

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Arab Water Council EDF 2022 Recognition Awards

on the occasion of the

Environment and Development Forum (EDF 2022):

The Road to Sharm El-Sheikh COP27 Conference on Climate Change”

Cairo, Egypt, September 11 – 13, 2022

On the occasion of the EDF 2022 Forum to be organized by the Arab Water Council (AWC), under the patronage of the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment, AWC - in an attempt to encourage professionals and relevant organizations to exert utmost effort towards innovation and creativity in the field of **Environment and Development** - has the pleasure to announce the Council's Award for the year 2022, under the so-named “**AWC Awards for Best Practices in the field of Environment and Development,**” with special focus on Best **Climate Change (CC) Response Practices**.

Five Awards will be offered:

1. Waste Reduction Award
2. Towards Net Zero Award
3. Innovative Climate Change Adaptation/Mitigation Product Award
4. Green Building Award
5. Best Water Savings and Reuse Award

Aim of the Awards

- Promoting technology innovation and advancement in environmental protection.
- Encouraging professionals and organizations interested in the field of Environment and Development to upgrade and develop their professional expertise.
- Urging professionals and organizations to persistently expand their knowledge using state-of-the-art technologies and innovations, as related to environment and development.

Recognition Certificate & Award

Winners shall be awarded a “Recognition Certificate” and a “Best Practices Award Plaque,” in appreciation of their distinguished innovative contribution to the cause of the Environment towards “the future we want.”

Awards Application Deadline

- The Awards Application Form should be filled-out and the required documents submitted, as indicated on the website of the EDF 2022 Forum (www.ed-forum.org).
- The completed Awards Application Form and the required documents are to be submitted to AWC on the following e-mail (awards@ed-forum.org).
The submission deadline has been extended to Aug. 15th, 2022.

Awards Regulations and Conditions

- Eligible categories to apply for the award include professionals and specialists from all relevant authorities, university and research institute staff, scientific research centers, ministries, civil society, as well as regional & international organizations.
- The subject of the project/product submitted to apply for the Award should focus on one of the above-mentioned five topics related to the field of environment and development. The product should include a technical creativity and innovation that is considered an added value and a worthwhile beneficial application to the field of environmental management, towards achieving the desired development.
- A short synopsis (in English) about the project/product or innovation (4 - 5 pages) should be included with the Application form and submitted to AWC at (awards@ed-forum.org).
- Presenting evidence in case the project/product or innovation has been published in one of the international scientific or technical journals should also be included in the Application Form.
- An article about the presented project or product shall be published in the refereed AWC Scientific journal "Al-Maa" that is indexed on the database platform of EBSCO international publisher for wide-scale access.

Evaluation of the Award Winners

- Award winners shall be nominated by a specialized Evaluation Committee designated by AWC according to the nature and subject of the award.
- The Committee will evaluate the applicants' contributions and its decisions shall remain confidential until formally announced by the Council.
- The Award winners shall be announced on the sidelines of the EDF 2022 Forum scheduled to take place in Cairo, Egypt, during the period 11-13 September, 2022, and the winners shall be requested to give a 5-minute presentation during this celebration to highlight the importance and added value of the project/product or innovation and the benefit of its application for the development of societies.

Required Documents

1. The completed Application Form, along with a recent photo of the applicant.
2. Copy of the applicant's ID or passport.
3. Short CV of the applicant.
4. Summary (in English) of the project/product or innovative CC response practices (4-5 pages) submitted for award consideration.
5. Evidence, if applicable, in case the project/product or innovation has been published in one of the international scientific journals.

**Brief Note about
“The AWC 2022 Awards for Best Practices
in the field of Environment and Development”
with special focus on Best CC Response Practices**

The Awards are intended to recognize and honor best CC response practices including:

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 Climate Change Adaptation/Mitigation 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 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 and 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 3R'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 products/projects and innovations that promote the march towards "Saving Water is Saving our Planet."**