text.

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



*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 value chain.*

**Innovative Partnership Award**

The award for innovative partnerships recognizes organizations working collaboratively on leading edge climate initiatives that are above and beyond business-as-usual. Partnerships that are candidates for recognition should be comprised primarily of stakeholder institutions from government, non-profit, academia, and/or the private sector that have collectively established objectives to measurably address greenhouse gas reduction goals and/or adaptation and resilience activities.

**DEADLINE to submit all application materials is January 12, 2024.**

**Instructions & Guidance**: Please answer all questions and note that fields will expand to the designated maximum character limit. Once the form is completed, save it to your computer and submit a copy with your supporting materials [via the online CLA SmarterSelect portal](https://app.smarterselect.com/programs/90500-Climate-Leadership-Conference--Awards) by COB on January 12, 2024**.**

* **Supporting Documentation**: please ensure that all required supporting materials are included with your application submission.

*Note: See Section 5 for a complete list of required documents.*

* **Eligibility Requirements:** for a detailed list of applicant requirements, please refer to the appendix of this application or the [Innovative Partnerships criteria page](https://climateleadershipconference.org/awards/innovative-partnership-certificate/).
* For further details on the Climate Leadership Awards program, standard criteria, application, and review process, please review the [Frequently Asked Questions](https://climateleadershipconference.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/2024_CLA_FAQs.docx.pdf).
* Please direct any questions to questions@climateleadershipawards.org.

# Section 1: Contact Information



|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Name** | **Title** | **Organization** | **Phone** | **Email** |
| **Primary Contact** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Secondary Contact** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Public Relations Contact** |  |  |  |  |  |

Section 2: Applicant Information

* 1. Partnership Name
	2. Identify all public and private sector institutions that are primary stakeholders to this partnership:
1. Click or tap here to enter text.
2. Click or tap here to enter text.
3. Click or tap here to enter text.
4. Click or tap here to enter text.
5. Click or tap here to enter text.
6. Click or tap here to enter text.
7. Click or tap here to enter text.
8. Click or tap here to enter text.
9. Click or tap here to enter text.
10. Click or tap here to enter text.
	1. Is the partnership incorporated as a stand-alone entity?
		* NO
		* Yes – Please answer the associated questions below.
			1. Provide a list of its individual officers or directors (including name, title, and organization)
			2. What is the partnership’s website (if applicable)?
			3. How is the partnership incorporated (e.g., 501(c)(3), LLC)?
			4. Address of partnership entity headquarters:
	2. Describe the nature of the legal agreement that binds the primary stakeholders to the partnership.
	3. When was the partnership formally established?
	4. Describe where the partnership’s primary operations and activities take place:
	5. List the official name of the partnership and partner organizations as it would appear in printed Awards materials:

Section 3: Partnership Overview

* 1. Describe the purpose of the partnership, how the partners determined the need for the collaboration, and how that collaboration has addressed the identified need. Include the key actions taken in response to climate change and highlight the leadership and innovation inherent to the partnership that demonstrates why the partnership should be presented with this award. *Max character count: 2,000*
	2. Does the partnership have a GHG reduction goal?

*Note: This is not a requirement for the Innovative Partnership award category.*

* + - NO
		- YES – Please answer the associated questions below.
			1. If yes, what is the goal?

 % from (base year) to (achievement year).

*For example, 20% from 2015 to 2025.*

* + - 1. Identify what kind of GHG reduction goal the partnership set.
				* Absolute goal
				* Intensity goal – Please answer the associated questions below.

If an intensity goal, what is the unit of measurement (e.g., per widget, square foot), and how is that calculated?

If an intensity goal, did the goal result in an absolute reduction of GHG emissions? If so, please disclose the absolute GHG reduction achieved.

