

## **“The AWC Award for Best CC Response Practices in the field of Environment and Development”**

The Award will be offered by the Arab Water Council on the sidelines of the EDF 2022 Forum to be organized by AWC and partners in Cairo, Egypt, during the period 11-13 September 2022, and is intended to recognize and honor best CC response practices covering the following five domains:

1. Waste Reduction Award
2. Towards Net Zero Award
3. Innovative Product Award
4. Green Building Award
5. Best Water Savings & Reuse Award

### **1. Waste Reduction Award**

Materials and wastes offer an often ignored opportunity to improve sustainability, prevent greenhouse gas emissions and reduce costs. Tracking waste and recycling provides the key foundation for a successful waste reduction program. Waste prevention and recycling programs can be significantly improved by actively engaging and educating stakeholders and identifying markets for the recovered materials. When waste cannot be prevented, recycling is the next best option. Recycling saves energy and provides raw materials for the production of new products. Recycling is more than extending the life of landfills. It is about making the best use of the resources we have available and conserving those resources for future generations. **The Award is hence about conserving water, energy, land and raw materials through innovative waste reduction practices.**

### **2. Towards Net Zero Award**

Put simply, net zero means cutting greenhouse gas emissions to as close to zero as possible, with any remaining emissions re-absorbed from the atmosphere by oceans and forests. To keep global warming to no more than 1.5°C – as called for in the Paris Agreement – emissions need to be reduced by 45% by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050. Urgent action by countries to cut down carbon emissions is hence imperative. The COP26 Glasgow Climate Pact (2021) called on all countries to revisit and strengthen the 2030 targets in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by the end of 2022, to align with the Paris Agreement temperature goal. **The Net Zero Award is intended to appreciate any efforts or innovative practices towards achieving Net Zero emissions.**

### **3. Innovative Product Award**

Climate change (CC) is a threat to the future of our planet, but there is still time for us to adapt to it and mitigate its effects. Mitigation aims at tackling the causes and minimizing the possible negative impacts of climate change, whereas Adaptation looks at how to reduce vulnerability, strengthen resilience and increase the capacity of people and the planet to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Some examples of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures include, but are not restricted to the following: improving energy efficiency and opting for renewable energy over fossil fuels; promoting ecological industry, agriculture, fishing and livestock

farming, [food sustainability](#), [responsible consumption](#), and the 3Rs rule ([reduce](#), [reuse](#), [recycle](#)); erecting buildings and infrastructure that is safer and more sustainable; replanting forests and restoring damaged ecosystems; diversifying crops so that they are better able to adapt to changing climates, among others. **The Award in this domain is hence about investigating and developing innovative solutions to prevent and manage natural disasters, meanwhile providing best solutions for CC Adaptation and Mitigation.**

#### 4. **Green Building Award**

Green buildings are designed, constructed, and operated to enhance the well-being of their occupants and support a healthy community and natural environment. The five principles of green building include: Liveable communities; Energy efficiency; Indoor air quality; Resource conservation, and Water conservation. In practical terms, green building is a whole-systems-approach to building that focuses on:

- Using sun and site to the building's advantage for natural heating, cooling, and day-lighting;
- Landscaping with native, drought-resistant plants and water-efficient practices;
- Reducing and recycling construction and demolition waste;
- Using healthy products and building practices.

**The Green Building Award is intended to recognize building quality, durable structures using energy-efficient and water-saving appliances, fixtures and technologies, meanwhile reducing maintenance and replacement requirements and reducing utility bills.**

#### 5. **Best Water Savings & Reuse Award**

Fresh *water* is certainly one of our most precious natural resources coming mainly from rivers and lakes. In today's scenario, water is becoming a global concern and the world would see a widespread drought in the near future if we fail to rationalize its consumption. Climate change is one of the biggest drivers of water shortages and is expected to heap even more pressure on our depleting supplies. It is high time we must follow the concept of the three R's ([reduce](#), [reuse](#) and [recycle](#) to conserve water) for the well-being of our planet and our future generations. We can [reduce](#) water wastage by using it wisely. Further, we can [reuse](#) treated wastewater for cleaning, car washing, irrigation of plants and other household activities. This will definitely decrease the pressure on freshwater required for these activities.

Rainwater can also be [harvested](#) to balance the underground water table to overcome drought situations. Farms and gardens can be irrigated with this water. Besides, it can also be used for other household activities. **This Award recognizes best projects and innovations that promote the march towards "Saving Water is Saving our Planet."**