

2017 Ashden International Awards Information for applicants

(Available in French, Spanish, Portuguese and Chinese on www.ashden.org/apply/international)

Ashden rewards innovative enterprises and programmes that deliver, or play a key part in enabling the delivery of, renewable energy and energy efficiency at the local level, and through this bring social, economic and environmental benefits. In 2017 we will make **seven International Awards**. The **winners** will receive prize funds of up to **£20,000** each.

As well as this cash fund, winning an Ashden Award brings many other benefits, such as:

- National and international publicity, through the work of our specialist communications team.
- A tailored business support programme to help you take your work further: this can include professional mentoring, sales and technical training and introductions to investment and grant finance.
- A broadcast-quality short film of your award-winning work.
- Opportunities to present your work to large and influential audiences at the Ashden Awards ceremony and conference.
- Membership of the network of Ashden Award winners, who are all leading practitioners in sustainable energy.
- The acclaim of winning a prestigious Ashden Award.

Who can apply for an Ashden International Award?

- Businesses, NGOs, social enterprises and government organisations are all eligible.
- The application can be for a specific renewable energy or energy efficiency programme, enterprise or building, or for a specific product or service. This may be the whole work of an organisation or part of it.
- The work must be proven on the market and have been delivered for at least one year.
- The work must be delivered in at least one of the UN's developing regions of Africa, Caribbean, Central America, South America, Asia (excluding Japan) and Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand) and can be in rural or urban areas. High-income countries in these regions, as defined by the World Bank, are not eligible to apply. See [here](#) for a list of eligible countries.*
- We do not make awards to start-up, pilot or demonstration projects.

* Ashden reserves the right to exclude applicants from the assessment process at any stage if FCO guidelines advise against travel to that region.

Who should be applying for a different Ashden Award?

- Any organisation based in the UK should check if they are eligible for our UK Awards (see www.ashden.org for details).

What are we looking for this year?

The Ashden Awards are a showcase. We want to reward pioneering and leading work that is delivering, or enabling the widespread use and delivery of, sustainable energy.

In 2017 we will be awarding work that fits into the following categories and also meets the key criteria listed below. When completing your application please indicate the specific category/categories you feel are most relevant to your work. We will consider your application in categories other than the ones you have indicated if we feel they fit your work more closely.

Increasing energy access	Enterprises or programmes that increase energy access to those who currently have limited or no access, by providing renewable energy products or services for homes, businesses, education or health care establishments (for example: off-grid electricity or extending the grid to homes and small businesses, energy for water provision and clean cookstoves). This can also include energy access for refugees and internally displaced persons.
Clean energy for women and girls	Enterprises or programmes that are providing sustainable energy to women and girls as beneficiaries (for example: clean cookstoves, electrification of health centres and clinics, vaccine refrigeration, solar street lighting, transport and general safety), and, ideally, creating employment and income-generating activities for women, or involving them in the supply chain. We are also interested in sustainable energy work benefitting refugees and internally displaced women and girls.
Sustainable energy and water	Enterprises or programmes using sustainable energy technologies to deliver increased access to: safe and affordable drinking water (for example: solar and wind technologies for extracting, treating and distributing water, filtration technologies to reduce the use of wood to boil water for decontamination); or water for agricultural production (for example: solar water pumping for irrigation and efficient water distribution); or adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene (for example: biogas). The increased access to water, sanitation or hygiene must be provided in areas where it is currently lacking, especially in low income areas.
Innovative financial mechanisms or business models for delivering sustainable energy	Organisations providing innovative financial mechanisms or using innovative business models to expand access to sustainable energy products or services (for example: use of technology or alternative channels for payments/collections, distribution and end-user finance, structured access to funding, finance for start-up and small energy enterprises).
Sustainable buildings	Organisations working to reduce energy use in urban buildings, including residential, commercial and public buildings (for example: making low-carbon or energy efficient buildings, using passive heating, cooling and insulation techniques, designing buildings to save energy, or integrating renewable energy in buildings).
Sustainable travel	Innovative enterprises or programmes in the field of sustainable travel that are improving access to sustainable travel for those who currently have little or no access to transport, encouraging the use of more sustainable modes of travel, or using technology to enable more sustainable and efficient fuel use (for example: electric/biogas vehicles, renewable energy-powered taxi/minibus schemes, cycling enterprises, or IT/software solutions to access and enhance sustainable travel). Work should enable communities to access wider socio-economic benefits.
Powering Business	Enterprises or programmes which provide and/or use clean energy or energy efficiency in the provision of goods and services through business activities. This could be in the provision and/or use of sustainable energy in the agricultural, commercial or industrial sector. Use of electricity at a household-level or for community-services (for example: health and education) is not eligible in this award category.