* + - 1. Is the applicant’s GHG reduction goal a science-based target?
				* NO
				* YES – Indicate which methodology was used to define the goal (check all that apply) \*.
* SDA (Sectoral Decarbonization Approach)
* 3% Solution
* BT – CSI (Carbon Stabilization Intensity)



* C-FACT
* CSO’S Context-Based Carbon Metric
* GEVA (Greenhouse Gas Emissions Per Unit of Value Added)
* MARS Method
* Absolute Emissions Contraction (IPCC straight line)
* Other:

Additional Information (*Max character count: 1,000)*:

*\*For more information, see, for example, the Science Based Targets Initiative’s website (*[*http://sciencebasedtargets.org*](http://sciencebasedtargets.org/)*) or the IPCC’s website (*[*https://www.ipcc.ch*](https://www.ipcc.ch/)*).*

* + - 1. The organization must report both location-based and market-based scope 2 emissions for both the base year and the achievement year, and must select one of these methods to track progress toward goal achievement; indicate below which method is used. The partnership/organization should also indicate this in its public communication of the goal.
				* Location-based method
				* Market-based method
			2. Has an audit process been conducted of relevant emissions in the GHG reduction goal?
				* NO
				* YES – Please describe:
			3. Are the primary stakeholders to the partnership required to establish their own goals in addition to the joint reduction?
				* NO
				* YES – Please describe:
			4. Provide a link and page reference to the partnership’s publicly declared goal.
	1. Does the partnership have a climate adaptation plan (or alternatively, a climate action plan that includes adaptation and resilience action items)?
		+ NO
		+ YES – Please answer the associated questions below.
			1. Provide a link and page reference to a public version of the plan:
			2. Describe up to five (5) key action items under this plan:



i.

ii.

 iv.

v.

* + - 1. Was a vulnerability assessment conducted prior to adoption of plan?
				* NO
				* YES - Describe how the assessment was conducted, its key findings and how it served to inform the plan:
	1. Does the partnership have a goal to establish a large-scale renewable energy program/project?
		+ NO
		+ YES - Describe the nature of those programs/projects and how they are driving action that is beyond business-as-usual, and what metrics will be used to quantify impact:
	2. Does the partnership have a goal to establish a large-scale energy efficiency program/project?
		+ NO
		+ YES – Please answer the associated questions below.
			1. Describe the nature of those programs/projects, how they are driving action that is beyond business-as-usual, and what metrics will be used to quantify impact.
			2. Describe how a baseline was created to inform the energy efficiency program’s goals.
	3. Describe how – or to what extent – the partnership is scalable/replicable.



# Section 4: Innovative Partnership Activities

* 1. Provide an overall description of the partnership, how it is structured and governed, and the roles/responsibilities of primary organizations.

Include information on:

* + 1. Governance of the program/project, stakeholder expectations, and performance evaluation. Describe how the success of the partnership is defined and measured, and what metrics/key performance indicators are used.
		2. Budget (and financial role of each participant), implementation, and staffing of program/project.

*Max character count: 4,000*

* 1. Describe how the partnership has demonstrated leadership in inducing change, noting a particular emphasis on the following criteria:
		1. The development of the program/project baseline and the subsequent results achieved as a result of the partnership.
		2. Thought leadership in the form of innovation, publication, operational change, driving community participation/action, etc.

*Max character count: 4,000*

* 1. Describe the strategies incorporated into the partnership plan that will support or ensure the long-term sustained impact of the program/project or its accomplishments.

*Max character count: 2,000*

* 1. Describe how the partnership engages and communicates with external stakeholders including other organizations and the general public (organizations not considered to be amongst the primary stakeholder group). Consider in your response the ability to convene stakeholders to aggregate resources and capabilities, influence behavior changes amongst the stakeholder organizations and in their communities, establish standards and engage in public education and training.

*Max character count: 3,000*

* 1. Are there other specific actions taken by the partnership that have not been covered in the questions above, but that should be considered along with the other information submitted in this application? If so, please describe. *Max character count: 3,000*
	2. CLA applications and applicants may be reviewed and evaluated for environmental, civil rights, and/or financial improprieties. An application may be disqualified if the applicant/participating organizations are 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. If there is any additional information and/or context that you want to provide in this regard, please state here:

*Max character count: 3,000*

# Section 5: Supporting Materials

Please ensure that the following required materials are included in your submission and provide us with any additional significant context for your efforts. Please do not attach full CSR or sustainability reports as supporting materials, though relevant sections of reports are acceptable.

