

 Organization Name: Click or tap here to enter text.

 Primary Contact Name: Click or tap here to enter text.

APPLICATION:

Organizational Leadership Award

*The Climate Registry has worked to incentivize, recognize, and highlight actions that go beyond business as usual in the management and reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions both in internal operations and throughout the supply chain.*

Organizational Leadership Award

Recognizes organizations that not only have their own comprehensive greenhouse gas inventories and aggressive emissions reduction goals, but also exemplify extraordinary leadership in their internal response to climate change, and engagement of their peers, partners, and supply chain.

DEADLINE to submit completed third-party reference forms is **January 31, 2023.**

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| **Instructions**: Applicants for the Organizational Leadership Award must present at least **one (1)** and up to **three (3)** third-party reference forms to accompany their application, submitted by COB on the application deadline, January 31, 2023. References can submit the reference forms by emailing the completed form directly to applications@climateleadershipawards.org. The applicant may also include completed reference forms with their online submission to the [CLA SmarterSelect application portal](https://app.smarterselect.com/programs/85279). * For further clarification on Organizational Leadership Award eligibility and criteria, go to the Awards [Organizational Leadership criteria page](https://climateleadershipconference.org/awards/organizational-leadership-award/).
* For further details on the Climate Leadership Awards program, standard criteria, application & review process, go to the [Frequently Asked Questions](https://climateleadershipconference.org/awards-faq/) page.
* Please direct any questions to questions@climateleadershipawards.org.
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**This Reference Form Accompanies:**

Applicant Organization’s Name

Section 1: About the Reference Provider

This section is directed at the reference provider for background and context of the relationship between provider and Organizational Leadership Award applicant.

1. Full Name:
2. Employer:
3. Title:
4. E-mail Address:
5. Work Phone:
6. Work Address:
7. Describe the nature of the operations and/or mission of the Reference Organization.

*Max character count: 850*

1. Describe the nature of the Reference Organization’s relationship with Applicant, including information on whether Applicant is a member, employs an individual serving on Reference Organization’s Board of Directors, provides funding/sponsorship to Reference Organization, etc.

*Max character count: 1,500*

Section 2: About the Applicant

In answering the questions in this form, please consider the following attributes the organizational leadership awards applicants will be evaluated on:

* Innovation and thought leadership in developing operational strategies to address climate change.
* Disclosure of climate-related material risks and opportunities.
* Strategic integration of climate mitigation and resilience activities into applicant's operations, including establishing management structures, verifying performance, allocating budget, engaging the supply chain, and demonstrating a track record of establishing and achieving GHG reduction and climate risk mitigation goals.
* Key climate initiatives and subsequent goals, benchmarks, and plans for measuring success.
* Quality of engagement with external stakeholders - non-profit partners, governmental organizations, and/or other non-advocacy collaborations in which the applicant is an active participant.
* Education and training of internal staff and management, as well as external stakeholders, partners, suppliers, competitors, and/or others.
* Activities that are deemed to exceed business-as-usual.
1. Has the Applicant won any related climate change, energy, sustainability, or environmentally focused awards issued by Reference Organization? If so, please describe the nature of the award and the reasoning for the award being given to Applicant.

*Max character count: 2,000*

1. Please describe up to 3 projects, programs, events, or activities in which you and Applicant have worked closely together and the nature of the role the Applicant played in that collaboration.

*Max character count: 4,000*

1. Why should the Applicant be presented with the Organizational Leadership Award?

*Max character count: 4,000*

1. Please provide any additional commentary that should be considered as part of this submission.

*Max character count: 4,000*

**General Eligibility Requirements**

* Applicants must have significant operations in the United States. Given the global nature of climate change, the majority of greenhouse gas emissions reductions do not have to occur in the United States.
* Meet one of the following descriptions:
	+ Legally recognized corporate organization with annual revenue over $100 million;
	or with annual revenue over $10 million ***and*** at least 100 employees; or
	+ Governmental entity or academic organization with annual budget over $100 million; or with annual budget over $10 million ***and*** at least 100 employees.
* CLA applications and applicants may be reviewed and evaluated for environmental, civil rights, and/or financial improprieties. An application may be denied if the applicant/organization is found to be in serious violation of environmental regulations, civil rights, or financial impropriety by the CLA Steering Committee. Where areas of concern are identified, additional follow up may be conducted.
* Exemplary climate leadership activities must have taken place between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2021. However, applications may also refer to actions that commenced before that time and continued into the application period and the length of time an action has been in practice, or which explains how that prior activity served as a foundation for ongoing and more current activities.

