

2025 FWEA Collection Systems of the Year Guidelines and Rules for Completing Applications

The FWEA Collection System of the Year award was established in 2006 to recognize Wastewater Utilities that use Best Management Practices (BMP) and are considered outstanding in the maintenance and operation of their collection systems. The process for being nominated is a self-nomination, which requires the Wastewater Utility to complete the application form and submit it along with backup information to the Awards Committee by the deadline posted on the [Awards - Florida Water Environment Association \(fwea.org\)](http://fwea.org) website.

Application Guidelines

The Collection System Committee (CSC) has developed a uniform form for all utilities to fill out as part of the application process. This form requests general information about the nominee's collection system and its specific performance in terms of operation and maintenance.

Categories for completion include the following:

- System Size/Overview
- Collection System Performance
- Operating Budget
- Capital Budget
- Operator Training/Certification
- Safety Program
- Collection System Maintenance
- Pump Station Maintenance
- Capacity Assessment Methodology
- Inflow/Infiltration Reduction Program
- System Rehabilitation
- Regulatory Compliance
- Additional Support Information

Categories

Awards will be issued in three categories:

- Small Utility – less than 10,000 wastewater connections
- Medium Utility – 10,000 to 50,000 wastewater connections
- Large Utility– Over 50,000 wastewater connections

Award Rules

Applications submitted and evaluated for this award shall comply with the following general rules:

1. No submittals shall be prepared by consultants and must be formatted/created by an authorized utility staff member who will sign and certify preparation of the application.
2. No back-to-back winners (must sit a minimum of 1 year) unless the utility changes category (see above).
3. If the winner is under any compliance/consent order, they must explain where they are in the process.
4. If a Collection Systems Committee (CSC) member's utility is a nominee, the member cannot vote in the category. All CSC committee members who have reviewed all the applications are eligible to evaluate the applications.
5. The applicant must be an FWEA member.
6. Ranking of the applications from each member will be recorded on the current version of the evaluation form and submitted to the Awards Sub-Committee Chair.
7. After the submission deadlines, all issues related to the evaluation of the applications will be addressed via e-mails and/or a special meeting of the CSC. Such issues include a nominee submitting in the incorrect category, questions about the nominee's eligibility, and any other questions the committee may have.
8. After all issues have been resolved, all votes must be submitted via e-mail to the chair of the Awards Sub-Committee by a date previously specified. No votes can be changed thereafter. The selections will be ratified at the next committee meeting, but the voting results cannot be changed. In the extraordinary case that the selections are not ratified, a new voting will be conducted electronically by a date to be specified.

For further information concerning the nomination application or to submit a nomination, contact the Awards Sub-Committee:

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