



The Vermont Natural Resources Council (VNRC) is pleased to accept nominations for the 2026 Arthur Gibb Award for Sustainable Community Leadership.

We seek to honor an individual whose leadership has made a lasting contribution to their town, region or state through their dedication to building healthy, equitable and sustainable communities.

An Award Recognizing Vermont's Community Leaders

The Sustainable Community Leadership Award, formerly the “Arthur Gibb Award for Individual Leadership”, was established in honor of the late Arthur “Art” Gibb.

Gibb’s success and reputation as a public servant were directly attributable to his leadership, character and personal convictions. Every year, in honor of his legacy of commitment to safeguarding Vermont’s values and unique landscape, Vermont Natural Resources Council recognizes an individual whose leadership, vision and courage has similarly brought about positive and lasting change toward more equitable, sustainable and healthy communities. Learn more about Art’s life and legacy [here](#).

The Sustainable Community Leadership Award is presented to a Vermont resident who embodies these traits in service to their community, and works to recognize the challenges facing Vermont and the shared goals of the people who call this unique place home.

Nominations should explain clearly and in detail how a nominee meets each of the criteria listed below. VNRC welcomes all nominations, and especially those for individuals historically underrepresented in the environmental movement, including people of color, people from marginalized economic backgrounds, and people living with disabilities.

Award Selection Criteria

Leadership and the ability to motivate others around shared goals related to community planning and the enhancement of Vermont's natural resources, unique sense of place, and economic well-being.

Vision to recognize the challenges facing Vermont's environment, landscape and communities now and in the future, and understand how those challenges can best be addressed through public policy and personal initiative.

Integrity and steadfastness in public service that earns the respect of colleagues, neighbors and diverse interest groups.

Diligent and persistent **Commitment to Public Service** over a sustained period of time.

Humility, expressed through respect for others, including those holding opposing viewpoints, and a willingness to work cooperatively and share recognition for accomplishments.

Creativity in crafting innovative solutions, policies and programs that strengthen Vermont's human and natural communities.

The ability to **Balance** competing interests in order to forge consensus and build bridges between those holding opposing views.



Selection Process

Nomination: Residents from around Vermont nominate candidates annually each spring

Evaluation: A review committee made up of VNRC staff, Board members, and colleagues review all applications

Presentation: The award is presented at VNRC's Annual Celebration in the fall

Sustainable Community Leadership Award | Nomination Form

Nominee Information

Nominee Name & Pronouns: _____

Affiliation (if any): _____

Town: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Nominator Information

Name & Pronouns: _____

Affiliation (if any): _____

Town: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Reference #1

Name & Pronouns: _____

Affiliation (if any): _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Reference #2

Name & Pronouns: _____

Affiliation (if any): _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Submission Requirements Checklist

Please submit, in hard copy or electronically (*email preferred*):

- this cover sheet, including at least two additional references for the nominee
- a detailed description of how the nominee has brought about positive and lasting change in the way communities navigate and plan for a just and sustainable future

All materials must be received by Friday, July 3, 2026.

Mail to:

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11 Baldwin Street
Montpelier, VT 05602
www.vnrc.org



Questions & Submissions:

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