### GHG Inventory & Verification Requirements

* GHG inventory must be publicly reported and include both scope 1 and 2 emissions. The organization must report both location-based and market-based scope 2 emissions for all years.
	+ Organizations may track progress toward a goal using a single base year or a base period that reflects an average of annual emissions over several consecutive years.[[1]](#footnote-1)
* Applicants must conduct a Scope 3 screening in line with the GHG Protocol Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Accounting and Reporting Standards, and use the criteria for relevance (outlined [in this document](https://ghgprotocol.org/sites/default/files/standards/Corporate-Value-Chain-Accounting-Reporing-Standard_041613_2.pdf), [Table [6.1], pg. 61](https://ghgprotocol.org/sites/default/files/standards/Corporate-Value-Chain-Accounting-Reporing-Standard_041613_2.pdf#page=63)) to assess the relevance of Scope 3 categories. If Scope 3 emissions comprise over 40% of total entity-wide emissions, applicants should measure and publicly report those emissions.
* Inventories must be third-party verified to a limited level of assurance at a minimum. If scope 3 or direct or indirect biogenic emissions are included as part of the applicant's goal, these must also undergo third-party verification.
* Third-party verified GHG inventory statements are required for BOTH base year and achievement year (if applicable).
* If purchases of renewable energy (demonstrated by the ownership and retirement of renewable energy instruments, such as renewable energy certificates) and/or offsets have been accounted for in the applicant’s base year or current year inventory, information about the (1) quantity (in units of MWh and/or CO2e, respectively), (2) description or project types, (3) certification/quality (e.g., Green-e certified), and (4) product vintage must be provided. These purchases should be incorporated into the applicant’s verified GHG inventory and the third-party review documentation submitted alongside the application.
* An applicant’s annual GHG inventory must include all scope 1 and 2 sources, with the exception of small sources that are cumulatively equal to or less than 10% of total emissions.
	+ Similarly, up to 10% of an inventory can be accounted for using simplified estimation methods.
	+ For organizations that have determined certain sources are immaterial and do not include them in their inventory, those sources should be documented in their inventory management plan and verification statement.
* If base year emissions have changed by 5% or more as a result of structural change, a change in calculation methodologies, or because of a discovered error, applicants must adjust the base year inventory to reflect this correction or change. The organization must include both location-based and market-based scope 2 emissions in its reported GHG inventory for the base year, regardless of the magnitude of the change from previously reported scope 2 emissions.
* If adjustments of 5% or more are made to the base year emissions, a third-party verification body must attest to the accuracy of the base year adjustment. This requirement also applies if the difference between newly reported base year location-based or market-based scope 2 emissions and previously reported base year scope 2 emissions is 5% or more.
* If an organization changes its reporting approach (e.g., from a calendar year to a fiscal year-basis) during the goal period it must provide emissions data for the period of time not reflected in the achievement year inventory so as to demonstrate that the organization would have still achieved the original goal had the reporting approach not changed. While verification of that data is recommended, it is not required. Alternately, organizations can elect to adjust the base year to conform to the reporting approach of the achievement year – in which case verification of the adjustment would be needed if the change in emissions is 5% or greater.

