

CEM FUELING LIVES AWARDS

Excellence in Scaling Clean Cooking: Models That Last

Celebrating leadership and innovation
advancing clean cooking solutions around the world.



Source: posteriori



PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

The Clean Cooking Awards Program celebrates leadership and innovation that meaningfully advances clean cooking solutions around the world.

Launched at CEM 17, the program is designed to accelerate the global exchange of best practices, highlight successful delivery models, and encourage the replication or adaptation of proven approaches in diverse markets and regions. A case study report stemming from CEM 17 was published in October 2026. The new “Clean Cooking Awards Program”, will showcase other exemplary clean cooking efforts to strengthen collective understanding of what works, close knowledge gaps, and create new opportunities for peer learning and engagement. Selected award winners will be recognized at CEM 18, be invited to present during its clean cooking segment, and be featured on the CEM website. The application process will involve a brief (1-2 page) description of the clean cooking project applying for recognition, detailing the evaluation criteria below.



POTENTIAL PROJECT TYPES

- Clean cooking technologies (technology neutral)
- Innovative distribution models
- Innovative financing mechanisms
- Results-based financing and consumer-finance/PAYGo models
- Behavior-change and demand-generation campaigns
- Policy programs integrating clean cooking
- Research or MRV/measurement tools enabling any of the above



EVALUATION CRITERIA

- **Impact and Sustained Adoption**

Focus on documented real-world impact and sustained use over time; scale of households reached with verified continued uptake.

- **Affordability and Reliability**

Financial and operational reliability, business model viability, supply chain robustness, affordability for end users, and ability to scale beyond grant dependence.

- **Replicability and Transferability**

Adaptability of the approach across markets, countries, regulatory environments, or contexts.

- **Innovation**

Use of innovative technologies, financing structures, delivery models, measurement approaches, governance arrangements, or coordination mechanisms.

- **Community Outcomes**

Documented benefits for communities, including health, time and cost savings, livelihoods, employment, and meaningful user participation.



MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

a

Operational Status

- Project must have been in active operation for at least 12 months as of application opening.
- Only projects active during or after 2025 will be considered.

b

Implementation Relevance

- Project must extend beyond conceptual or feasibility work and demonstrate real-world operational outcomes or decisions.

Performance Standard

c

- Cooking solutions must meet a recognized clean and efficient cooking performance tier.
- Applicants must identify the standard used and provide supporting evidence.
- Minimum: Tier 4 (World Bank definition).

d

Evidence

- Applications must be supported by objective evidence sufficient for Jury review.
- Applicants are encouraged to quantify outcomes wherever possible.



WHO SHOULD BE NOMINATED?

- Clean cooking enterprises, including manufacturers, fuel producers, and distributors (for-profit or not-for-profit)
- NGOs and social enterprises implementing clean cooking programs
- Finance institutions, including results-based financing facilities, and investors
- Research institutions and academic centers producing applied research, measurement tools, or MRV systems adopted in practice
- Public-private partnerships, consortia, or multi-actor initiatives involving two or more eligible entity types



GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

Projects across Asia, Africa, and humanitarian settings are eligible.



SCAN TO EXPLORE THE PROGRAM