

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Climate Leadership Awards



CLIMATE LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Q: Are the awards, applications, and categories different for 2024?

A: Yes. The most notable change between 2023 and 2024 is the **introduction of the Value Chain Leadership Award category**, which highlights exceptional commitment, initiatives, performance, and outcomes focused on scope 3 emissions.

Below are examples of **additional updates and modifications** that were made to the applications:

- Some requirements have been modified to be less prescriptive (e.g., definition of aggressive goal reductions).
- Timeframes for core leadership activities have been made more explicit (i.e., January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2023).
- More flexibility has been introduced for demonstrating the credibility of GHG inventories. Applicants may submit a broader range of audit records to demonstrate the credibility of inventory data, including verification, attestation, quality assurance, third-party critical review, or others.

Q: What are the minimum requirements for the award categories?

A: Minimum requirements for the award categories are **outlined in the Appendix of each award application template**. For the Organizational Leadership and Value Chain Leadership awards categories, there are also requirements for *GHG Inventory and Verification* and *GHG Reduction Goals*.

The application also distinguishes between **“must” and “should” statements**. “Must” indicates requirements to be followed by the applicant to ensure consideration by the selection committee(s). “Should” indicates that among several possibilities one is recommended as particularly suitable, without mentioning or excluding others, or that a certain course of action is preferred but not necessarily required.

Q: How are award winners determined and selected?

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A: Independent **Review Committees** are assembled for each award category and are typically composed of five (5) members with extensive experience and technical expertise in greenhouse gas management. Committee membership is diversified across the business, non-profit, academic, and public sectors. Review committees evaluate and grade each applicant in accordance with the evaluation criteria and forward their recommendations to an independent and diverse **Advisory Council**. The Advisory Council serves as an additional layer of assessment and quality control, and ultimately makes the final decision on the award recipients for each category. For any actual or perceived conflict of interest, members of the Review Committees and Advisory Council recuse themselves from evaluation of the applicant in question.

Q: What factors contribute to a strong (or weak) application?

A: The strength (or weakness) of an application is evaluated on the extent to which it responds to the **Evaluation Criteria** listed in the Appendix of each award application template. Stronger applications will more explicitly demonstrate that they meet or exceed the Evaluation Criteria.

Below are examples for different criteria within the four award categories:

- **Individual Leadership:** An application that better demonstrates the measurability of an applicant's impact through various and diverse metrics and key performance indicators (KPIs) will be evaluated as a stronger application than one that does not sufficiently demonstrate the measurability of impact through metrics and KPIs.
 - **Innovative Partnership:** An application that better demonstrates the potential to scale and replicate the project will be evaluated as a stronger application than one that does not sufficiently demonstrate scalability or replicability.
 - **Organizational Leadership:** An application that better demonstrates how the applicant's achievement and performance exceed those of its industry peers will be evaluated as a stronger application than one that does not sufficiently demonstrate greater achievement and performance relative to its industry peers.
 - **Value Chain Leadership:** An application that better demonstrates collaborative engagement with suppliers and customers will be evaluated as a stronger application than one that does not sufficiently demonstrate collaborative engagement with its value chain partners.
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Q: What is the timeframe for activities and outcomes that corresponds to the Climate Leadership Awards?

A: The time period under consideration for all Climate Leadership Awards categories is **January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2023**. Applications should describe all relevant core leadership activities and performance outcomes that fall within this date range. However, to establish context, applications may

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also refer to actions that have taken place before that period, and the length of time an action has been in practice.

Q: How are the Organization Leadership and Value Chain Leadership Awards different?

A: The **Organizational Leadership Award** highlights exceptional commitment, initiatives, performance, and outcomes focused on **scopes 1 and 2**. The **Value Chain Leadership Award** highlights exceptional commitment, initiatives, performance, and outcomes focused on **scope 3** emissions. Correspondingly, the Organizational Leadership and Value Chain Leadership Awards have different requirements for different scopes. It is important to pay attention to the “must” and “should” statements within each award application.

Q: What are reasons why an application would be disqualified?

A: Examples of why applications may be disqualified include the following:

- the applicant/organization is found to be in **serious violation of environmental regulations, civil rights, or financial impropriety**, and/or no additional clarification or information is provided in the corresponding section of the application;
- The application is **incomplete**;
- Required **supporting documents are not submitted**;
- Application and third-party reference **forms provided by The Climate Registry are not used**.