## REQUIRED Documentation\*

Files should be uploaded to [the online CLA SmarterSelect portal](https://app.smarterselect.com/programs/90500-Climate-Leadership-Conference--Awards) along with the application.

* If a GHG reduction goal has been referenced in Section 3, the following are required:
	1. **GHG Emissions Tracking** – provide a description of how the partnership accounted for all GHG emissions for any scopes identified in the GHG reduction goal across the entire partnership.
	2. **Audit Records** – provide any documentation including details about how the integrity of GHG inventories are ensured (e.g., verification, attestation, quality assurance, third-party critical review, etc.).
* If an Adaptation Plan has been referenced in Section 3, the following is required:
	1. **Vulnerability Assessment** – provide a list of critical climate change or extreme event related vulnerabilities for the partnership as a whole.
* If an energy-efficiency or renewables focused program or goal has been referenced in Section 3, the following is required:
	1. **Energy Audit** – provide a description as to the findings of this baseline audit for the partnership as a whole.

***\**** *If the partnership relied upon its individual members to conduct their own inventories, verifications, assessments, or audits, please describe how these activities were reported and accounted for by the partnership. Additionally, if individual members of the partnership have their own inventories, verifications, assessments, or audits, records of these activities may be included for consideration.*

## Optional Supporting Materials

* Additional best practices or supporting materials.
* Public attention garnered for the partnership’s activities.

For further details on the Climate Leadership Awards program, criteria, or application and review process, please review the [Frequently Asked Questions](https://climateleadershipconference.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/2024_CLA_FAQs.docx.pdf). Please direct any questions to questions@climateleadershipawards.org.

## Applicants for the Innovative Partnership Award must meet the following eligibility requirements:

Recognition will be open to partnerships comprised of two or more primary stakeholders from government entities, academic institutions, non-profit organizations, and/or the private sector. While this award category has been established to highlight public/private and public/public partnerships, partnerships exclusively comprised of private sector stakeholders may be considered if the nature of the activity is deemed to be outside the normal scope of business and is sufficient in magnitude of GHG emissions reduction and/or adaptation implementation to merit recognition.

## In order to qualify for recognition, applicants must adhere to the following:

* The partnership must demonstrate that it is:
* Currently active;
* Based upon or supported by a legal agreement/arrangement that addresses governance, roles, funding, etc.; and,
* Publicly described as being driven and/or motivated by an imperative to take climate action.
* Partnership activities must primarily be located in the United States, though the primary stakeholders are not necessarily required to be headquartered in the United States.
* Partnerships must also have:
* Conducted an assessment of all attributes related to the primary objectives of the partnership (e.g., vulnerability assessment, GHG inventory, energy consumption) in order to establish a baseline;
* Achieved significant, verifiable results in reducing emissions and/or implementing adaptation and resilience to protect a specific population; and
* Significant leadership activities and partnership accomplishments must have taken place between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2023.

## What is not eligible?

* Partnerships undertaking an action that falls within the normal scope of business activity/mission of any organization are not eligible.
* Arrangements between organizations that are based on procurement of services are not eligible (e.g., a government entity contracting an engineering consultant to do adaptation planning work).
* Partnership/Applicant must not have received an Innovative Partnership award from TCR in the previous three (3) years.

## Evaluation criteria:

Applicants will be evaluated based on the following attributes:

* Activities and outcomes that are deemed to exceed business-as-usual.
* Degree to which the partnership/project has achieved a critical level of maturity such that its benefits, outcomes, and success can be confidently evaluated.
* Innovation, strategic management, and thought leadership in addressing climate change.
* Partnership achieved significant, measurable, and verifiable results in reducing emissions and/or implementing adaptation and resilience to protect a specific population and maximize community impact.
* Quality of engagement with partners includes diverse communities including non-profit partners, government organizations, local vulnerable and under-resourced communities, particularly those disproportionately burdened by environmental harm and risks, such as minority, low-income, tribal communities, and communities historically supported by fossil fuels.
* Quality of collaboration with peers to develop best practices, influence behavior change, establish standards, and engage in public education.
* Education and outreach of results to internal and external stakeholders, partners, and suppliers.
* Partnership and/or outcomes have potential to scale or replicate.