



RECOGNIZING INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO KEY CLIMATE AND ENERGY ISSUES IN METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON

PURPOSE

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' (COG) Climate and Energy Leadership Awards recognize organizations that develop climate stewardship projects and programs that engage and serve the region's underserved communities. The awards program highlights a broad range of climate solutions for their unique engagement practices as well as their results, creativity, and replicability.

RECOGNITION

Climate and Energy Leadership awardees will be recognized in front of local, regional, and national officials. COG will showcase awardees to bring recognition to their successes and to serve as a role model for metropolitan Washington. This type of public acknowledgment can encourage continued and enhanced efforts of communities and organizations. Awardees will also be presented with a unique, environmentally-friendly award that is hand-crafted by a local artist.

ELIGIBILITY

Four applicants from metropolitan Washington will be recognized with a Climate and Energy Leadership Award for leading practices in climate mitigation and/or resiliency including greenhouse gas reduction, built environment and infrastructure, renewable energy, transportation, land use, or sustainability programs. Scoring places an emphasis on creative, impactful projects that engage and support underserved communities. COG will provide awards to one organization (or partnership) in each of the following categories:

- **Government Agency (2)** (local, state, regional, quasi-govt, utilities, or authorities)
 - 1 small government (<90k population) ◦ 1 large government (>90k population)
- **Non-Governmental Organization (1)** (non-profit, citizen, or community-based groups)
- **Businesses and For-profits (1)**
- **Educational Institution (1)** (K-12, public, private, or higher education)

HOW TO APPLY

Applications can be submitted at www.mwcog.org/climateawards or emailed to lboggs@mwcog.org between **April 22 - June 30, 2026**. Applications must include a 1-3 page project summary file that gives clear description on how it meets the four judging criteria listed below. Engagement will be weighed more heavily and account for 45% of the total score. Full criteria measurements below:

- **Engagement** (engage underserved communities) - 40%
- **Creativity** (innovative, resourceful or unique aspects) - 20%
- **Model** (replicability to other communities/organizations) - 20%
- **Results** (results, achievements, measured outcomes like cost-effectiveness) - 20%

Full application details are available under [Procedures and Guidelines](#) on the [awards website](#).