

Environment Awards 2025

OBJECTIVES

The Environment Award officially recognizes the rail industry's contribution to the protection of the environment. It encourages the industry to continue adopting better working and operating practices, and enhances general public awareness of rail environmental practices.

ELIGIBILITY

An environmental initiative is eligible if it promotes the protection of the environment by a member railway, its employees, customers, suppliers or by any other stakeholders identified by a member.

CATEGORIES

Any initiative can qualify in one or both of the following categories:

1. North American Class 1 freight
2. Non-Class 1 freight
3. Passenger (intercity, tourist, commuter)

The Safety and Operations Management Committee (SOMC), upon recommendation from the selection committee, will select the environmental initiative of the year in each category based on the award criteria. A sub-category might be created to distinguish initiatives aimed at reducing employee and third party incidents.

NOMINATIONS

Nominations shall be submitted in the form of an executive summary or letter describing the initiative and explaining why it should be selected. You are invited to use the electronic nomination form and to provide any relevant supporting material.

Annual nominations shall be restricted to one initiative per RAC member railway per category (or sub-category).

Deadline for submitting entries:

June 13, 2025

PRESENTATION OF AWARD

The winner will receive a commemorative award and public/industry recognition.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The criteria is intended to be fair, thus it does not take into account the size or resources of the company submitting the initiative. To this effect, North American Class1 freight, non-Class 1 freight, and passenger railways are not competing in the same categories. The initiative should demonstrate the following criteria. A more detailed description of said criteria appears in the official nomination form.

Innovative

The initiative introduces a novel approach, technology, or solution that has not been previously implemented in its domain.

Progressive

The initiative rethinks or improves upon existing practices. It considers the extent to which the initiative introduces a fresh approach, even if inspired by existing concepts.

Proactive vs. Reactive

The initiative was implemented proactively (to prevent issues before they arise) or reactively (to address an issue after it has occurred).

Cost Effectiveness & Impact

The initiative provides meaningful benefits relative to the resources invested. It considers financial, operational, environmental, and rail safety impacts while ensuring that costs are proportionate to the value created.

Scalability and Transferability

The initiative can be adopted, implemented, or adapted by others in the industry. It considers factors such as cost, time, technology, administration, resources, and training.

Stakeholder Endorsement

The initiative has received support from key stakeholders, including employees, management, customers, partners, the public, industry organizations, and governments.

Official Recognition

Initiative will be measured by its official recognition/ acknowledgement (i.e., reported in the media, mentioned by CTA, TC, TSB, etc.).

RAC is very proud to recognize the following members for their outstanding leadership in the areas of environmental practices: CN and exo as the winners of the RAC's Environment Award 2023.

"By implementing its Sound Energy Management Program, exo has thought outside the box and completely rethought practices in the railway sector. exo continues to intensify its efforts and is also tackling the energy consumed in the operation of its maintenance centers. Our goal: to continue to improve our services in order to make them even more environmentally responsible and to strengthen the position of the train as an intelligent choice for getting around. A 10-car passenger train means 2,000 fewer vehicles on the roads. As the sole commuter train operator in Québec, exo plays an important role in the public transportation ecosystem!"

— Jacques Coulombe, Senior Director, Train Operations and Infrastructure, exo