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Solving Energy Challenges (Global South)

The **2026 Ashden Award for Solving Energy Challenges** will spotlight **renewable energy initiatives addressing critical, under-discussed barriers** to renewable energy access and clean cooking, productive use renewable energy solutions, clean energy solutions which contribute to adaptation, and resilience in the Global South.

The award seeks initiatives that **unlock new approaches or technologies, demonstrate measurable impact, and offer lessons for replication and scale.**

Welcome to the Ashden Awards. We are thrilled you have chosen to apply!

This form will start to save automatically as soon as you complete this first page.

Good luck! We can't wait to hear about your climate solution!

Entry name

By completing an application, you consent to Ashden's data privacy policy. Please check this box to show you understand.

ashden.org/privacy-policy/

At Ashden we know you are busy solving the climate crisis and improving lives, so we want to be kind to your time. We know you might already have material that answers our questions. You might have existing funding bids, videos, or other media. If you would rather use these and refer to them in the remainder of the form please use this page to upload them. We will watch them or read them in support of your application.

Some guidance:

1. Please try to limit your uploads to a maximum of 5.
2. Video attachments may be hosted on a video site such as YouTube or Vimeo.
3. Provide website URLs that are publicly accessible.

Name of your organisation

Website or social media link (optional)

Legal Status

for-profit business

- social enterprise
- charity/NGO
- community group
- government/public sector
- other

Address of your organisation

Next we need some information about you (the applicant) and how we can reach you. We won't share this with any third parties without asking.

Your name

Please include title, i.e. Ms, Mrs, Mr, Dr, etc

Role in organisation

Email address

Phone number (optional)

Is this a joint application from two organisations?

- Yes
- No

How many employees and volunteers are involved in the work submitted for an award? (optional)

	▼
1-5	
6-20	
21-50	
50+	

You are applying for the **Award for Solving Energy Challenges (Global South)**.

The questions in this form will help us match what you are doing to the award criteria. Please check the box to show you can see the criteria for this award. Don't worry if you meet some more than others.

Criteria

We are seeking examples of outstanding energy initiatives that:

Address overlooked or critical energy challenges – examples include (but are not limited to): urban informal settlements, hidden operations and maintenance costs, e-waste / WEEE-to-energy, community-scale waste-to-energy, decentralised renewable energy in areas with low solar potential, or other underutilised renewable technologies.

Demonstrate measurable impact – contributing to positive clean energy access, adaptation and resilience, livelihoods, health, and climate outcomes.

Employ innovative approaches – technical, governance, or business solutions that could not be delivered through conventional models.

Promote inclusivity and empowerment – actively involving women, youth, refugees, or marginalised communities in delivery, governance, or ownership.

Demonstrate relevance to wider systems change work

Illustrate the importance of pushing the issue up the development and climate agenda – showing how this type of action/solution can contribute to addressing other global issues such as waste management and open burning of waste; plastics pollution; food insecurity; extreme heat and drought; water scarcity and poor sanitation; etc.

Leverage market-based or investable approaches to create a clear, financially viable pathway for scaling impact.

Additionality of the Award – where the Ashden Award and support will create added value and open up new opportunities for winners.

Short description of the work you are submitting for an award 200 words

Summarise as simply as possible the work that you would like to be considered for an award.

When did your organisation first start this work?

Which country or countries is your work in?

Describe the problem you are solving with this work. 200 words

Tell us about the problems faced by your users and beneficiaries. What kind of climate problem is this? Try to give the wider context.

Explain in detail how your solution works.

350 words

For example, how do you find the people that use this solution, how do you engage with them, what do you offer them and how is it delivered in practice? If your work involves manufacturing, distribution, installation, maintenance or training, please say a bit about how this work is done.

If you work in multiple countries, where does most of your work take place?

If this is a joint application from more than one organisation, please make clear what the role of each is.

Describe any technical features of the work you are submitting for an Award (optional)

200 words

If your work makes use of a particular technology or technologies, please give technical details, such as design, specifications and manufacturers of the technology used. Focus on any aspects that are particularly innovative. If your work does not involve the use of technology, please move on to the next question.

How big is the market you serve, and what are the opportunities for growth?

200 words

How many people benefit at the moment, and how many could benefit in the future? Is there a growing need for what you do? List other organisations that are engaged in solving the same problems or challenges as you, and say whether you view them as competitors or partners.

How much do people pay for your product/service, or how is your work funded?

