



**7<sup>th</sup> JSW - THE TIMES OF INDIA**  
**EARTH CARE AWARDS-2016**  
*Edition* Awards For Excellence In Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation  
Last date for the acceptance of the application forms 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016

KNOWLEDGE PARTNER

**CEE**

Centre For Environment Education

OUTREACH PARTNER



Policy Centre



## ABOUT THE AWARDS

The Earth Care Awards seeks to identify and foster actions across several sectors with special reference to mitigation and adaptation imperatives related to climate change. This is in response to the growing consciousness on climate impacts and need to identify and foster locally evolved responses.

The awards focuses on responses generated from South Asian region, primarily SAARC region. This is in recognition to the reality of change happening and the nature of vulnerability and impact the region faces. The region shares common challenges with high levels of poverty, depleting natural resources and increasing uncertainty to monsoon and frequency of natural disasters along with stress and conflicts on resources availability. The awards reflect the need to recognize, strengthen and foster initiatives on mitigation and adaptation in the region.

The objective is to reduce emissions, adopt approaches to protect land and water resources and promote innovations for reducing impacts, emphasizing appropriate environmental action. The Earth Care Award recognizes these initiatives and undertakes extensive networking with stakeholders, conducts due diligence, develops field assessment and strengthens capabilities through knowledge sharing.

## PARTNERS

The Earth Care Awards (ECA) was launched in the year 2007-08 and is jointly sponsored by JSW and Times of India. The awards in 2011 extended its reach to all countries in SAARC region. CEE functions as knowledge partner to the initiative and is responsible for technical framework and field evaluations. TERRE Policy Centre supports the Earth Care Awards through its outreach functions.

### Awards benefits

- Respond to climate change in proactive and profitable manner
- Share experience in combating climate change impacts and help create opportunities for market driven solutions
- Mainstream climate change concerns in economic development
- Develop effective adaptation and mitigation measures to deal with climate change and its impacts and evolve sustainable solutions
- Identify and explore opportunities in devising adaptation and mitigation strategies, secure community from vulnerability, build and secure energy access and efficiency, conversion, use and sustainability.
- Position and leverage organization responsible behavior and enhance capacity of stakeholders to devise solutions.



## AWARD CATEGORIES

### *COMMUNITY BASED MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION IN WATER RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND OTHER LAND USE*

Focus is on initiatives related to conservation of water and land resources reflecting mitigation and adaptation goals aimed at increasing resilience of communities, to tackle challenges arising out of climate change.

### INNOVATION FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION

Focus is on development and use of innovative product or services which help reduce the greenhouse gas emissions.

### LEADERSHIP IN URBAN CLIMATE ACTION

The category recognizes the importance of urban centres in combating climate change. It looks for initiatives signifying innovative solutions through policy and implementation based projects and initiatives. The focus is on initiatives that reflects incorporation of climate change adaptation and mitigation addressing vulnerability and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions associated with cities.

### GHG MITIGATION IN LARGE ENTERPRISES

Focus is on industries across the large sector, who has demonstrated considerable leadership and willingness to reduce carbon intensity of their operations. The Award emphasize on the reduction of all greenhouse gases (directly / indirectly) in particular and not limited to Energy Conservation & related emission reduction alone.

## ELIGIBILITY

### **Category: Community based Mitigation and Adaptation in water resources, agriculture, forestry and other land use**

#### **Eligibility**

- Government departments, Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs), Community based Organizations (CBOs), Local Community Groups (Joint Forest Management groups, Water Users Associations; Organizations or parts of organizations (self-accounting profit centres) in the private and public sector supported by multilateral/bilateral agencies.
- The project/activity reported should have been conceptualized and implemented during the period from April 2005 to March 2015 with proven and verifiable results.
- The operations of the applicant must be carried out independently; project objectives, benefits, responsibilities, authorities, results, etc. should be clearly defined. This must be clearly documented, for example, in the project proposal, project report and publication and annual report, organization plan or its equivalent.



