



2015 Awards Participant Evaluation

The 2015 Green Gown Awards Australasia took place at the Pier, Geelong, Victoria. With 120 guests from tertiary education, government and business it was a highly enjoyable and successful evening. 43 finalists, with 11 winners and 5 highly commended, representing 11 institutions were recognised for their sustainability excellence in eleven categories.

The ACTS Board considers it extremely important to understand and gain feedback from delegates who submitted applications and attended the Awards ceremony to ensure we improve our services every year. To that end we thank those of you who took the time to respond to our short survey - we have been able to gain some fantastic suggestions to make improvements for next year. Below is an overview of what you had to say based on .

The response for the **overall Green Gown Awards Australasia ceremony and conference dinner*** was extremely positive, with all participants rating it as **Excellent (65%) or Good (35%)**. *Full feedback on the Awards ceremony can be found in the ACTS conference evaluation.

Awards Process Feedback

- I found the online application process easy and straight forward to complete
Strongly agree (27%), **Agree (53%)**, Neutral (7%), Disagree (13%)
- I found the marketing form easy and straight forward to complete
Strongly Agree (27%), **Agree (47%)**, Neutral (7%), Disagree (13%), N/A (7%)
- I found the 3 month time frame enough to complete my application
Strongly agree (33%), **Agree (67%)**

In what way(s) could the application process be improved for the future?

Constructive Feedback	ACTS Response	Will we see it next year?
The questions on the application seem to repeat themselves. I found it difficult to answer the questions, perhaps a different set of questions should be provided for each of the categories. Minimise repetition	The application form is formatted to sit in line with the UK and international Awards for comparability. Each category has its own set of criteria which should be addressed, as well as general questions for all categories. The guidance notes are reviewed annually for clarity.	A full review of the Awards process is done on an annual basis in line with feedback from both the UK and Australasia. All feedback will be considered.
Combine the marketing form and the general application form together and reduce the amount of info needed to be entered on the website - ie: make it one	The individual documents are processed and used differently (for judging, marketing) and at different times. Online data	They will remain separate documents. However a full

piece of paperwork that has a simply link to upload it.	capture is also necessary within the process.	review is underway following feedback.
It would be easier to complete the application if the template application forms allowed more space (not as many boxes that take up page space) so you can utilise the page to get more information in about your project and graphs etc. Or it would be great if you could submit graphs/images that are referenced to sections separately so it didn't take up your wording space allocation on the application form.	The application forms are standardised with the UK and international awards for comparison. However more guidance can be given to suggest ways to maximise the space on the form. Unfortunately no separate documentation is given to judges for logistical purposes so all accompanying data must be contained within the application form.	Guidance notes will be reviewed to accompany the application forms.
The application form is not very well aligned to learning and teaching or individual applicants.	Individual applicants have a separate form to complete which is more appropriate and this will remain.	All full review process is underway.
It was actually straight forward. I wonder if changing too much might risk inadvertently having something unpredictable change for the worse???	Thank you. We balance many aspects to ensure as user friendly a process as possible for all involved.	All feedback is considered wherever possible.

How would you rate the communications for the Awards process:
Excellent (67%), Good (33%)

Selection of feedback:

“Communication is always timely and efficient”

“Very good communication about the status of the application”

“You guys are amazing. So much energy and passion, encouragement and excitement in all your emails. A well oiled machine from all other perspectives”

“I really appreciated the communication all the way through the application process. I am grateful for the effort that has also gone into providing feedback on applications. I have never seen this before in all the years I have been nominating for awards. The feedback we have received is so helpful and encouraging and we already have discussed ways we can improve what we do , particularly in the area of evaluation”.



The Green Gown Awards Australasia will continue to grow in size and scope year on year. What categories would you like to see added in the future?

