

Sustainable Lifestyles, Fairness and Access to Clean Energy Technologies Campaign

Official Rules

for



Sustainable Lifestyles Awards

2026

in partnership with



1. Awards Overview

The Sustainable Lifestyles Awards recognizes excellence in initiatives that promote equitable, inclusive, and sustainable transformations in global consumption and living patterns. Organized by the Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM)'s Sustainable Lifestyles, Fairness and Access to Clean Energy Technologies Campaign, in partnership with the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), these awards celebrate the implementation of the [2025 CEM Sustainable Lifestyles Declaration](#).

The awards celebrate and spotlight policies, regulations, and programs that have successfully promoted and facilitated behavioural and lifestyle changes to support the energy transition in a fair and inclusive manner, ensuring that all individuals and communities, including persons in vulnerable situation, youth and women, can participate and benefit equitably. By acknowledging outstanding contributions at the intersection of policy innovation, community empowerment, and sectoral transformation, the awards will not only showcase best practices but also create visibility for replicable, scalable actions that can inspire broader adoption within and beyond the CEM community.

Winners will be honoured at the CEM17 Ministerial Meeting in Riyadh, providing them with a global platform to showcase their impact to Ministers, industry leaders, and international stakeholders.

2. About the CEM Sustainable Lifestyles Campaign

Launched at the 15th Clean Energy Ministerial Meeting (CEM15) in Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil, the CEM Campaign on [Sustainable Lifestyles, Fairness and Access to Clean Energy Technologies](#) aims to **“put people at the heart of clean energy transitions, raise awareness on behavioural change at all levels and embed social justice in clean energy transitions** by enabling countries and partners to incentivise and share policies that support our societies to move forward in a fair way that leaves no-one behind”. The Campaign is led by the European Commission and co-led by Norway, China and India.

The Campaign's ambition is to enable countries and partners to incentivise and share policies that ensure no one is left behind as we move toward greener, more competitive economies. It aims to raise awareness reducing energy consumption through behavioural adaptation at all levels, while ensuring the most vulnerable groups have access to clean energy technologies. It brings together countries and partners that share the same values and goals: embedded social justice within the clean energy transition so its benefits are equitably shared. By signing a non-binding [Sustainable Lifestyles Declaration](#), they endorse principles that will spur action across the globe and create the momentum to push forward a just a transition that leaves no one behind. The declaration signatories included the European Union, China, India, Norway, Brazil, Finland and Spain. Follow the Campaign on [Linkedin](#) for the latest updates.

3. About the Clean Energy Ministerial

The Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) is a high-level global forum to promote policies and programmes that advance clean energy technology, to share lessons learned and best practices, and to encourage the transition to a global clean energy economy. Initiatives are based on areas of common interest among participating governments and other stakeholders.

The CEM brings together a community of the world's largest and leading countries, companies and international experts to achieve one mission –accelerate clean energy transitions. The CEM is an international **clean energy leadership platform**, a convening platform, an action platform, and an acceleration platform. It serves as:

- **a platform** where its members help shape the global clean energy agenda, and advance the deployment of specific clean energy technologies and solutions.
- **a bottom-up, government-led community** for exchanging knowledge and insights, building networks and partnerships, and facilitating coordinated actions on clean energy.
- **an implementation vehicle** that helps its members to achieve specific domestic clean energy objectives.

4. About the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)

The [Council on Energy, Environment and Water \(CEEW\)](#) — a **homegrown institution** with headquarters in New Delhi — is among the **world's leading climate think tanks**. The Council uses **data, integrated analysis, and strategic outreach** to support public policy, transform markets, shape technology, and nudge behaviour. CEEW seeks to explain—and change—the use, reuse, and misuse of resources. It addresses pressing global challenges through an **integrated and internationally focused** approach. The Council prides itself on the **independence** of its high-quality research and strives to **impact sustainable development at scale**. In over 15 years of operation, CEEW has impacted over 400 million lives and engaged with over 20 state governments. Follow us on [LinkedIn](#) and [X](#) (formerly Twitter) for the latest updates.

5. Who Should Apply?

The competition is open to a wide range of stakeholders committed to the energy transition:

- **Government Entities:** National ministries, provincial governments, and municipal/city authorities.
- **Private Sector:** Small-to-medium enterprises (SMEs), large corporations, and startups driving green innovation.

- Civil Society: Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), community-led cooperatives, and youth-led climate movements.
- Academia & Research: Universities and think tanks implementing "living lab" or campus-wide sustainability models.

6. Awards Categories & Strategic Pillars

The Awards feature three distinct categories, each directly mapped to the three pillars of the 2025 CEM Sustainable Lifestyles Declaration. Applicants must demonstrate how their project implements the specific goals of these pillars.

Category 1 – Policy: Leading by Acting

- **Incentivise and enable sustainable lifestyle changes and fairness**, including for the persons in vulnerable situations in society. Encourage the **development of policies and actions** with clear objectives and targets.
- **Share and report on policies, good practices and other initiatives** supporting sustainable lifestyles and fair, affordable, reliable, efficient and sustainable low emission technologies which have been or will be put in place, motivating other members to follow the steps.
- Undertake **communication and awareness campaigns** to promote and inform citizens about the benefits of sustainable lifestyle changes, including intergenerational fairness, as well as the access to affordable, reliable, efficient and sustainable low emissions technologies.

