



# Sustainable Practices

## Sustainability Film Contest

Sustainable Practices (also referenced as the “Sponsor”) seeks aspiring filmmakers interested in creating a short film thematically focused on the protection of our natural environment. We want you to create a solution-based Public Service Announcement (PSA) or short film on one or more of the following six topics:

- **Water**
- **Waste**
- **Food**
- **Transportation**
- **Energy**
- **Open Space and Ecosystems**

PSA and short film submissions should demonstrate a strong understanding of the topic as well as problems related to the subject. Submissions should include a community-based proposal with the goal of long-term sustainability.

Submission length for PSAs are limited to a length of either 30 seconds or one minute. Short-film submissions must range between a two-minute minimum and five-minute maximum.

Eligibility:

The Sustainable Practices Film Contest is open to non-professional filmmakers who are residents of Barnstable County, Massachusetts.

Recognition:

**Winners will be given an award and their work will be screened at multiple events and venues on the Cape. The following comprises the present recognitions that will be provided:**

- A *Steward*, the bronze sculpture designed and created specifically for this contest.
- Screening of their film as part of the Sustainable Practices Sustainability Film Series.
- Posting of the film on the Sustainable Practices website

## **Contest rules:**

### **1. Eligibility**

The Sustainable Practices Film Contest (hereafter referred to as the “Contest”) is open to non-professional film makers who are residents of Barnstable County.

No purchase is necessary to enter the contest, but entrants are liable for any taxes or costs incurred for entering.

All entrants must complete the “[Entrant Oath and Permission Form](#).” (The form is available on the Sustainable Practices website, see Film Contest/Entrant Oath at [sustainablepracticesltd.org](http://sustainablepracticesltd.org).) Please fill and email the form back to us; a scan/photograph will also be accepted. The form must be signed by a parent or legal guardian for an entrant under the age of 18 where the legal guardian accepts responsibility and has read these official rules on behalf of the entrant.

### **2. Sponsor**

The Contest is sponsored by Sustainable Practices, a 501(c)3 non-profit incorporated in Massachusetts.

### **3. Agreement to Official Rules**

Participation in the Contest constitutes entrants’ full and unconditional agreement to and acceptance of the Rules and the decisions of the Sponsor, which are final and binding. Winning a prize shall be contingent upon complying with the Rules and fulfilling Contest requirements of film submission. Sponsor reserves the right to disqualify any entrant who fails to comply with all official rules.

#### **3a. Topic Categories**

Each film submission should choose one or several of the following topics on which to focus the theme of the film:

- **Water**
- **Waste**
- **Food**
- **Transportation**
- **Energy**
- **Open Space and Ecosystems**

Entrants will then be judged on their ability to address the topic or topics listed based on their film’s levels of engagement, information, inspiration, and creativity. All submissions must show a strong, research-supported understanding of the topic and related issues. **Submissions must share and highlight solutions to the issues raised by the topic. The film must be solution-based, presenting an environmental problem and what could be a solution to this problem with the goal of sustainability.** For example, a film that discusses over-logging and deforestation and then elaborates on how paper-based product industries can change their methods to harvest sustainably.

#### **3b. Film Length**

Entrants may submit a film of 30 seconds or one minute in length for consideration in the PSA category of the contest or a film no shorter than two minutes and no longer than five minutes for consideration in the short-film category.

### 3c. Prizes

Winners of each category will receive the following prizes:

- *Screening* of their film at the Sustainability Film Series and at other related and subsequent educational and nonprofit events hosted by Sponsor.
- *Posting* of their film at the Sustainable Practices website. (Note: Entrants grant Sponsor the exclusive rights to the film and release ownership to Sponsor. Sponsor reserves the right to utilize submitted films for any promotional materials and online media, at its sole discretion.)
- A *Steward*, the Sustainable Practices PSA Contest award, a bronze sculpture will be awarded to the top-rated submission(s).

### 3d. Judging Criteria

Judges will check to adherence to these submission rules, including compliance with all terms (legality, conduct, etc.), film length, format, etc. Films will be judged by award-winning documentary film producers and locally recognized film instructors. **Films will be judged on their ability to address a problem and propose a solution to that problem. Films should state a current environmental/sustainability problem regarding one or more of the topics listed in Section 3b and propose a solution that can help solve/lessen that problem.**

Entrants who do not conform to policies and rules may be disqualified at the discretion of Sponsor. Any disqualifications are the decision of Sustainable Practices and are final.

Depending on the number of submissions, we may pre-judge submissions prior to the final competition on November 3. Pre-judging will be too limit the entries to those with the highest scores. In the event of pre-judging, the entries remaining in competition will be scored live at the November 3 Contest.

## 4. Contest Submission Period

All submissions for the 2018 film festival must be submitted and received by midnight October 15, 2018.

## 5. How to Enter – Submission Rules/Guidelines

There is a limit of three (3) entries per person or per group. Any additional entries will be void. All film submissions must be made electronically. If you have a special circumstance and need to submit a hard copy DVD, contact Madhavi Venkatesan: [madhavi.venkatesanhd@gmail.com](mailto:madhavi.venkatesanhd@gmail.com).

All entries become the property of Sponsor, will not be acknowledged or returned, and entrants agree that winning entries can be used for future events held by Sponsor and hosted on Sponsor's website.

