

FAQs

1. What is the purpose of the Climate and Energy Leadership Awards?

The Climate and Energy Leadership Awards is a 2014 pilot program to recognize public sector and non-governmental organizations that are implementing innovative solutions that address key climate and energy issues in the National Capital Region. The awards program encourages efforts to achieve local and regional goals identified in the Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee’s 2013-2016 Climate and Energy Action Plan. It also provides an opportunity to foster healthy competition amongst local jurisdictions and stakeholders as well as an opportunity to learn from each other.

2. Am I eligible to apply and for which category?

There are four award categories including small communities (population under 50K), medium communities (population 50K – 200K), large communities (population over 200K) and non-governmental organizations/stakeholders. All of COG’s 22 member jurisdictions are eligible to apply in one of the above categories. All CEEPC stakeholders are eligible to apply for the NGO/stakeholder category. For the pilot year of the program this category is only open to CEEPC stakeholders. You are eligible if you are listed below. Please apply for the category you are listed under below.

Small Communities

Town of Bladensburg
City of Falls Church
City of Manassas Park
City of Takoma Park
City of Fairfax
City of Greenbelt
City of College Park
City of Manassas

Medium Communities

City of Bowie
City of Gaithersburg
City of Rockville
City of Frederick
City of Alexandria
Charles County
Frederick County

Large Communities

Arlington County
Loudoun County
Prince William County
District of Columbia
Prince George’s County
Montgomery County
Fairfax County

NGOs and Stakeholders

WMATA
NVRC
GSA
EPA
DOE
NCPC
Pepco
Dominion VA Power
Washington Gas
IMT

ASE
Casey Trees
GWRCCC
Sierra Club
NWF
GW BOT
MCEC
Honeywell
Kenergy

Ecobeco
AU
GWU
GMU
UMBC
DC Water
Loudoun Co. Schools
Fairfax Co. Schools
G’town Climate Center

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3. How can I apply?

Visit www.mwcog.org/climateawards and submit the application form online or download the PDF and email it to Maia Davis by Wednesday, June 18, 2014. The application asks you to provide an overview, describe how the initiative meets each of the judging criteria, and (optionally) providing any supporting documentation (such as fact sheets, photos, and letters of support).

4. How many applications can I submit?

One application will be accepted per eligible applicant.

5. What types of initiatives are appropriate to submit for the awards program?

Any projects, programs and policy initiatives that support the goals of the CEEPC 2013-2016 Climate and Energy Action Plan will be eligible as long as they were initiated in the region in 2009 or later. CEEPC was created in 2009, thus awards should recognize achievements since CEEPC's creation to further the region toward CEEPC goals.

The CEEPC Action Plan includes the following overarching goals:

- Greenhouse Gas Reduction - To reduce the region's greenhouse gas emissions to 20% below 2005 levels by 2020.
- Built Environment and Infrastructure - To reduce non-transportation energy consumption, which accounts for 2/3 of the region's greenhouse gas emissions, by 20% below 2005 levels by 2020.
- Renewable Energy - To increase renewable energy production in line with state Renewable Portfolio Standards, meeting 10% of regional electricity consumption with power from renewable sources by 2016.
- Transportation and Land Use - To minimize the greenhouse gas impact of our transportation system, which contributes one third of regional emissions, by reducing vehicle miles travelled and increasing the use of alternative fuel and high efficiency vehicles.
- Sustainability and Resiliency - To increase the resiliency and sustainability of the region's infrastructure, economy, and environment.
- Outreach - To improve public understanding of climate change and promote positive change in individual and institutional behaviors to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions and increase use of renewable energy.

The CEEPC Action Plan includes over 50 specific actions that can be taken to support its goals. The application could be one of those actions, a related initiative, or an innovative idea that has yet to be incorporated into the plan.

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6. How many initiatives can I include in an application?

The application should be for one project, program, or policy initiative.

7. When are applications due?

Applications are due by June 18, 2014. Applicants are encouraged to prepare the application well in advance of the deadline in order to allow plenty of time to discuss any questions you have with COG staff and for the application to get the appropriate internal review and approval prior to submittal.

8. When will I be notified about if I won award?

Winner will be notified by September 2014.

9. Who will judge the applications?

The Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC) will serve as the judges for the awards. ACPAC is the citizen advisory committee that advises CEEPC on climate and energy issues. ACPAC has equal representation on the committee from across the region. ACPAC members also have a diverse set of backgrounds including business/industry, education/scientific, environmental/health and civic organizations.

10. How will my application be judged?

The Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC) will judge the awards at their July meeting. Applications will be reviewed, discussed, and judged on the following four criteria:

- Results - achievements, outcomes, and/or measured results
- Creativity - innovative, resourceful, and/or unique aspects
- Model - transferable to other jurisdictions or organizations and cost-effectiveness
- Engagement - public/stakeholder/partner engagement and acceptance

Each judge will be provided a Judging Score Sheet. Judges will give a score of 1 to 5 for each of the four judging criteria (1 = poor; 2 = fair; 3 = adequate; 4 = good; and 5 = excellent) and total those scores to have one total score per application. Judges will use a judging rubric to help guide the judging of applications. Judging Sheets will be collected and scores will be totaled by COG staff. The highest scoring applicant per category will be awarded.

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11. Will my score be released?

Only winners will be announced; scores will not be disclosed.

12. What do I get if I win?

COG will recognize awardees with:

- A press release
- Social media, blog, and e-newsletter announcements
- On the COG website
- With a unique award
- The award will be announced at a minimum of 3 events involving local governments in the fall/winter of 2014
- A poster, fact sheet and brief video highlighting their awarded project/program/policy

It can be very meaningful to be recognized in front of other jurisdictions. The main presentation of awards will occur at a COG Board meeting. Announcements will also be made at a CEEPC meeting, the COG 2014 annual luncheon and perhaps another local relevant conference that includes a local government audience.

Following the awards presentation at the Board meeting, COG will issue a press release, post a blog, and make social media announcements. Local jurisdictions are encouraged to inform their local communities via social media and at community meetings. Awardees and information on their project/program/policy will be posted to the COG website, featured on the COG homepage, and highlighted in the next COG e-newsletter.

After awardees are announced and prior to the end of 2014, a brief video will be developed to highlight winning projects. The video link will be posted to COG's website and could also be posted to awardees' websites, featured on the jurisdiction's local cable channel, at community events, etc.