Category 2 – People: Empowering Individuals and Communities

- **Support educational programmes and cultural developments** that support nature conservation, efficient use of energy and minimise environmental footprints for a sustainable future at all levels of education/training.
- **Involve and empower local communities** in fostering sustainable lifestyles for improving our environment for present and future generations, involving cities and other local authorities, social partners and civil society as well as businesses.
- **Actively involve youth and women** in promoting lifestyle changes and access to energy-efficient technologies. By empowering them and providing educational resources, we envisage to cultivate a sustainable future where every individual has the knowledge and tools to prioritise energy efficiency.
- Support policies to ensure **efficient use of energy and materials** by households and/or companies through sustainable behaviours and technologies, thereby saving energy and preserving resources, while ensuring accessibility, affordability and equity in meeting everyone's basic needs.

Category 3 – Sector: Transforming Systems

- Support the advancement of **clean building practices**, embracing techniques and technologies that prioritise efficiency, sustainability and affordability for all.
- Enhance accessibility to **low-emission mobility** in both urban and rural areas. By promoting sustainable transportation options affordable for all, we aim to create inclusive and environmentally friendly mobility solutions for all members of our community.
- Support a universal transition to **affordable, reliable, efficient and sustainable low-emission energy technologies** by investing or encouraging targeted measures and campaigns that promote fairness.
- Implement actions to promote sustainable lifestyle and fairness in other areas related to the energy transition such as **food production and consumption methods, textile production and consumption habits, recycling methods, clean cooking** etc.

7. Eligible Projects

To be eligible, a project must:

- Align with at least one of the three Awards Categories: Policy (Leading by Acting), People (Empowering Individuals and Communities), or Sector (Transforming Systems).
- Initiatives must have been completed or show significant, measurable progress within the last 36 months (the projects should not have been completed before January 2023).
- Provide verifiable data demonstrating a shift toward low-carbon or resource-efficient living.

8. Competition Period

The 2026 Awards cycle follows the schedule below:

- Global Call for Nominations: May,6 2026
- Submission Deadline: July 17, 2026 (23:59 CEST)
- Technical Vetting & Shortlisting: July 20 – August 14, 2026
- Final Jury Review: August 17 – September 7, 2026
- Winner Notification: September 14, 2026
- Awards Ceremony: October 11-13, 2026

9. How to Apply

Applicants shall carefully read all related Awards documents and shall complete the **Official Project Submission Form** (including any relevant attachments) with the information described under the “Content of Submission” section.

Applicants may choose one of the following two methods for submission:

1. **Online Submission (Preferred)**

Applicants can complete and submit their nomination directly through the official **Online Awards Portal** [[Link](#)]. Upon submission, the portal will automatically generate a confirmation of receipt.

2. **Offline Submission (Email)**

Applicants may instead complete the Word version of the Official Project Submission Form and follow these instructions:

- **Submission Format:** The completed form shall be submitted in **both Word and PDF formats** via email at **Secretariat@CEMSecretariat.org**.
- **Deadline:** Submissions must be received no later than the **Submission Deadline (July 17, 2026, 23:59 CET)**.
- **Subject Line:** To ensure efficient processing, please use the following email subject line: ***Sustainable Lifestyles Awards Entry | <Country Name>***
- **Confirmation of Receipt:** The Secretariat will email the Point of Contact (POC) confirming receipt of the Submission.

Supplemental Information: Optionally, the Applicant may include **Supplemental Information** materials—such as a PowerPoint presentation, technical case studies, or high-resolution media—as part of the formal Submission package to further illustrate project impact.

Inquiries: Any questions regarding these Official Rules or the application process may be submitted to the Awards Secretariat by email at **Secretariat@CEMSecretariat.org**. Please use the following subject line: **Question- Sustainable Lifestyles Awards**

Language: All entries must be in English.

10. Selection of Awards Winner(s)

The selection process is conducted in three rigorous stages:

- **Administrative Review:** The Awards Secretariat checks for eligibility and completeness.
- **Technical Vetting:** An expert panel evaluates the "Impact" and "Verifiability" of the claims, narrowing the field to a Top 10-15 Shortlist.
- **The Jury Decision:** The jury will select two winners per category

11. Evaluation Criteria

Entries will be scored on a 100-point scale based on the following weighted criteria:

- Impact & Success (25%): Quantifiable behavioural shifts or GHG reductions /energy and material efficiency/ resource savings. Also include evidence that the impact will persist beyond the project's funding cycle
- Equity & Fairness (25%): Evidence of inclusivity and benefits to vulnerable populations.
- Scalability (20%): Potential for the model to be replicated.
- Innovation (20%): Creative approaches that challenge high-carbon societal norms.
- Verifiability (10%): Transparency of data and third-party validation.

12. Awards Ceremony and Publicity

The Ceremony: Winners will be officially announced and celebrated during a high-level side event or plenary session at CEM17 in Riyadh (October 11–13, 2026).

Attendance: By submitting an entry, applicants agree that a representative will make every effort to attend the ceremony in person.

Publicity: Winners will be featured in the official CEM website, and global press releases. CEM reserves the right to use submitted media (photos/videos) to promote the campaign's goals.