### 5a. Steps to submit an electronic file:

- 1 Create and save your film in a high quality digital file. Acceptable formats include .mov Apple Quicktime Movie, .wmv Windows Media Video, MPEG/MPEG-4, and Flash Video. Sponsor will not accept YouTube submissions. Submissions must be via these listed methods only.
- 2 Upload your film to your own Vimeo account. If you do not have an account, please refer to the Vimeo website on how to create one at <https://vimeo.com/join>.
- 3 Verify that your link works.
- 4 Send an e-mail to [madhavi.venkatesanphd@gmail.com](mailto:madhavi.venkatesanphd@gmail.com) informing her of your film

submission. In the e-mail include the link to your film, your film title, and the completed oath and permission form. For group entries, each entrant must submit a completed permission form. Films submitted without the “[Entrant Oath and Permission Form](#)” will not be considered for the contest. The form is available on the Sustainable Practices website, see Film Contest/Entrant Oath at [sustainablepracticesltd.org](http://sustainablepracticesltd.org). Print the form, fill it out, attach, scan or photograph it back to us. Should your film win, you may be asked to provide a hard copy DVD format of your film that the Sponsor can use for screenings. Any costs incurred are the responsibility of the entrant.

### **5b. Intellectual Property**

By entering this contest, all entrants agree that their submission is their own original work, does not infringe upon the intellectual property rights of others, and is in compliance with all copyright laws.

When using sources and works that are not your own, entrants agree that those works are part of the public domain, that they have obtained permission to use the work, or that the use of the work does not constitute a substantial portion of the film so as to comply with fair use laws of USC Title 17 Section 107 found at <http://www.copyright.gov/fls/fl102.html>. Where an entrant has obtained permission to use a substantial portion of another’s intellectual property, entrant agrees to submit proof of permission with the film entry. We urge entrants in their creativity to use their own artistic works or those in the public domain. As to research, please give credit to the owners and authors of scientific, academic, political, etc. works, such as through the credits of the film or when the source is used in the film.

For help finding images that are in the public domain and do not constitute any type of infringement, start at the Library of Congress website: <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/>. For free or royalty-free sound recordings and music, an artist typically places their work into the public domain. Do a search for royalty-free music, and you will find many songs available for a free and legal download to accompany your video. While Sustainable Practices does not endorse or promote any specific website, you can find free music resources at: [http://socialtimes.com/royalty-free-music\\_b37470](http://socialtimes.com/royalty-free-music_b37470)

Entrants agree to not hold Sustainable Practices Sustainability Film Contest liable for any intellectual property disputes and to comply with these rules and all copyright laws.

### **6. Winner Selection/Notification**

On November 3, 2018, the Sponsor will select the potential winners after judgment of all eligible entries. The date of selection will coincide with the screening of submissions at the Chatham Orpheum Theater.

### **7. General Conditions**

In the event that the operation or administration of the Contest is impaired for any reason such as, but not limited to, fraud, legality, technicality, or in the event that the Contest is unable to run as planned for any reason, Sponsor may suspend the Contest temporarily or indefinitely. Sponsor may address the issue and resume the Contest or terminate the Contest. Suspension or termination of the Contest is under the sole discretion of Sponsor, and entrants agree not to hold Sponsor liable in these circumstances.

Sponsor reserves the right to disqualify any entrant that it finds to not be in compliance or in violation with the Contest Rules or any entrant who acts in an unprofessional or disruptive manner.

Contest entries reflect upon Sponsor, and all entrants have freely and voluntarily entered the Contest, so it is the sole discretion of Sponsor to disqualify any entrants who do not comply or act accordingly.

In submitting a film and signing the application form, all entrants agree to these terms and conditions of the contest and the Sponsor is not liable for any unauthorized or inappropriate sharing of films. Note that violence, profanity, or direct attacks on individuals or organizations will not be accepted. All films must adhere to copyright laws. Any film utilizing copyrighted material that is not the creation or property of the entrant will not be considered unless clear evidence of the legal right to use that copyrighted material is provided with the submission by the applicable deadline (ex: permission by the owner of the intellectual property).

### **8. Release and Limitations of Liability**

By voluntarily participating in the Contest, entrants agree to release and hold harmless the Sponsor from and against any claim or cause of action arising out of the entrant's participation in the Contest including but not limited to intellectual property disputes (where entrant agrees that their submission is their own intellectual property, is of fair use, from the public domain, or that the entrant has obtained permission for use from the owner of the intellectual property), cancellation of the Contest, injury, death, or losses of any kind from the entrant freely participating in Contest. Entrant waives any right to claim any damages whatsoever, including but not limited to consequential, punitive, direct, or indirect damages.

### **9. Disputes**

Except when prohibited by law, entrants agree that any and all disputes will be handled individually. In the case of any dispute, entrants agree to attempt resolution with the Sponsor. All issues and questions concerning the construction, validity, interpretation, and enforceability of the Rules, entrants' rights and obligations, or the rights and obligations of the Sponsor in connection to the Contest, shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Massachusetts, without giving effect to any choice of law or conflict of law rules, which would cause the laws of any jurisdiction other than Massachusetts. Any legal fees incurred by Sponsor in the event of a dispute from an entrant is the responsibility of the entrant.

*Sponsor reserves the right to update these rules.*

*Last updated: May 3, 2018*