100 words

If your application is about products or services, please include brief details on the price, including subsidies, and how people pay, i.e. up-front, through loans, through a pay-as-you-go system, etc. If your work is not a product or service, for example a community programme or local government project, please explain how it is funded. All information submitted will be treated in complete confidence, and used only by the judging panel, specialist assessors and Ashden staff.

What overlooked or under-discussed renewable energy or clean cooking challenge does your initiative address, and why will tackling this issue over the next five years be critical to meeting the SDGs and climate targets? 200 words

What new technical, financial, or governance approaches have been important in making this initiative a success?

200 words

Impact! This section is all about the impact you have had and the numbers you can gather.

You may have been asked these questions before and if you would like to upload existing evidence here, you can. We will read this and you can simply type 'see attached' in the boxes below, or provide summary answers. (optional)



What difference does your solution make to people?

200 words

How are people's lives impacted by your solution? Are they able to live more sustainably, work in the green economy, or benefit from cleaner energy?

How can you measure success? What numbers do you monitor? What measurable impacts has your initiative delivered so far? Please give as much detail as you can for this question. 400 words

Please summarise the most important outcomes of your work, using data wherever possible.

Use whatever figures best communicate your impact, for example products sold, systems installed, energy saved or generated, volume of materials, campaigns run, people engaged or trained, jobs or livelihoods created, income generated for beneficiaries, square metres of floorspace, hectares of forest conserved, etc.

How would winning an Ashden Award accelerate or expand your impact? 150 words

We would like to know about where your organisation stands financially and your plans for the future. We are not looking for the biggest or most profitable solution, but this section helps us understand the scale of operations.

We ask for basic financial information at this stage. If you are selected to proceed to the next stage of the awards process, you will be asked to supply your accounts for the last three years, an estimate for the current year, and forecasts for at least one further year. All information submitted will be treated in complete confidence, and used only by the judging panel, specialist assessors and Ashden staff.

What is your annual revenue?

1	Units (GBP, US Dollar, thousands, millions)
2	Last financial year
3	Current financial year (estimate)
4	Next financial year (projection)

We would like to know more about your sources of income. Please list the three most important by percentage.

	Source of Income	Percentage
1		
2		
3		

i.e. earned income 60%, government grants 15%, charitable donations 25%

Tell us a little more about your financial position. How financially independent is your climate solution? If it is loss-making, is it projected to reach profitability? If you are grant funded, what are your main financial risks? 150 words

Your future plans: Tell us about what you want to do next? Do you need to raise finance, find new donors or start a new project. You could need new staff resources or want to access a new market.

This is nearly the last question, well done!

Well done! Please answer the below questions and hit 'submit'. You will not be able to edit your application after submitting, so be sure to check your answers carefully.

We will review applications on a rolling basis. Applications officially close on 8th December at 23:59 GMT. After that, our team may be in touch with short follow-up questions. All entrants will know if they have been shortlisted for an award by 20th December 2025.

Finalists will be selected and notified by 15th January 2026. Finalists must be available for 1-day in-person assessments between 21st January-11th February 2026 for all categories except the Outstanding Achievement Award, which will be a virtual assessment.

Finalist judging will take place in March, and winners will join us for the 2026 Ashden Awards Ceremony week commencing 15th June.

Photojournalist and film visit

If you win an award, we will send a professional photojournalist and filmmaker to visit you for one day. They will take some beautiful photos and videos of your work, your team, and the impact you have had in your community, as well as gathering some recorded interview case studies from service users, staff, or participants in your programme. You will receive these professional photos and case studies free to use in your own communications (e.g. on your website and on social media).

Will you be able to host a photojournalist for a day between 5th March February and 15th May 2026?

Yes

No

Data protection

We would love to stay in touch with applicants that do not become finalists. If you are happy for Ashden to retain your application and data we will be able to 'fast-track' future applications for the Ashden Awards up to 2029, and contact you about new opportunities, partnerships and collaborations. Please indicate below if you are happy for Ashden to retain your information to be used in this way.

Yes

No

Finalist assessment

If you become a finalist (final x 2 organisations) are you able to commit to helping us arrange 3-4 interviews with your team, partners, and potentially service users between the 5th January and 16th February 2026?

Yes

No

It is a condition of your entry to the 2026 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, press releases and ceremony programme). All shortlisted applicants, finalists and particularly winners may be required by Ashden to participate in publicity opportunities such as media interviews.

To maximise the impact of our Awards, we may announce our shortlist, finalists and winners on specific dates. If you reach the shortlisting stage, or win an Ashden Award, we ask you not to publicise this fact until the date set by us. Our communications team will work closely with you on this.

Please tick the box to show you understand.