** 2016 RAM Awards**

**The RAM Board of Directors wants to recognize the environmental stewardship efforts of community groups, businesses, public entities, and individuals that benefit the communities in Minnesota.**

**AWARD ELIGIBILITY:**

Individuals or recent programs contributing to the betterment of recycling or other resource conservation efforts in the state of Minnesota are eligible for RAM awards. A RAM member must make nominations using the award application. Below is the list of award categories and the criteria(s) to qualify for each category. Please note, a nominee does not need to be a RAM member.

**Awards applications must be received by September 2, 2016**.

**AWARD CATEGORIES:**

**Green Project Award**

This award recognizes a special green project in Minnesota that has demonstrated outstanding environmental results.

Criteria for award:

* 6 months' worth of data history to prove the green project is working well
* Demonstrate innovation through reducing waste, carbon footprint, water usage or other environmental issue important to Minnesota
* Goals to expand the program in the near future
* Preference given to a RAM member

**Public Service Award**

This award recognizes an elected official who has demonstrated outstanding service for the betterment of recycling and the environment.

Criteria for award:

* History of public service for the betterment of recycling and the environment
* Grasp of operational details of the recycling industry
* Consistent support for recycling initiatives, proposals or programs
* Seeks input on recycling issues from diverse groups or individuals from an inclusive approach to policy making

**Recycler of the Year**

An individual, group, business, public entity or organization that has demonstrated outstanding service as a recycling service provider or advocate.

Criteria for award

Must meet one or more of the following:

* Display initiative and commitment to recycling (such as expanding types of materials collected)
* Demonstrate innovation and leadership in recycling (such as having an above average recycling rate)
* Active in recycling market development or environmentally preferable purchasing (including buying recycled)
* Support of groups with environmental focus through contributions or in-kind donations
* Preference given to RAM member

**Denise Kolar Award**

Honoring a member of RAM who has devoted a tremendous amount of energy, goodwill and effort to benefit RAM.

Criteria for award:

* Donated an exceptional number of hours to RAM projects
* Provided a positive example of leadership
* Introduced new members or sponsors to RAM

*Denise Kolar, Western Lake Superior Sanitary District, Solid Waste Program Coordinator, was one of RAM's founders and devoted many years as a board member and volunteer.*

For further information please contact Beth Harries ; beth@recycleminnesota.org  or call the RAM office, 651-641-4589.