

Green Energy Awards – Criteria

The Green Energy Awards recognise outstanding achievements across the clean energy sector in the last 12 months.

WHOLE SYSTEM TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION

This award recognises the role of innovative technologies, products and services in the development of a net zero whole energy system.

We are looking for applications from organisations that have developed innovative clean energy products and services. These might include (but not limited to) innovative commercial models that unlock investment in clean energy, tools for optimising renewable energy and/or storage assets, demand reduction solutions or developments in renewable energy generation or storage technologies.

Applications should provide evidence that the entry has left the lab and is available on the market.

The judges welcome quantification of benefits and the current and potential market scale of the innovation.

1. What is the innovation? How does it stand out from other products or services on the market? Please quantify benefits where possible.
2. What sales have been achieved to date and what is your assessment of the potential market?
3. What is the significance of the innovation in the development of the zero carbon whole energy system?
4. What are the wider benefits of the innovation? For example:
 - a. Could its adoption help steer local or national energy policies?
 - b. How does it deliver local community benefits?
 - c. What are the system benefits?

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NET ZERO ENERGY PIONEER

This award recognises the achievements of inspiring individuals making a real difference to the development of a net zero energy system.

The pioneer could be an individual working in the clean energy sector, local community, or a business leader. Whatever their background, we are looking for someone who has shown inspiring leadership, strong individual commitment and has made a significant impact as a force for change.

We are particularly keen on individuals who have championed their sector beyond their organisation's interests and job role, supported the next generation of clean energy leaders and been mindful of the importance of a diverse workforce.

Nominations should be for individuals only and can be from the nominated person or on their behalf.

1. How has the nominee helped drive the transition to a net zero energy system?
2. What clean energy schemes, new business models or policies has the nominee championed? What obstacles or difficult issues did they have to overcome?
3. How has the nominee demonstrated going above and beyond the day-to-day responsibilities of their role to champion net zero energy or improve diversity in the clean energy sector?
4. How has the nominee helped change hearts and minds; inspiring others to work towards a net zero future and bringing people along on the journey?

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CLEAN ENERGY SCHEME

This award recognises pioneering clean energy schemes that are up and running, delivering significant carbon savings and contributing to a zero carbon energy system.

1. What is the scheme and why is it significant? Is it a first? Is it replicable? Has it influenced policy makers, regulators or politicians to build wider net zero support?
2. Explain how the project contributes to energy system transition. For example,
 - a. How much energy does the project deliver or save?
 - b. What are the carbon benefits? Please quantify on an annual basis.
 - c. Does it address multiple energy sectors (like heat, transport or power)?
 - d. Does it reduce costs for households?
3. What are the wider benefits of the project? For example,
 - a. Was some or all of the project delivered by local companies and supply chains?
 - b. How did the project engage positively with the local stakeholders? Is there a community benefit fund?
 - c. What work has been done to improve biodiversity?
 - d. How has the project team engaged with and communicated the benefits of the scheme to the local stakeholders, community and press?

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NET ZERO ENERGY DEVELOPER

This award recognises the achievements of developers bringing forward the clean energy projects vital to achieving net zero energy. We are looking for nominations from developers who are also building support for the energy transition, for example by engaging positively with local communities and UK supply chains.

1. What projects is the developer working on? Please set out:
 - a. The technologies being deployed
 - b. The scale of the projects
 - c. What development stage they are at
 - d. The target date for generating/supplying energy.

2. How is the developer ensuring their projects contribute to a high renewables, resilient, net zero energy system? For example,
 - a. Are they unlocking new renewable energy resources?
 - b. Are they contributing to a secure, smart and flexible energy system?
 - c. Are they addressing multiple energy vectors?

3. How is the developer going above and beyond to deliver wider benefits? For example:
 - a. Does the developer have a strategy to engage with local and UK supply chains – generating jobs and economic benefits?
 - b. Is the developer working with local communities, politicians and stakeholders to build support for the project and net zero energy more broadly?
 - c. Is the developer committed to supporting biodiversity?
 - d. Is the developer delivering community benefit options at project sites?

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COMMUNITY ENERGY INITIATIVE

This award recognises the role of the inspiring community energy organisations across the UK working for a just transition to a more democratic and decentralised energy system.

We are looking for nominations for community energy initiatives from the past year that deliver significant community benefits, encourage involvement in the energy system and demonstrate local net zero ambition. For example, the initiative may be new renewable energy generation, low carbon heat and energy efficiency schemes or improved community access to services like EV car clubs, community EV chargers or local resilience support.

1. What is the initiative that you wish to nominate and how does it help the community achieve its net zero ambitions?
2. What is the impact of the initiative? The judges welcome quantification of benefits where possible. For example:
 - a. How has it benefited the local community and economy?
 - b. What are the carbon benefits?
 - c. How has it encouraged community engagement with the energy system?
3. How did you collaborate with external partners to achieve success and what did you learn through this process?
4. How has the initiative gone above and beyond previous achievements in the community energy sector?

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LOCAL AND PUBLIC SECTOR NET ZERO TRANSFORMATION

This award recognises the crucial role local public sector leadership can play in transforming the UK's energy system for a zero carbon future, through inspiring projects, ambitious leadership and supportive policy frameworks.

We are looking for nominations from local authorities and public sector organisations for flagship projects and partnerships that take a whole system approach to decarbonising local energy infrastructure including heat, transport and power.

We want to see examples of projects that showcase the possibilities of a local, low carbon future and highlight the ambitious leadership by the organisations that delivered them:

1. What is the project, how does it help your area or organisation achieve a net zero local energy system, and how is it leading the way at a national level?
2. What positive policies or business strategies were in place or introduced to enable this project?
3. What evidence is there of the leadership, capability and political will to implement these policies or strategies?
4. What has been the impact of implementing these projects? For example:
 - a. What are the carbon reductions achieved?
 - b. What is the power or heat produced/saved?
 - c. What are the benefits to the local community and economy?