

# **TropEco Sustainability Awards 2014 - Guidelines**

TropEco is calling for nominations for the fourth annual TropEco Awards for James Cook University to be held in **Townsville on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October** and **Cairns on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October**. All JCU staff and students are eligible for the awards and may attend the ceremony to celebrate the JCU community's achievements in sustainable practices.

Nominations can be made by any JCU employee or student, and people may nominate themselves for an award. Groups of people, Colleges or Offices may also be nominated for all awards except the TropEco Excellence Award.

This year a new category – The TropFutures Award - will recognise a local school for their work through the TropFutures program. Schools involved with the program may nominate themselves for the award.

An award for Research has been added this year. This will recognise outstanding research relating to an aspect of sustainability and/or research that is conducted in a sustainable manner.

All award nominations may also apply for the People's Choice Award, which will be run through the [TropEco facebook page](#) in the lead up to the Awards. Nominee's wishing to nominate for the People's Choice Award should indicate this on their application form and provide the required information as outlined below.

This year there are nine award categories:

- **TropEco Excellence Award - Staff**
- **TropEco Excellence Award – Student**
- **Leadership & Governance**
- **Partnerships & Engagement**
- **Facilities & Operations**
- **Learning & Teaching**
- **Research**
- **TropFutures (Schools award)**
- **People's Choice Award**

The awards align with the sustainability priority areas outlined in the [LiFE Index](#) – a sustainability benchmarking tool designed specifically for tertiary institutions that has been adopted by JCU to move the sustainability agenda forward.

Nominating someone is simple and can be done by filling out the "TropEco Sustainability Awards 2014 – Nomination Form". Click here to download the [PDF version](#) or [Word version](#).

Completed nominations should be emailed to [tropeco@jcu.edu.au](mailto:tropeco@jcu.edu.au)

**Nominations close at 5pm, Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September.**

## **The Award Categories**

Nominations are called for the following award categories.

### **The TropEco Excellence Award - Staff**

This award recognises a JCU staff member who has made a major contribution to sustainability at JCU in one or more areas in 2014. This is the premier staff award for sustainability achievements at JCU.

### **The TropEco Excellence Award - Student**

This award recognises a JCU student who has made a major contribution to sustainability at JCU in one or more areas in 2014. This is the premier student award for sustainability achievements at JCU.

### **Leadership & Governance**

This award recognises someone who has contributed to developing a culture of sustainability at JCU.

The [LiFE Index](#) describes this category as: Building social responsibility and sustainability into institution-wide processes and management systems, ensuring they remain strategically important and are embedded into everyday institutional practices for long-term benefit.

This category includes the Frameworks:

- Human Capital
- Leadership

### **Partnerships & Engagement**

This award recognises someone who has engaged with and/or developed partnerships with the JCU or wider community to help promote a more sustainable society.

The [LiFE Index](#) describes this category as: Building meaningful and productive relationships and engaging with peers to facilitate sustainable outcomes and encourage innovation. These conditions are vital for creating change toward sustainable development.

This category includes the Frameworks:

- Business & Industry Interface
- Community Engagement
- Procurement & Supplier Engagement
- Staff Engagement

## **Facilities & Operations**

This award recognises someone who has contributed to a more sustainable JCU in its operations and/or facilities.

The [LiFE Index](#) describes this category as: Addressing sustainable development through effective environmental management. Delivering low carbon, 21st Century campuses that reflect institutions' commitment to social responsibility and sustainability.

This category includes the Frameworks:

- Biodiversity
- Energy
- Resource Efficiency & Waste
- Sustainable Construction and Renovation
- Sustainable ICT (Information and Communications Technology)
- Transport
- Water

## **Learning & Teaching**

This award recognises someone who has contributed to promoting the values of sustainability through Learning & Teaching.

The [LiFE Index](#) describes this category as: Realising institutions' potential to have a significant, long-term positive impact on society through formal and informal curricula, skills training and development and knowledge transfer. Ensuring students are exposed to learning experiences that maximise their opportunities to graduate as sustainability-literate citizens.

This category includes the Frameworks:

- Learning & Teaching
- Student Engagement

## **Research**

This award recognises outstanding research into an area of sustainability and/or research that is conducted in a sustainable manner.

The [LiFE Index](#) describes this category as: both sustainable research, which relates to research that is set-up and/or delivered in a way that minimises environmental or sustainability impacts, and; research into sustainability, which describes research that contributes to or develops knowledge or understanding of some element of sustainability. That is, research that progresses, improves or assists the environmental, social, cultural and economic frameworks without detrimental effects.

## **TropFutures Award**

This award recognises the sustainability efforts of a school involved in the TropFutures network. Schools can nominate for a specific initiative or the overall sustainability efforts of the school. The nomination should outline the environmental and social benefits their program has demonstrated over the past 12 months.

## **People's Choice Award**

All award nominations are eligible to apply for the People's Choice Award. This will be run through the [TropEco facebook page](#) in the lead up to the Awards. Nominee's wishing to nominate for the People's Choice Award should tick the box on the application form and provide a short description of their project (less than 50 words) and one photograph that captures the essence of the award submission. These will be uploaded to the facebook page and the public will be invited to vote on the People's Choice Award for a two week period leading up to the awards ceremony.

Completed nominations should be emailed to [tropeco@jcu.edu.au](mailto:tropeco@jcu.edu.au) by **5pm on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September**.