

2025 Pennsylvania Environmental Stewardship Award
Must be Submitted by May 23rd, 2025.

APPLICATION

Name of Organization/Business/Individual:

Natalie M. Reese

Type of Organization or Business (i.e., government, non-profit, school, retail, manufacturing, service, agriculture):

No-profit

Contact Information:

Name: Natalie Reese Title: Assistant Executive Director

County: Westmoreland

Address: 355 Pleasant Unity Mutual Road / Greensburg, PA 15601

Phone: 724-879-4020 Fax: 724-879-8576

Email: nreese@westmorelandcleanways.org Website: www.westmorelandcleanways.org

If others share in this nomination, please provide their contact information:

Name: _____ Title: _____

County: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____ Website: _____

Narrative: (Please use as much space as is needed, within reason)

The 2025 Award Winner will be notified on or about June 9, 2025, and will be celebrated during the PROP Conference in Mars PA at the Thursday July 24th Awards Banquet at the DoubleTree Pittsburgh-Cranberry.

Benefits of receiving the award include visibility as a sector leader, furthering PROP's mission through education, networking, and marketing opportunities. In addition, the winner and runner-up will be invited to present and display information about their award-winning project or program at upcoming conferences.

For additional information, contact Doug Orner at dorner@proprecycles.org or 717-441-6049.

Please briefly, but effectively, respond to the following questions:

1. Please summarize the project, program, or person considered for this award.
2. Explain what is useful, unique, or noteworthy about this nomination.
3. Describe any aspects of originality, strategies or risks taken, needs of your audience or stakeholders, challenges or barriers encountered, as may be applicable.
4. What, if any, funding (type and amount) was necessary.
5. If applicable, describe any progress made or how success was demonstrated.
6. Believing that all can learn from both successes and failures, please describe at least one area of success and one area of failure.
7. What was learned, if anything, from each success and/or failure. Describe one or more key lessons learned that could be shared with others.
8. Provide any applicable examples, documents, educational materials, outreach, charts, graphics, or photos that will provide insight for your entry.
9. Identify important areas that give us an understanding or quantify the success of your entry. Examples would include longevity, reaching a target audience, goals achieved, percentages or tonnages diverted, and other tangible accomplishments.
10. Provide any additional information that you believe to be valuable to the committee for consideration.

Please submit this application to prop@proprecycles.org and have 2025 PA Environmental Stewardship Award in the Subject line.

Thank you!

2025 Environmental Stewardship Award Narrative

- 1.) Natalie Reese is the newly promoted Assistant Executive Director at Westmoreland Cleanways and Recycling. She has been employed at WC&R since 2011. She had served as the Program Director for most of that time. In 2013 she became a “Certified Recycling Professional” through the PROP system. She still maintains that certification today. As Program Director, she was responsible for coordinating and providing our educational outreach programs to both youth and adult audiences. One of Natalie’s goals is to have her audience make small, gradual lifestyle changes to protect our environment and build a more sustainable future.
- 2.) Natalie is loved and well received by her audience. Those “fun” games and activities on recycling, trash and litter that “Miss Natalie” uses in her programs pique the interest of those young, impressionable minds. Her down to earth style of “recycling do’s and don’ts” that she uses with the adult groups always garners many questions from the audience – where usually they leave these sessions more informed about recycling than when they came in.
- 3.) She has her youth groups making paper from pulverized shredded paper; she has them build their own desktop landfill, she plays “Recycle is Right” (like “Price is Right”) all the while making learning about recycling and reducing trash fun. She always has hands on examples of the recycling do’s and don’ts for the adult groups – which helps make a big impact in driving home her educational points with these adults.
- 4.) Westmoreland Cleanways education and outreach program is funded through our budget.
- 5.) The success of Natalie’s educational endeavors shows in the increasing number of youth groups, school districts, libraries and adult groups that request and schedule to have her present her programs. In 2023-2024 fiscal year, she presented to over 160 groups – an increase of over 20 groups from the previous fiscal year’s presentations.
- 6.) One area of success I can relate is the plastic bag recycling increase here at WC&R. Natalie’s outreach programs have definitely helped produce an increase in plastic bag & film recycling at our center. She has worked to help many groups get entered in the NEXTREX Challenge to collect and recycle 1,000 pounds of plastic bags in return for a bench made from the lumber created from recycled plastic bags.
- 7.) The groups entering the NEXTREX program began slowly but soon snowballed into many, many groups bringing bags to us in multiple shipments to make their 1000 pound quota. In the beginning, we didn’t keep good track of the groups who entered

into the NEXTREX program – but soon learned to make a spreadsheet to record who all was entered into the NEXTREX program.

8.) See attached

9.) The success at Westmoreland Cleanways and Recycling can be measured in our tonnages collected and processed for recycling. And this success is a derivative of the education and outreach programs that Natalie produces and presents. They truly play a major role in teaching the public how and where to recycle properly. In 2022 WC & R processed 2.3 million pounds of items through our facility and presented 113 outreach/education programs. In 2023 it was 3 million pounds and 147 programs. In 2024 it was 3.1 million pounds and 167 programs.



