

2018 Ashden International Awards Information for applicants

(Available in French, Spanish, Portuguese and Chinese on www.ashden.org/apply/international)

Ashden rewards innovative enterprises and programmes that deliver, or play a key part in enabling the delivery of sustainable energy systems and through this bring social, economic and environmental benefits. In 2018, we will make **six International Awards**. The **winners** will receive prize funds of up to **£20,000** each.

As well as this cash fund, winning an Ashden Award brings many other benefits, such as:

- Local, national and international publicity, through the work of our specialist media team.
- Support to grow or replicate your work: this can include professional mentoring, training and introductions to investment and other finance providers.
- Opportunities to present your work to large and influential audiences at the Ashden Awards Ceremony, International Conference and other Ashden events.
- Membership of the Ashden Alumni network of Ashden Award-winners, which facilitates opportunities to create productive partnerships and learning.
- The acclaim of winning a prestigious Ashden Award. Our application and assessment process is known for being rigorous.

Who can apply for an Ashden International Award?

- Businesses, NGOs, government organisations, and social enterprises (both for-profit and not-for-profit, including community groups) are all eligible.
- The work must be delivered in at least one of the UN's developing regions of Africa, Caribbean, Central America, South America, Asia (excluding Japan) and Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand) and can be in rural or urban areas. High-income countries in these regions, as defined by the World Bank, are not eligible to apply. See [here](#) for a list of eligible countries.*

* Ashden reserves the right to exclude applicants from the assessment process at any stage if FCO guidelines advise against our assessors travelling to that region.

Organisations working to impact the UK sustainable energy system should check if they are eligible for the Ashden UK Awards (see www.ashden.org for details).

What are we looking for this year?

In 2018 we will be awarding work that fits into the following categories and also meets the key criteria listed on the following pages. When completing your application please indicate the specific category/categories you feel are most relevant to your work. We will consider your application in categories other than the ones you have indicated if we feel they fit your work more closely.

<p>The Ashden Awards are a showcase. We want to reward leading work that is delivering, or enabling the widespread use and delivery of, sustainable energy. Please apply if you are doing innovative work in this area. If you feel your work doesn't fit into any of the categories listed below, please contact internationalapps@ashden.org to discuss your eligibility.</p>	
<p>Finance and business innovation for delivering sustainable energy</p>	<p>Organisations accelerating access to sustainable energy through innovation in one or more of the following areas: 1) Innovative financial mechanisms or business models which make products more affordable and accessible for customers and/or end-users (e.g. use of innovative payment mechanisms and end-user/distributor finance); 2) Innovations which improve the financial viability of enterprises to bring sustainable energy products and services to market (e.g. process efficiencies, tertiary business services, structured access to finance); (3) Innovations which reduce risk and cost of capital associated with investing in the sustainable energy sector (e.g. innovative early-stage finance and support, market-building and information services, interventions to reduce policy-side risk).</p>
<p>Sustainable cities and buildings</p>	<p>Organisations working in the built environment to rapidly decarbonise towns and cities, to increase their resilience and meet the challenge of rapidly growing populations. We are seeking impact that goes well beyond individual example buildings by integrating or promoting area-based smart technologies, sustainable energy, connectivity and infrastructure. The work submitted may have either or both technical and non-technical elements, such as community and public realm development, behaviour change and market mechanisms. Applications may relate to physical projects and buildings, financial and legislative programmes, toolkits and learning networks that drive change. In all cases evidence of significant reductions in carbon emissions and an ability to deliver large-scale change will be required.</p>
<p>Sustainable mobility</p>	<p>Innovative enterprises or programmes that are improving access to sustainable transport and mobility services for those who currently have poor access, and having a measurable impact on issues such as greenhouse gas emissions, air pollution and congestion. Eligible work could be enabling the use of more sustainable modes of transport, technologies and fuels or reducing travel distances through improved regional planning. We are particularly interested in work that overcomes barriers that have traditionally slowed the development of sustainable transport systems (such as financing, information or barriers to adoption by the public) as well as work which integrates with the wider transport network and built environment and has the potential to scale and be replicated across cities and regions.</p>
<p>Powering business</p>	<p>Enterprises or programmes which provide and/or use clean energy or energy efficiency in the provision of goods and services through business activities. This could be in the provision and/or use of sustainable energy in the commercial or agricultural sectors, including work which addresses food security issues.</p>
<p>Energy access frontiers</p>	<p>Organisations improving energy access in areas where the market for sustainable energy products and services is underdeveloped and energy access rates are low (due to weaker enabling environments, the challenge of reaching the poorest and most remote communities etc.). We are particularly interested in sustainable approaches to reaching the last-mile in underserved regions and contexts as well as organisations successfully laying the groundwork for market transformation. The award will seek out and showcase solutions that</p>

	are creating strong social impact as well as successfully addressing issues such as distribution, finance, policy and cross-sector collaboration.
Sustainable energy and health	Organisations enabling the use of sustainable forms of energy to make a direct improvement to people's health or to support the provision of health services. The work submitted may address one or more of the following areas: 1) Accelerating the uptake of innovations which reduce indoor air pollution and other health hazards associated with burning fossil fuels for cooking and lighting (e.g. improved cookstoves, cooking fuels or alternatives to kerosene for lighting); 2) Using sustainable energy in the provision of safe drinking water (e.g. through purification, filtration and pumping), or to provide adequate sanitation and hygiene (e.g. through biogas systems); 3) Providing sustainable electricity for health facilities for lighting or powering vaccine fridges, sterilising medical equipment etc. In all cases evidence for improvements in health-related outcomes will be required and eligible work must improve upon that of previous winners.

