustainability performance.</p> <p>Judges will allocate 20 points against each of the four criteria. Each criteria have mandatory requirements for the award submission. Use the following explanatory notes for guidance:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How digital thinking was embedded into scheme/ company program design <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> 2. How technology platforms or bespoke systems were assessed and selected <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> 3. Specific attention to social responsibility associated with technology use <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> 4. Demonstrating the value-add of digital thinking in terms of (including, but not limited to) <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 |
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| 6. Excellence in Emissions Reduction through Product Stewardship | <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>It seeks to recognise greenhouse gas emission reductions achieved by a collective scheme or an individual business. Judges will allocate 20 points against each of the four criteria.</p> <p>Judges will assess the following four components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Circular design features and production benefits 2. Consumption activities and benefits 3. Post consumption activities and benefits 4. Social and economic outcomes <p>You will need to demonstrate these outcomes through submission of data, case studies and third party evaluation or references and how stewardship has provided environmental and human benefits within the product or material's lifecycle.</p> <p>Judges will allocate 20 points against each of the four criteria. Each criteria have mandatory requirements for the award submission. Use the following explanatory notes for guidance:</p> <h3>1. Circular design features and performance</h3> <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> Judges will be looking for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clear evidence, data and/or case-studies demonstrating a design-led approach to emissions reduction; • 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 scheme or company 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 |
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| 6. Excellence in Emissions Reduction through Product Stewardship (continued) | <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><u>Notes</u> 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><u>Notes</u> 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. <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><u>Notes</u> 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 |
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| Product Stewardship Champion of the Year | <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 2023.</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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