#### **Category: Innovation for Climate Protection**

- Companies, Businesses, Government agencies, Academic institutions, Community groups, and Individual researchers who have innovated products which are climate-efficient in terms of conservation of natural resources, switching to alternatives, reduced energy consumption and release of GHGs.
- Innovation should have been conceptualized and implemented during the period post 2009 with proven results

#### **Category: Leadership in Urban Climate Action**

- The project/activity reported should have been conceptualized and implemented during the period from April 2005 to March 2015 with proven and verifiable results.
- Initiatives on urban governance, development planning, sustainability and practical action by local government, industry, academia, institutions, and community based organizations and other stakeholders.
- Project areas - Energy Efficient Infrastructure/ Urban Mobility / Transportation / Waste Management / Community engagement and adaptation initiative / Climate risk proofing / disaster risk reduction / Clean and affordable energy / Regional or distant ecological impact reduction
- The category encourages innovative solutions and practices designed through policies, strategies and implementation based approaches reflecting excellence in urban sustainability and climate change.
- Only completed projects are eligible to apply. Projects being implemented in phase manner, must reflect completion of at least one phase providing clear indication on verifiable targets and achievements.

#### **Category: GHG mitigation in Large Enterprises**

- Project should have been conceptualized and implemented during the period from April 2012 to March 2015 with proven results.
- Energy efficiency improvement initiatives supported with verifiable indicators with respect to sectoral benchmarks
- Achieved emission reduction (direct & indirect), going beyond the basic compliance requirements.
- Moving beyond CDM wherein CDM initiatives will be considered only a part of the evaluation and additional initiatives which go beyond the CDM framework viz.; the industry's efforts to significantly reduce the 'carbon footprints' across value chain through interventions beyond those considered for CDM.

#### **CATEGORY PROFILE**

##### *COMMUNITY BASED MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION IN WATER RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND OTHER LAND USE*

Geography coupled with high levels of poverty and population density has rendered South Asia especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Adapting to the change is imperative and cannot be ignored any longer.

The Earth Care Awards process seeks to identify initiatives strengthening adaptation practices along with conservation of water and land resources reflecting mitigation and adaptation goals with clear climate indicators. Mitigation in this context refers to an intervention to reduce at source emissions or enhance the sinks to sequester greenhouse gases. Adaptation refers to the development and establishment of mechanisms/practices which identifies and reduces vulnerability and enhances the ability of the community to cope with the changing scale and diversity of pressures exerted through climate change.

The award process will look for; include situating the initiatives with in the vulnerability and adaptation context with improvement in the quality and quantity of resources and Implementation of such practices which ensures building of climate adaptive capability and sustained access to resources.



## INNOVATION FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION

The climate challenge poses unique opportunities to look for new solutions and innovate. Climate change requires solutions that reduce our dependence on conventional fuels, increase efficiency, and develop systems and practices that bring efficiency in energy use.

The innovations could relate to energy efficiency enhancement, networking to reduce redundancy in energy use; capture of pollutants etc. with a significant bearing on mitigation performance of the innovations. The awards process invites innovative projects demonstrating products/services leading to efficiency in use of energy and reduction in GHG emissions.

The process looks for clear reduction in the amounts of energy and emissions during product use and providing such services. The Award focuses on the product or service which could have specific applications across all sectors; not limited to industry. The framework of Award recognizes the possibility that innovations for which prototype has been developed but has not yet reached the threshold of the market and can be significantly supported if the climate-friendly characteristics are recognized and highlighted.

## LEADERSHIP IN URBAN CLIMATE ACTION

Towns, cities and urban regions can lead climate actions and achieve great things for their citizens, and for humanity. Climate actions include both mitigation – reducing a city's contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions – and adaptation – preparing a city for the most likely climate change scenarios. Cities and climate change link can be seen in three broad ways. Cities contribute to and are affected by climate change. Cities can change human behavior and improve technology related to climate change. Cities could use climate change as an opportunity to raise their profile, reinforce sensible policies and move towards a more sustainable community.

Cities are seen as contributing to climate change and represent immense ecological burdens. However, cities can be models of environmental efficiency, promote innovation, and enable prosperity through economic development. Sustainable cities are the best option to provide a quality of life while reducing net greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Cities are credible laboratories of social change with sufficient scale to bring about meaningful actions. At economic level, cities are major contributors in gross domestic product (GDP). Cities offer dynamism, scale, stronger linkages, and a greater sense of urgency among residents and their local leaders.