The key criteria for the Ashden International Awards

To be shortlisted and win an award, the applicant must:

1. **Have products or services currently available for customers, clients or beneficiaries.** We do not reward start-up, pilot or demonstration projects.
2. **Be delivering, or helping to deliver, significant social and economic benefits to individuals, communities or businesses.** We need to see evidence of benefits, for e.g. in terms of quality of life, health and welfare, educational facilities, food security, improving livelihoods and creating job opportunities. Eligible organisations must demonstrate fair and equitable organisational practices, including working towards gender equality. Work must respect local culture and customs.
3. **Be delivering, or helping to deliver, demonstrable benefits to the environment.** We need to see evidence of the energy generated or saved, greenhouse gas emissions reduced and any other benefits.
4. **Show an innovative approach to sustainable energy.** Many Award winners use established technologies, but there must be innovative aspects to the work as a whole. These could include innovative approaches to marketing and distribution; improved financing mechanisms, training and skills development; introducing a technology to a different country or region; innovative business models. Award-winning work must add something to what past winners have shown.
5. **Have the capacity to create significant impact.** We are looking for winners that have the potential to create significant impact in terms of sustainability, and are willing to work with Ashden after winning an award.
6. **Be working towards financial sustainability.** We are looking for efficient use of funds and evidence that future funding is being sought, whether from sales, grants or any other source. Organisations can be for profit or not-for-profit.
7. **Be able to demonstrate capacity and commitment to make the use of sustainable energy more widespread.** Award-winning organisations must demonstrate good governance and management, an established and continuing commitment to sustainable energy, and a willingness to work with partners, such as finance organisations and training providers.
8. **Be able to contribute to Ashden's mission,** which is to encourage the growth of sustainable energy systems to tackle climate change and bring social and economic benefits to millions.

What will happen if you are longlisted

If your organisation is longlisted, we will get in touch for the following, to better understand your work and financial viability:

1. Answers to some additional questions about your work.
2. A copy of your latest published and draft annual accounts.

We will also follow up the referees you have given us, and we will publish a list of longlisted organisations in early January 2018. Please do not publicise the fact that you have been longlisted before the list is published.

What will happen if you are chosen to be visited

If you are chosen to be visited we will get in touch to arrange a visit to assess your work. The visit usually lasts two to three days, and involves an assessor from the Ashden team. Applicants that are chosen to be visited will be credited as runners-up if they do not become winners.

What will happen if you win an Award

As an Ashden Award winner, you will:

1. Be invited to London at Ashden's expense to take part in the Awards Ceremony on 14 June as well as other events during this week. Winning an Ashden Award is contingent on taking part in Awards Week activities.
2. Participate in media interviews that we may be able to arrange.
3. Agree with Ashden what you will spend the prize fund on and any business support you may receive.
4. Provide and update monitoring data about the progress of your work after one year, two years and three years.

Apply online for a 2018 Ashden International Award

If your sustainable energy work fits the awards criteria, you can apply for an Ashden Award by filling in the **online** registration form at <http://apply.ashden.org/>.

If you would like to discuss whether your work is relevant to the awards or have questions about the application process, please contact the Awards Coordinator at internationalapps@ashden.org.

It is important to read the detailed information about the Ashden Awards and some of the case studies of previous winners on our website (www.ashden.org) before applying.

It is a condition of your entry to the 2018 Ashden Awards that Ashden has the right to publicise your involvement through its communications channels (including but not limited to its website, social media platforms and Ceremony programme). All shortlisted applicants, and particularly winners, may be required by Ashden to participate in publicity opportunities such as media interviews.

All applications must be received by **Tuesday 7 November 2017 23:59 GMT**.

Awards process and timetable for the 2018 Ashden International Awards

7 November 2017	Deadline for receipt of online applications.
Late November 2017	Up to 30 applicants will be selected to provide additional information, accounts and references. All other applicants will be notified that they have not been successful.
15 December 2017	Deadline for receipt of additional information, accounts and references.
February 2018	International judging panel meets to shortlist 12 applicants. All other applicants will be notified that they have not been successful.
February and March 2018	Assessors visit the shortlisted applicants.
April 2018	International judging panel meets to select six award winners. All other shortlisted applicants will be notified of the outcome.
April to June 2018	Preparation of publicity materials about all shortlisted applicants. Detailed case studies made of winners' work and possible visit by a film maker.
11-15 June 2018	Awards week: winners to London for International Conference, Business Support Workshop, Awards Ceremony and publicity activities.

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