Instructions for applicants

There are six (6) categories. Companies can submit a maximum of one entry per category.

1. Applicants need to:
   • Address the points indicated in the application instructions.
   • Indicate demonstrated / quantifiable benefit or impact.
   • Note that the scoring will be solely based on the information included in the application.

2. Judges will receive a judging sheet including differently weighted criteria.

3. Judges can allocate bonus discretionary points to a single entry in each category that they consider to be exceptionally strong. The designation will increase the judge’s overall point allocation for that entry by 10%.

4. The tallying of judges’ scoresheets will be calculated by Chemical Week.

5. Judges will gather virtually to review the shortlisted entries per category and agree on the winner.
Best ESG Reporting Program

Description:
The award is open to all chemical makers who publish an ESG report with a forward-looking ESG/sustainability strategy integrated with business strategy. The reporting must demonstrate honest, transparent disclosure of both negative and positive impacts through their sustainability reporting process in core business operations and across the value chain.

The judges will consider:

• The measurable and time-bound targets on important KPIs as reported on plans, initiatives, and progress in achieving goals.
• The impact of sustainability and environmental, social, and governance metrics, and transparency of disclosure, including risks, shortcomings, non-compliance, and plans and solutions towards improvement.
• Board involvement and commitment in leading the organization to manage sustainability risks and opportunities and achieve its sustainability goals.
• Precision, concision and clarity of reporting, appropriate use of graphs, links, and innovative presentation approaches.


Evaluation criteria
Judges will be looking for evidence within the application form of the following weighted criteria:

• Clear business purpose to solving an environmental or societal problem (20%)
• Program development (12%)
• ESG potential of KPIs (15%)
• Stewardship Impact (20%)
• Greener concept evidence (13%)
• Practitioner examples (20%)
Description:
This award recognizes a product (or range of products) whose design and innovation serves a sustainable or environmental purpose or is made from 100% recycled/recyclable materials. It will recognize organizations that push the boundaries to create an environmentally friendly and affordable solution to an existing potentially polluting product.

The judges will be looking for evidence of the following:
- The design will have considered reusability, end of life, waste minimization, closed-loop processes, and other factors.
- The use of awareness-raising to promote the product and encourage its use in the relevant industry sectors.
- Value-added results, including incorporating circularity change or substitution of material to something more sustainable inputs, with similar or improved performance and other sustainability or environmental innovations.

The offering will need to have an impact on the market between 2022-2026.

Evaluation criteria
Judges will be looking for evidence within the application form of the following weighted criteria:
- Stewardship impact (20%)
  - Energy + raw material impact (17%)
  - Potential CO2 impact (18%)
- Innovative aspect - Novel idea (15%)
- Valuation multiple for company and/or peers (15%)
- Five-year sales projection (15%)
Best Sustainable Product by an emerging company

Description:
This award recognizes an emerging company with a product (or range of products) whose design and innovation serves a sustainable or environmental purpose or is made from 100% recycled/recyclable materials. It will recognize organizations that push the boundaries to create an environmentally friendly and affordable solution to an existing potentially polluting product. For the purposes of this award, an emerging company is defined as an entity that is a) less than 10 years old as a legal entity or b) has annual gross revenues of under $100 million.

The judges will be looking for evidence that:
• The design will have considered reusability, end of life, waste minimization, closed-loop processes, and other factors.
• The use of awareness-raising to promote the product and encourage its use in the relevant industry sectors.
• Value-added results including incorporating circularity change or substitution of material to something more sustainable inputs, with similar or improved performance and other sustainability or environmental innovations.

The offering will need to have an impact on the market between 2022-2026.

Evaluation criteria
Judges will be looking for evidence within the application form of the following weighted criteria:
• Stewardship impact (20%)
  • Energy + raw material impact (17%)
  • Potential CO2 impact (18%)
• Innovative aspect - Novel idea (15%)
• Valuation multiple for company and/or peers (15%)
• Five-year sales projection (15%)
Description:
This award recognizes an exceptional initiative by an organization that has embedded the circular economy principles of designing-out waste, keeping products and materials in use, and regenerating natural systems. It will have reduced waste, had a positive environmental and business impact, and inspired others.

The submissions should demonstrate fresh thinking in putting in place an initiative that designs out waste, keeps materials and products in use and offers both positive environmental and financial benefits.

The judges will consider sustainability initiatives such as:
- Breakthroughs and innovations in recycling technology or reusable packaging systems,
- Initiatives that promote an increase in recycling rates or nurture demand for recyclate, or
- Ground-breaking use of recycled feedstock.

The offering will need to have an impact on the market between 2022-2026

Evaluation criteria
Judges will be looking for evidence within the application form of the following weighted criteria:
- Stewardship impact (17%)
  - Energy efficiency (10%)
  - Raw material impact (10%)
  - Potential CO2 impact (10%)
- Innovative aspect - Novel idea (13%)
- Greener concept evidence (12%)
- Operational Safety impact (8%)
- Five-year sales projection (20%)
Best Sustainable Feedstocks Initiative

Description:
This award recognizes the company or organization that has done the most to bring forward renewable feedstock supply by introducing science-based strategies and technologies to transform biomass, renewable carbon, and waste resources into feedstock for conversion to biofuels or biobased chemicals/products.

The judges will consider:
The judges will be looking for evidence that these strategies or technologies reduce the cost, improve the quality, and increase the quantity of sustainable, renewable, and reusable carbon-based feedstock.
The bioenergy resources included are agricultural/forestry residues, algae, waste streams, and reusable carbon sources, such as the non-recyclable organic portion of municipal solid waste and biosolids sludges, waste food, CO2, and manure slurries.