### GHG Reduction Goal Requirements

* The goal must be publicly announced.
* The geographic boundaries of the goal and GHG inventory must include all U.S. operations, all North America operations, or all global operations. Within the chosen geographic boundaries, the reduction goal should include all scope 1 and 2 (either location-based or market-based) emissions sources that are included in the inventory. If Scope 3 emissions comprise over 40% of total entity-wide emissions (after conducting a Scope 3 screening in line with the GHG Protocol standards), applicants must include at least one third of relevant Scope 3 categories in their GHG reduction goal. Applicants may also provide information on plans for addressing relevant Scope 3 emissions categories in the future.[[2]](#footnote-2) The goal boundaries must remain consistent throughout the goal period.
* The goal must be an absolute reduction goal. Intensity goals will be recognized but the award will only be evaluated based on a publicly announced absolute reduction goal.
* The base year for a first-generation goal may not be more than five years prior to the year the goal was publicly announced. For instance, for first generation goals set in 2017, 2013 would be the earliest base year accepted. Subsequent goals may use the same base year as a previous goal, provided that the new goal extends the goal period by three years at a minimum.
* The goal period (the time between the base year and achievement year) should be no less than three and no more than 15 years for a first-generation goal. Subsequent goals that use the same base year may extend the previous goal period by no fewer than three and no more than 15 years.
* The timeframe between the goal being set and achieved should be at least three years to demonstrate ambitious and aggressive action.
* Goals must represent an aggressive reduction, which is defined as follows:[[3]](#footnote-3)
	+ An organization’s first goal must commit to at least a 2.5% reduction per year over the life of the goal. For example, a 5-year goal must commit to at least 12.5% total reduction.[[4]](#footnote-4) A subsequent goal with a new base year must also commit to at least a 2.5% reduction per year over the life of the goal. For example, a 5-year goal must commit to at least 12.5% total reduction. An organization may substantiate their case for a subsequent goal that is below the required 2.5% threshold but that has ≥1.8% reduction per year, such as a goal considered aggressive in a specific sector.

### Additional Considerations for Evaluation:

* Innovation and thought leadership in developing operational strategies to address climate change.
* Disclosure of climate-related material risks and opportunities.
* Strategic integration of climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience activities into applicant's operations, including establishing management structures, verifying performance, allocating budget, engaging the supply chain, and demonstrating a track record of establishing and achieving GHG reduction and climate risk mitigation goals.
* Key climate initiatives and subsequent goals, benchmarks, and plans for measuring success.
* Active engagement with external stakeholder, including non-profit partners, governmental organizations, and communities, particularly those disproportionately burdened by environmental harm and risks, such as minority, low-income, tribal communities, among others.
* Key climate initiatives and subsequent goals, benchmarks, and plans for measuring success.
* Education and training of internal staff and management, as well as external stakeholders, partners, suppliers, competitors, and/or others.
* Activities that are deemed to exceed business-as-usual.
1. A single year could be defined as a calendar year or a fiscal year. A rolling base year, which involves shifting or rolling the base year forward by a certain number of years at regular intervals of time, may also be acceptable if transparently documented. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. GHG reduction goals publicly set by applicants whose Scope 3 emissions comprise over 40% of total entity-wide emissions (after conducting a Scope 3 screening in line with the GHG Protocol standards) after January 1, 2021 must address at least one third of relevant Scope 3 categories. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. A goal publicly set after January 1, 2020 must commit to at least a 2.5% reduction per year over the life of the goal. For example, a 5-year goal must commit to at least a 12.5% reduction. Goals set prior to January 1, 2020 must have achieved at least a 1.8% average annual reduction. As of January 1 2025, all recognized goals (including those recognized in the Goal Achievement category) must have achieved at least 2.5% average annual reductions. Goals achieved prior to January 1, 2025 must have achieved at least a 1.8% average annual reduction. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. The 2.5% annual reduction requirement is intended to align with the Science Based Targets Initiative’s (SBTi) minimum ambition threshold for a ‘Well Below 2°C’ temperature goal. While organizations will be required to have goals that align with SBTi’s ambition threshold for a ‘Well Below 2°C’ temperature goal (2.5% linear annual reduction), applicants are encouraged to align with the SBTi threshold associated with a 1.5°C temperature goal (4.2% linear annual reduction.). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)