

THE NATIONAL ARBOR CITY AWARD COMPETITION

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY & FISHERIES

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

TOTAL SOUTH AFRICA

&

THE INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION MANAGEMENT

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Briefing Notes



agriculture,
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Department:
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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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1. Background

The year 2018 will mark the 16th year of the Arbor City Award competition. To date a total of 38 municipalities have won the competition. These included the local municipalities and metropolitan municipalities. The efforts that the various municipalities have put in to ensure that they emerge victorious are commendable. This has made the competition more meaningful and challenging. It must however be said that the challenging or difficult part of it can be over-come by learning from previous winners and entering the competition frequently.

The 2018 National Arbor City Awards will once again take place in line with a partnership programme between the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), TOTAL South Africa and the Institute for Environment and Recreation Management (IERM). The competition is still sponsored by TOTAL South Africa. The purpose of the competition is to encourage Municipalities to green their areas of jurisdiction. The awards are a quest to promote environmental conservation and development thereby securing a healthy living environment for residents in all settlement areas. The competition provides incentives and rewards to Municipalities who are doing their best in terms of greening, especially in the townships and new settlement areas. Most municipalities made great strides in recent years to expand the greening and other landscape developments from the past focus on towns and suburbs to also include townships and new settlements areas. This move has rewarded the latter areas with street trees, recreational parks and in some areas physical training and gym facilities.

A new category namely; **Rural Municipality** was introduced in the competition in 2016. This was done as an attempt to lure and encourage small, rural municipalities to enter the competition and engage in environmental and greening issues. These municipalities will be required to demonstrate real potential in order to qualify for the competition.

Municipalities are encouraged to involve youth in their projects. Should a municipality be able to demonstrate youth involvement in its programmes or projects, it will stand a better chance in attaining the ward.

It is now a known fact that the world in general is starting to feel the effects of global warming and in particular climate change. This phenomenon is an environmental threat resulting from emissions of Green House Gases in the atmosphere. All of us will have to face this phenomenon head on by adopting mitigation strategies and adapt our actions towards it. These changes in climate may have significant effects on various sectors globally. Tree planting which forms the basis of Arbor City Awards is one of the mitigating factors that are recommended towards the slowing down of this environmental threat. It is for this reason that the Department is pursuing the Arbor City Awards Competition together with the Arbor Week campaign and the Million Trees Programme. It is acknowledged that the tree-planting programmes will have to rely on other supporting programmes such as environmental education to inform and educate society in general of the importance of the trees within the environment and their role in mitigating environmental threats.

Arbor City Awards are conducted in line with the DAFF greening strategy which defines greening as 'an integrated approach to the planting, care and management of all vegetation in urban and rural areas, to secure multiple benefits for communities' and the citizens in general. Greening is a task that requires multi-disciplinary approaches that include precise scientific knowledge and skills, socio - economic balancing and planning. In order to achieve the objective of greening a combination of technical expertise, socio-economic balance and capacity building skills are required.

2. The 2018 Arbor City Award

The 2018 Arbor City Awards competition will be conducted in all nine provinces. It will involve all Municipalities that will be found legible to enter. The criteria have been set and agreed upon by various stakeholders.

3. Objectives of the competition

The main objective of the competition is to encourage Municipalities to undertake greening initiatives to create green landscapes. The other objectives include the following:

- To promote the development of provincial and local greening plans
- To extend greening in Municipalities to new settlement areas
- To ensure compliance with relevant greening legislations both local and national
- To raise general awareness about the importance and value of trees in residential settlements
- To provide incentives for local authorities that go an extra mile to green their areas
- To provide a platform for diagnosis of challenges facing Municipalities regarding the greening function and discuss solutions

4. Summary of criteria for evaluation

The judging criteria focus on the following aspects. The detailed judging criteria are attached.