The strategy or technology will have achieved a significant milestone or reached the market by 2022-2026.

Evaluation criteria
Judges will be looking for evidence within the application form of the following weighted criteria:

- Stewardship impact (10%)
  - Energy efficiency (12%)
  - Raw material impact (13%)
  - Potential CO2 impact (10%)
  - Potential biodiversity impact (5%)
- Innovative aspect - Novel idea (15%)
- Greener concept evidence (13%)
- Operational safety (7%)
- Five-year sales projection (15%)
Best Decarbonization Initiative

Description:
This award is open to any initiative that sets new standards in lowering the carbon footprint impact of a company’s business activities. This includes, but is not limited to, systems that support the roll-out, or take-up, of renewable energy and clean technologies while enhancing value and usefulness to consumers and Net Zero ambitions.

This category will reward entities committed to reducing their CO2 and other greenhouse gas emissions but will not give credit to those simply offsetting their emissions.

The judges will consider:
The judges will be looking for evidence that the entity is doing its best to reduce or eliminate emissions, intending to be ‘carbon neutral’ or, ideally, ‘carbon positive,’ and is taking the lead in addressing carbon-impacts across its value chain.

Deployment of entries can be over a 2 to 5-year timescale, but activity during 2019 – 2026 must be demonstrated.

Evaluation criteria
Judges will be looking for evidence within the application form of the following weighted criteria:
- Stewardship impact (15%)
  - Energy efficiency (10%)
  - Raw material impact (12%)
  - Potential CO2 impact (13%)
- Innovative aspect - Novel idea (15%)
- Greener concept evidence (13%)
- Operational safety (7%)
- Five-year sales projection (15%)
Definitions

**CO2 impact:** The whole amount of greenhouse gases (GHG) produced, directly and indirectly, through the manufacturing and subsequent lifecycle of a product, measured in equivalent tons of CO2 per year.

**Energy efficiency impact:** The following are a group of possible impacts on energy efficiency:

- Health and well-being impacts; improvements observed because of improved heating and cooling of buildings and air quality from more efficient transport and power generation and less demand for both.
- Industrial productivity and competitiveness. Benefits for industrial firms from improvements in energy efficiency improvements include reductions in resource use and pollution, improved production, and capacity utilization, and less operating and maintenance, which leads to improved productivity and competitiveness.
- Energy security. Improvements in energy efficiency leading to reduced demand for energy can improve the security of energy systems across the four dimensions of risk: fuel availability (geological), accessibility (geopolitical), affordability (economic) and acceptability (environmental and social).
- Reduced GHG emissions. Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are reduced when energy efficiency improvements result in reduced demand for fossil fuel energy.
- Natural resource management. At an aggregated international level, less demand can reduce pressure on resources, with potential beneficial impacts on prices (at least for importing countries), as well as overall resource management.
- Development goals. Improved energy efficiency is important in achieving economic and social goals in developing countries, including improved access to energy services, eradicating poverty, improving environmental sustainability, and economic development.

**ESG potential of KPI:** Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) should be written within and serve to reinforce the overall Environmental Social and Corporate Governance (ESG) Goals of the company. Evidence is required that the KPI serves the specific ESG goal in question.

**Five-year sales projection:** References the revenue potential for a product or service; helps prioritize business opportunities by serving as a quick metric of a given opportunity’s potential for growth or market penetration.

**Greener concept evidence:** Proof that the product/technology evaluated has been considered:

- The extent to which the submission serves green, sustainable, efficient, and low-cost solutions for soil/sediment and water bioremediation, e.g., by integrating several remediation strategies with innovative bio-electrochemical technologies.
- How to accelerate the remediation time of a range of organic and inorganic pollutants of high concern, while producing useful end-products, such as bioelectricity and/or harmless metabolites of industrial interest.
- How a combination of the most promising technologies will be up scaled and tested in the field.
- How life cycle analyses will demonstrate the technical and economic feasibility of the solutions suggested.
**Industry multiples:** Quantitative tools that measure a company’s performance; valuation tools: Price-to-Earnings (P/E) Multiple; Enterprise Value/EBITDA multiple; Enterprise Value/EBIT multiple; Enterprise Value/sales multiple.

**Improved energy efficiency:** Using less energy to perform the same task – that is, eliminating energy waste.

**Operational Safety impact:** Approach to identifying and managing safety risk in the operational environment and defining and implementing changes that can affect eg rail system safety, while ensuring safety risks arising from human factors are minimized.

**Practitioner examples:** Case studies that validate how the product/technology or concept achieves what it initially set out to do. Has the client introduced technologies, practices, or management techniques with a significant demonstration effect and with the potential for replication? The case study should be shared as part of authoritative ESG initiatives by entities such as UNEP, OECD or Ellen MacArthur Foundation for example.

**Raw material impact assessment:** Life-cycle analysis or natural capital accounting that measures greenhouse gas emissions, water use, water pollution, land use, air pollution and waste across an entire global supply chain. Impacts are then translated into monetary value, allowing an understanding of the hidden costs and benefits generated from the way a company operates.

**Stewardship impact:** Set of means deployed to enable firms to minimize the environmental, health and safety impacts associated with the manufacture, distribution, use and disposal of a product/technology for both regulatory and voluntary reasons.

This indicator seeks to ascertain the level of maturity (compliant, efficient, optimized, leader) of the product/technology or concept presented for evaluation, through an assessment of dimensions:

1. Organizational culture  
2. Governance  
3. Workflow and processes  
4. Digitization  
5. Breadth of coverage  
6. Analysis and reporting  
7. Supply chain management  
8. Education and awareness
CUSTOMER CARE

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