Categories	ACTS Response
1 Staff Engagement 2 Waste Minimisation 3 Sustainability workplace champion award where Vice Chancellor nominates a staff member in their institution for the award 4 A greenhouse-specific award (one or all types of actions re. reduction / education / research), simply to flag its critical importance 5 Teacher award 6 Innovation and Creativity 7 Sustainability award for small Universities and large universities so the achievements are identified in context of the institutional size and geographic location 8 Student award	<p>There is a separate ACTS Award of Excellence for staff and students. All staff members can be recognised at any level, and nominated by anyone, as well as students. For senior level executives there is the Leadership Award introduced in 2015. For all group activities, individual categories are appropriate. For the Continuous Improvement: Institutional change category there is a dual winners system – a small institution winner and large institution winner, are eligible if the judges deem the quality of applications high enough. This is to recognise the difference between small and large institutions. However all categories are open to all institutions regardless of size. It is a standing review to determine if other categories will follow depending on the size of the Awards.</p> <p>ACTS is committed to increasing the number of categories at a sustainable rate. Categories change each year depending on need and viability. All categories are reviewed on an annual basis and the final decision is taken by the sector based steering group.</p>

How would you like ACTS to disseminate the winning initiatives from the Green Gown Awards?

Case study video (73%), Case study document (33%), Webinar (33%), Workshop (40%), **Website resource (80%)**.

All winner's and finalists videos from 2015 are available [online](#). There is a host of best practice case studies going back to 2011 in Australasia and [UK](#).



Would you be interested in attending any 'sharing best practice' webinars focusing on winners/finalists projects in the future?

Yes (80%), No (20%)

Feedback on any aspect of the Awards process:

Constructive Feedback	ACTS Response	Will we see it next year?
The timeframe for making the videos was a bit tight - another couple of weeks would have been nice.	Yes, we agree it was a tight time frame, as it was the first year, we will endeavour to give more time in future.	We will work our hardest to ensure a longer lead in time.
When nominating the Vice Chancellor for the award it would have been good for me to be cc'ed on all communications to him.	Yes, again this was a pilot, so we will review our processes.	We will endeavour to ensure the Leadership nominator is included in all communications.
The winners tended to be employed in positions that facilitated their work, rather than those achieving change in disciplines that are not traditionally aligned with sustainability outcomes.	We very much encourage and welcome applications and individuals from non - traditionally related courses. This is heavily factored into the judging criteria. There are also strict criteria for all categories with the majority awarding those that go beyond business as usual. The ACTS Award of Excellence also stipulates that the individual has to go over and above their job or course requirements (if sustainability related) so again this is taken into account.	All criteria are reviewed each year. We will endeavour to encourage more applications from non- traditional areas. Our long term aim is that sustainability is embedded across all areas – as core business!
It would be great to have some practical ideas at the workshops where you learned information to take back to the work environment esp useful in the TAFE and Early childhood Arena.	The concurrent workshops provide a medium to learn, share information and we hope practical information to go back to the workplace. We do have a TAFE presence at the conference but we would like to encourage more.	We will share the call for papers as wide as possible to encourage people to submit abstracts for the concurrent sessions.
It would have been good to know about the scholarship for interstate travellers but it had already closed once we received the finalist announcement.	Agreed. Our apologies for the mis- timing.	We will ensure the call for scholarships, coordinates with the finalist announcement.
One thing the table decorations had the right idea but were not	Agreed. This was our pilot year, we are reviewing our brief for	We are reviewing our brief and will work closer with the school



actually sustainable - great to have children making them but remember to be authentic - ours were synthetic pom poms on a branch which is not sustainable.	2016.	team in 2016.
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Selection of feedback:

“Many thanks. The awards are a great way to promote our initiatives within the organisation”

“Pretty impressive event all-round. Lots of kudos to the ACTS team; I don't know how they find the time in their working year to pull off something as complex as the conference and the Awards, but I am very, very grateful that they do”

“Just how wonderful it was. Such an important mechanism to get the good news out and inspire others”

“Just a huge thank you for all the effort that goes in to these awards. I believe strongly that awards and nominations are one of the best ways to 'refuel' those wonderful people who are working hard every day towards a more sustainable future and also as a way to engage and excite others to do more and do different, innovative things”

“The conference organizers were brilliant! Efficient, timely information, clear and professional communicators, friendly and couldn't do enough for you. THANK YOU!”

“The venue at the Pier was spectacular! Novotel across the road fantastic. Geelong itself just gorgeous and sustainable! Loved hearing about all the finalist/winners and 'contributors' projects. Visual videos excellent to capture the initiatives. Locally sourced products and wines excellent! Everyone was so interesting and engaging at the awards night. Thank you so much was thrilled to be there!

Thank you to everyone that took the time to submit their feedback.

For information on the 2016 Green Gown Awards Australasia and International Green Gown Awards, please visit our [website](#) or contact ggaa@acts.asn.au