Cities have the unique ability to respond to a global issue, such as climate change at a local, more tangible level. They usually offer more immediate and effective communication between the public and decision makers than other groups can. Cobenefits of climate change mitigation and adaptation are largest in cities.

With this rationale, the Earth Care Initiatives seeks to recognize the mitigation and adaptation activities in the SAARC region. It looks for initiatives on urban governance, development planning, sustainability and practical action by local government, industry, academia, institutions, and community based organizations and other stakeholders.

The category has emerged out of Earth Care Initiatives experience in dealing with climate change initiatives over the years and recognizes the importance of urban centres in combating climate change. It looks for initiatives signifying innovative solutions through policy and implementation based projects and initiatives. The focus is on initiatives that reflects incorporation of climate change adaptation and mitigation addressing vulnerability and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions associated with cities.

## GHG MITIGATION IN LARGE SCALE ENTERPRISES

Industry is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, particularly to the impacts of extreme weather. Companies can adapt to these potential impacts by reducing their energy load, diversifying energy and resource portfolio, designing facilities that are resistant to projected changes in weather and climate, relocating plants to less vulnerable locations, and diversifying raw material sources, especially agricultural or forestry inputs.

The Earth Care Awards looks at encouraging the policy environment that promotes the implementation of existing and new mitigation technologies leading to lower GHG emissions.

The award process looks for a clear reduction in the quantity and diversity of greenhouse gases released during various stages of production in large scale enterprises. The specific emphasis is on the release of GHGs; thereby relying not exclusively on the correlates between reduction in energy consumption and on emissions alone.

## JURY

- Dr. R A Mashelkar, President, Global Research Alliance
- Mr. Kartikeya V. Sarabhai, Director, Centre for Environment Education
- Dr. Nitin Pandit - Managing Director, World Resources Institute, India
- Mr. Rajendra M. Shende, Chairperson, Terre Policy Centre, India
- Mr. Chandra Bhushan, Deputy Director General, Centre for Science and Environment, India
- Ms. Aneeta Benninger, Director, Centre for Development Studies and Activities, India
- Mr. Rajat Gupta, Director, McKinsey & Company

## JUDGING PROCESS

- Information provided in this application form will be reviewed by a team of technical experts to shortlist applications in each award category.
- The claims of selected applicants will be audited onsite (or at the team office, depending upon the application) by a technical team; verifying the details provided and supporting documents.
- If required, the finalists may be required/ invited to support/ present their case before the jury members

## HOW TO APPLY

- Two copies of the application form should be submitted along with two sets of electronic version (CD). The application form should be submitted in English only.
- All the documents and supporting relevant materials should be submitted formally with a covering letter mentioning lists of enclosures, if any.

## CONFIDENTIALITY

All information provided in the entry form will be treated in the strictest confidence. It will be used solely for the purpose of judging and for awards documentation and communication purpose. Applicants will be consulted, incase the materials submitted or collected during field visits are intended to be used for any other purpose apart from earth care awards.

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Entries which do not match the required criteria will not be considered.
- All entries must be supported with content that are owned by applicants and are authorized to use and submit.
- The format for application will not be altered in any way and must be maintained and applied in prescribed format. Any alteration or deviation will attract outright rejection.
- No correspondence would be entertained regarding the selection or the selection procedure.
- Materials submitted for consideration of the award are non-returnable.
- Applications without sufficient supporting documents would not be taken ahead
- The Awards Jury reserves the right, for on ground verification of the work
- The organizers of the awards will not be responsible for any damage and non-receipt/late receipt of any material.

- Content submitted shall not contain in whole or in part, any third party copyrighted material or material that is subject to other third party proprietary rights.
- Awards Jury reserves the right to award more than one as the winner and also to withhold awards, if the required standards are not met.
- An award winner is entitled to use award logo for their required purpose and cannot apply for the three years under the same category.
- The deliberations of the Jury will remain confidential. All recommendations and decisions taken are binding and final and no correspondence will be entered into on such matters.
- These terms shall be governed by the laws of India.

**For submitting applications and assistance**

The Earth Care Award Secretariat

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