- Greening policy and strategy
- The conservation and protection of existing trees
- Space for future tree planting , planning and development of wide sidewalks
- The development and conservation of greenbelts , natural assets in new and existing residential settlements
- Greening in (townships), low-income cost housing
- Public participation programme
- Future and current tree planting programmes
- Management and maintenance operations
- Tree administration
- Programmes on eradication of undesirable alien invasive
- Prevention of disastrous occurrences like wild fires
- Involvement in partnerships, national and provincial environmental campaigns
- Use of trees to give the town/ city a definitive character
- Tree awareness and education
- Resource allocation to greening and related functions

5. Entries

Entries for the competition will be handled as follows:

- DAFF National and regional offices will send entries to Municipalities
- The IERM will circulate entries via their network of member Municipalities
- Entries will be posted on the DAFF, IERM and GCIS websites
- Adverts will be placed in major newspapers including other media
- The closing date for entries will be 01 June 2018
- Shortlisting will be finalized by 29 June 2018

Entry requirements for Metropolitan Municipalities are as follows:

- Portfolio of evidence showing mainly: greening policy or strategy, tree register, maintenance plans and budget
- Portfolio of evidence in videos or pictures depicting projects, sites and, special trees
- A narrative not exceeding two pages indicating why the Municipality hopes to be the winner of the Arbor City Award 2018

Entry requirements for Category B Municipalities are as follows:

- Portfolio of evidence showing greening policy or strategy, tree register, maintenance plans and budget
- Portfolio of videos or pictures depicting projects, sites, special trees
- A narrative not exceeding two pages indicating why the Municipality hopes to be the winner of the Arbor City Award 2018

Entry requirements for Category Rural municipality (with potential) are as follows:

- Portfolio of evidence showing potential in greening
- A written account of environmental and greening projects by the municipality
- A narrative not exceeding two pages indicating why the Municipality hopes to be the winner of the Arbor City Award 2018

6. Adjudication

Entries will be short listed according to the criteria provided and the short listed entries will be evaluated through visits to the specific Municipalities. During the visits Municipalities will be requested to make brief presentations and to show the panel of evaluator's relevant projects in the Municipality.

7. Award Ceremony and Prizes

The Arbor City Awards Ceremony will be combined with the National Arbor Week launch event (which is usually held on 1 September). The mayors of the winning municipalities receive the prizes at the event. Three prizes will be awarded: one for the metropolitan Municipality, one for the category (B) Local Municipality and one for the Rural (Local) Municipality with potential. The (B) Local Municipality has first and second prizes

8. Adjudication panel

The evaluation panel will be composed as follows:

- DAFF (national)
- TOTAL South Africa (Head Office)
- IERM (head Office)
- National Department of Environment Affairs (optional)
- SANBI

9. The adjudication process

The first phase of evaluation will be done based on portfolio of evidence received from the Municipalities and the first shortlist will be done. The shortlisted Municipalities will then be further evaluated as follows:

- The Municipalities will give a presentation approximately 1hour
- Selected projects will be visited

- Judges will complete scoring sheets
- An average score will be calculated to determine the winner
- The process is subject to ratification by DAFF Minister

10. **The 2018 adjudication and project visit**

The process usually takes place in June/July months. The department and its partners will make an announcement should there be a need for change of the process.

11. **Generic feed - back on past years of the competition**

The following feed back is provided in order to enable municipalities to re-plan and refocus their efforts when entering to 2018 competition and to avoid committing elementary mistakes that may have caused them not to attain victory or good position in the competition.

- Municipalities need to adhere to the closing dates as outlined in the adverts, for entries as well as for the submission of portfolios of evidence
- The portfolio of evidence needs to be as detailed as possible and it should contain pictures and where possible videos for evidence and support
- The municipalities that were shortlisted previously need to use their portfolio of evidence as the basis and improve and update it where possible, this will enable them to save time and effort and hopefully the evidence will be of the required standard
- The municipalities that have previously won tend to delegate the work that needs to go in to the portfolios to inexperienced officials without providing the necessary guidance which results in showcasing sub-standard work. (Do not relax keep on striving for excellence to beat the rest)
- The portfolio of evidence needs to follow the sequence as contained in the criteria for the competition. This will make your presentation easier and it will flow faster
- It is advisable that the presentation be conducted by the champion of the project to prevent it from being compromised. A number of specialists can collectively do the

presentations but the times allocated for the presentation must be adhered to as well as the time allocated for field visits.

- Select your sites strategically. If you have shown the panel a particular project in the previous year, do not waste time on it, spend less time on it and proceed to showcase the new projects or additions to the old projects
- The municipalities that were not shortlisted need to follow the criteria and double their efforts. These municipalities are encouraged to visit municipalities that won in the past, but they are also encouraged to attend the IERM branch meetings and the annual conference, in this way they will be exposed to best operating practices by their peers
- Please remember you are judged on the work that the municipality is doing in tree planting, creation of parks, management of open spaces and other related work on the environment and keeping your municipality clean and green
- Demonstrate approved or draft policies, strategies, budgets and plans of your municipality to show commitment from your top management