Westmoreland Cleanways and Recycling Presentation List

FREE classroom & youth group presentations designed and presented by Westmoreland Cleanways professional education coordinator. Programs meet PA state education standards.

To schedule: Contact Natalie Reese at 724-879-4020, nreese@westmorelandcleanways.org

Aquatic Waste: Over 5 trillion pieces of plastic litter the ocean creating microplastics and garbage patches. Discuss the negative impacts of this litter both environmentally and financially and examine possible solutions.

Adventures of a Plastic Bottle: Focusing on energy and natural resource conservation; students will play a W. Cleanways created board game that follows the stages of a plastic bottle's life cycle, starting as oil and ending as a recycled product (hopefully).

The ABCs of MRF (Material Recovery Facility): What happens to your recycling after it is picked up by the recycling truck? Become sorters on the recycling line and experience the journey that recycling items take from the recycling bin to the manufacturing plant.

Backyard Composting, an Introduction: Learn the basics of composting and discover the connection between kitchen scraps/yard waste and developing healthier soil for plants.

Garbage Pizza: Working in groups, students will construct a three-dimensional pie chart representing the Municipal Solid Waste discarded in the United States per year (garbage pizza). Using the pizza as a visual, students will analyze the chart to brainstorm waste reduction solutions.

IQ Boards: Interactive displays developed by Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful

- Litter Board: Helps create litter awareness by matching a common litter item with its correct decomposition time.
- Recycle Board: Helps create recycling awareness by matching a common recyclable item with the new product it can be recycled into.

I Want to Be Recycled: Learn what items can be recycled curbside and the new materials that can be created by recycling them. Based on the age and the available space, the presentation may include a Recycling Relay Race or Recycling Hot Potato. (Will only present in areas with curbside recycling prgms.)

Landfill Anatomy: What happens to your garbage after it is picked up by the garbage truck? What are the environmental impacts of landfills, and what structures are in place to limit that impact? Students will build miniature landfills of their own design and test their soundness.

Open Your Eyes to Litter: Introduce students to the negative environmental impacts of litter as well as simple techniques students can take to prevent litter.

Paper Recycling: Examine the importance of paper recycling and the steps involved in the process. During the presentation each student will make a piece of recycled paper. (access to running water is necessary)

REDUCE, REUSE: Review the importance of reducing and reusing. Brainstorm different ways to reduce the amount of trash a person produces, and creative ways to reuse.

Recycling Center Tour/Apiary Visit: Visit the recycling center for a tour of the facility and/or the apiary on site. Depending on the age and group size it may be possible to: 1. Use the foam densifier and 2. Suit up and get a close up look at the bees.

Recycle is Right: Students will become contestants on a game show similar to the Price is Right. During the game an overview of proper waste management practices, and the 3Rs will be covered.

Roll of the Die Litter Game: Plastic bottles can be landfilled, recycled, reused or littered. Students will play a W. Cleanways created game in which the roll of a die decides what avenue the bottle will take.

Vermicomposting: Learn about the benefits of composting and the practice of composting kitchen scraps using redworms. Students will observe a functioning worm bin and have a chance to meet the worms living in it. Interested groups or classrooms can also "worm sit" the bin for up to a month.

The What and Why of Recycling: Students become contestants on the pyramid game show (Taboo for younger generations). Players attempt to guess a series of recycle themed words based on clues provided by their teammates. The game focuses on different recyclable material with discussions about recycling between each round.

Made to Order: Customized presentation within the themes of proper waste management techniques, reducing, reusing, recycling, composting, and litter.





Encouraging the proper disposal of solid waste

- Operates a Recycling Center for Hard-To-Discard-Of Items
 - Scrap metal and refrigerant appliances (fron)
 - Glass bottles and jar
 - Plastic containers
 - TVs, computers, and other electronic devices
 - Tires
 - Lead acid batteries
 - Light bulbs and ballast
 - Paper cardboard, boxes, and corrugated signs
 - Polystyrene (styrofoam)
- Offers bi-monthly household hazardous waste collection.
- Supports litter and illegal dump cleanups.
- Provides municipal support and technical assistance to businesses
- Promotes composting.
- Educates the public through presentations and print and digital media.

Protecting our environment since 199

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How Long Will These Litter Items Be Around In The Environment?

At the same time, press the red button of the litter item and the black button of the number of years you think is the correct answer. A bell will sound if you are correct.

SCORING
10-12-Earth Crusader
7-9-Earth Saver
4-6-Earth Lover
1-3-Earth Friend
0-1-literate



- ☐ 2 Years
- ☐ 5 Years
- ☐ 10-20 Years
- ☐ 20-30 Years
- ☐ 30-40 Years
- ☐ 40-50 Years
- ☐ 50 Years
- ☐ 100 Years
- ☐ 500 Years
- ☐ 1,000 Years
- ☐ Indefinite



CHARLES BUTT



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PLATE 11



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1998

