

SA Climate Leaders | 20 **AWARDS** | 26

An initiative of the Premier's Climate Change Council

GUIDELINES



Premier's Climate Change Council 2026 SA Climate Leaders Awards - Entry guidelines

Entries close Friday 5 June 2026

ABOUT THE 2026 SA CLIMATE LEADERS AWARDS

The Premier's Climate Change Council invites entries for the 2026 SA Climate Leaders Awards.

The Council wants to showcase the innovative work taking place to tackle climate challenges and build South Australia's reputation as a leader in climate solutions.

Since 2016, the Awards have recognised and showcased the climate action leadership and achievements of individuals and organisations across community, business and government.

The Awards recognise projects and activities that demonstrate achievements in one or more of the following climate action areas:

- managing climate related risks, building climate resilience or supporting climate adaptation
- reducing net greenhouse gas emissions
- research and education related to addressing climate challenges
- promoting awareness about the changing climate and climate solutions.

The SA Climate Leaders Awards will be presented during an Awards ceremony held at UCity Adelaide on 30 July 2026. A \$10,000 prize will be awarded to the overall winner as a contribution to future climate action.

KEY DATES

- Awards entries open: 23 April 2026
- Awards entries close: Friday 5 June 2026
- Awards presentation ceremony: Thursday 30 July 2026

CATEGORIES FOR THE 2026 SA CLIMATE LEADERS AWARDS

Awards will be presented for each category listed below. An overall winner will be awarded the prize of \$10,000.

Business and Industry - Small to Medium Enterprises - open to private sector organisations employing less than 50 full time equivalent staff and individuals with operations in South Australia.

Business and Industry - Large Enterprise - open to private sector organisations employing more than 50 full time equivalent staff and individuals with operations in South Australia.

Research and Education - open to South Australian based individuals or organisations that conduct research and/or deliver education to improve understanding or develop solutions to climate related challenges and opportunities.

Community - open to individuals, community organisations/groups and traditional custodian groups demonstrating leadership and action on climate change.

Government - open to local governments, state government agencies and government (or government funded) bodies, including independent boards and committees, teams and individuals within any of these organisations.

Projects or activities delivered in collaboration across the categories are also eligible to apply. For more detail on eligibility and how to apply, see the Frequently Asked Questions below.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

Individuals and organisations are encouraged to enter climate action projects or activities that have been delivered or initiated since May 2024 and undertaken in South Australia or with a demonstrated benefit to South Australia.

The projects or activities should address one or more of the following:

- managing climate related risks, building climate resilience or supporting climate adaptation
- reducing net greenhouse gas emissions
- research and education related to addressing climate challenges
- promoting awareness about the changing climate and climate solutions.

Individuals and organisations with projects and activities of all sizes are encouraged to apply. The merit of each will be assessed taking into consideration the size and resources available to the organisation and individual.

More information on eligibility, terms and conditions and guidance for entrants is provided below.

HOW CAN AN ENTRY BE SUBMITTED?

Entries can be submitted using the [online entry form](#).

JUDGING OF ENTRIES

Members of the Premier's Climate Change Council will judge the entries. The judging panel will assess applications against the following criteria:

- impact and outcomes
- innovation and leadership
- engagement and collaboration.

Each application will be judged based on individual merit, not as a competition between applicants.

GUIDANCE FOR ENTRANTS

When addressing the judging criteria, please consider the guidance outlined below in your application as well as the relevance of your activity or project to the specified climate change areas.

Entrants are encouraged to provide supporting information, photographs, and videos with their applications. The judges will consider any additional information provided when reviewing entries.

The Premier's Climate Change Council will approve the overall winner's use of the \$10,000 prize. When completing the entry form, entrants should describe how the prize money would be used towards climate change-related action.

Please read the Eligibility and Terms and Conditions below prior to applying.

Impact and Outcomes

Describe (in 250 words or less) how your project or activity demonstrates a measurable beneficial impact to address climate change within South Australia.

Your entry should:

- Describe and provide evidence for the practical impacts, outcomes or benefits your project or activity has had on tackling climate challenges i.e. reducing emissions, enabling adaptation.
- Describe any co-benefits such as environmental benefits, social benefits and economic opportunities.
- Provide information on the scale of impact, outcome or benefit. This may include any flow on benefits through networks, supply chains, customers, or the wider community (e.g. energy use, productivity, profits or new business opportunities).
- Where relevant, outline whether the project or activity can be scaled up, replicated or sustained for greater benefits.
- Provide relevant evidence or examples in support of your entry such as measurable emissions or other performance data, number of people engaged, evaluations, certification, peer review and publications, media articles or external endorsements.

Innovation and Leadership

Describe (in 250 words or less) how your project or activity demonstrates exceptional leadership and/or an original or innovative approach to achieving a particular outcome or solving a problem.

Your entry should:

- Outline why the project or activity is an example of innovation and/or leadership.
- Provide relevant evidence or examples in support of your entry (e.g. development or uptake of new tool, product or research; demonstrated changes in policy or practice).

Engagement and Collaboration

Describe (in 250 words or less) how your project or activity demonstrates a collaborative approach through engaging or partnering with others to achieve an effective outcome. Your entry should:

- Describe the engagement, collaboration or partnerships relating to the project or activity.
- Describe who was involved and their contribution.
- Outline the outcome and impact of the engagement, collaboration or partnership.
- Provide relevant evidence or examples in support of your entry (e.g. co-authored reports, number of people engaged, joint agreements).

ELIGIBILITY AND TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Entries must relate to a project or activity undertaken within South Australia or with a demonstrated benefit to South Australia.
- The project or activity should have been completed or initiated after May 2024.
- Previous award-winning projects will not be considered for another award in the same category unless the applicant can demonstrate significantly different and/or additional outcomes have been achieved through the project.
- The judging panel may move an entry from one category to another should the panel deem it a more appropriate fit.
- Entrants agree to participate in publicity activities for the Awards and may be asked to provide photographs or other materials for promotional activities.
- Entrants may nominate more than once in any category; however, a separate entry form must be submitted for each project or activity.
- Entrants may be self-nominated or nominated by another party. Third parties must seek the entrant's consent before submitting an entry on their behalf.
- Entrants will have an opportunity to declare any confidential information in their entry. Except for any declared confidential material, entries, photographs and information relating to entries, may be published (omitting personal contact information) on the Awards website and used for other promotional purposes related to the Awards.
- Entry details may be subject to government Freedom of Information requirements.
- The Premier's Climate Change Council will approve the overall winner's use of the \$10,000 prize. In the entry form, entrants will have the opportunity to describe how the prize money would be used towards climate change-related action.
- The recipient of the \$10,000 prize agrees to attend a meeting of the Premier's Climate Change Council to present about how they have utilised the prize money.

Our contact details:

Philip Mac Fadden

Secretariat

Premier's Climate Change Council Email: pccc@sa.gov.au

Phone: +61 8 7424 5823