The key criteria for the Ashden International Awards

To be shortlisted and win an award, work must:

1. **Have been delivering, or helping to deliver, renewable energy, energy efficiency or sustainable travel services at a local level for at least one year.** Examples include biogas, hydro, solar pv, wind, efficient stoves, biomass gasification (from sustainable sources, such as agricultural residues), biomass heating fuel (eg briquettes, charcoal or pellets from sustainable sources such as agricultural residues), low-energy buildings (building designs or products that reduce the demand for energy in buildings) and sustainable travel services (eg enterprises or programmes that provide socio-economic benefits to communities through enabling more sustainable travel). This can also include extending the grid with renewable energy technologies or providing sustainable travel services to communities that didn't previously have energy or travel access.
2. **Show an innovative approach to sustainable energy.** Many Award winners use established technologies, but there must be innovative aspects to the work as a whole. These could include novel approaches to marketing and distribution; better financing schemes; integrating IT, training and skills development; introducing a technology to a different country or region; different business models. Award-winning work must add something to what past winners have shown.
3. **Have the capacity to expand, or be replicable.** We are looking for work that has significant potential to grow and that will encourage the widespread uptake of local sustainable energy.
4. **Be delivering, or helping to deliver, significant social and economic benefits to individuals and communities.** Benefits could include improvements in quality of life, health and welfare, educational facilities, food security, time saving or income-generating activities. Work must respect local culture and customs.
5. **Be delivering, or helping to deliver, demonstrable benefits to the environment.** The work must be providing or saving energy, cutting greenhouse gas emissions and bringing benefits to the local environment.
6. **Be financially sustainable.** We are looking for efficient use of funds and evidence that future funding is secure, whether from sales, carbon finance, investment, grants or any other source. Organisations can be for-profit or not-for-profit, but must have a clear path to being financially sustainable.
7. **Be run by an organisation with the capacity and commitment to expand the work.** Award-winning organisations must demonstrate good governance and management, a continuing commitment to sustainable energy, a willingness to work with others such as finance organisations or training providers, and have the motivation to either significantly expand their sustainable energy programme/enterprise/service or have it replicated widely.

What will happen if you are longlisted

If your organisation is longlisted, we will get in touch for the following, to better understand your work and to assure ourselves of your financial viability:

1. Answers to some additional questions about your work.
2. A copy of your published accounts for the past two years.
3. A copy of your management accounts.

We will also follow up the referees you have given us, and the name of your organisation will be publicised as being on our longlist.

What will happen if you are chosen to be visited

If you are chosen to be visited we will get in touch to arrange a visit to assess your work. The visit usually lasts two to three days, and involves an assessor from the Ashden team. Applicants that are chosen to be visited will be credited as runners-up if they do not become winners.

What will happen if you win an Award

As an Ashden Award winner, you will:

1. Be invited to London at Ashden's expense to take part in the Awards Ceremony on 15 June as well as other events during this week. Winning an Ashden Award is contingent on taking part in Awards week activities.
2. Participate in media interviews that we may be able to arrange.
3. Agree with Ashden what you will spend the prize fund on and any business support you may require.

4. Provide and update monitoring data about the progress of your work after one year, two years and three years.

Apply online for a 2017 Ashden International Award

If your sustainable energy work fits the awards criteria and our particular interests for 2017, you can apply for an Ashden Award by filling in the **online** registration form at <http://apply.ashden.org/>.

If you would like to discuss whether your work is relevant to the awards or have questions about the application process, please contact the Awards Coordinator at internationalapps@ashden.org.

It is important to read the detailed information about the Ashden Awards and some of the case studies of previous winners on our website (www.ashden.org) before applying.

All applications must be received by **Tuesday 8 November 2016 23:59 GMT**.

Awards process and timetable for the 2017 Ashden International Awards

8 November 2016	Deadline for receipt of online applications.
Late November 2016	Up to 30 applicants will be selected to provide additional information, audited accounts and references. All other applicants will be notified that they have not been successful.
16 December 2016	Deadline for receipt of additional information, audited accounts and references.
February 2017	International judging panel meets to shortlist 12 applicants. All other applicants will be notified that they have not been successful.
February and March 2017	Judges and assessors visit the shortlisted applicants.
April 2017	International judging panel meets to select six award winners. All other shortlisted applicants will be notified of the outcome.
April to June 2017	Preparation of publicity materials about all shortlisted applicants. Films and detailed case studies made of winners' work.
12-16 June 2017	Awards week: winners to London for interviews, International Conference, publicity activities and Awards Ceremony.

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