

2020 Zayed Sustainability Prize open for entries

Applicants from across Africa are invited to enter the 2020 edition of the Zayed Sustainability Prize which rewards innovation, impact and inspiration in the sustainable development space. The deadline for entries is 30 May 2019. The five categories are Health, Food, Energy, Water and Global High Schools.



Zayed Sustainability Prize 2019 finalists (Source: Zayed Sustainability Prize)

Formerly known as the Zayed Future Energy Prize, a strategic refocus, in April 2018, has seen the prize broaden its scope from an initial focus on energy, to address global sustainability priorities. The prize's five categories are designed to closely align with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and reward global organisations that empower and enhance disadvantaged communities - while also inspiring schools to nurture the next generation of sustainability leaders.

While the scope of each submission may vary, examples of winning solutions and school projects include: the facilitation of access to healthcare technologies in rural regions, improving food security and encouraging sustainable agriculture, delivering greater access to energy for off-grid communities, offering affordable clean drinking water and sanitation solutions, as well as enhancing education, training and advocacy.

Growing Africa participation

Over the past decade participation from Africa has been growing and for the 2019 edition of the prize, Africa received more entries than any other world region, reflecting the continent's rapidly growing innovation ecosystem. Additionally, African innovators won in two of five categories including Food and Global High Schools.

“The prize’s broader recognition of sustainability solutions marked a significant milestone in the prize’s evolution, in line with the UAE leadership’s vision to support ideas and efforts aimed at building a sustainable future. Inspired by Sheikh Zayed’s vision for global sustainability and humanitarianism, the prize now recognises more innovations, reaches more communities, and further underlines the priority of human impact, in everything we do,” said Dr Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, UAE minister of state and director general of the Zayed Sustainability Prize, ahead of the launch.

“Building on the prize’s 11-year track record of awarding exceptional innovations, we hope to continue attracting and rewarding the world’s foremost sustainability pioneers, while encouraging an agenda that supports an integrated approach to resolving global sustainability challenges,” he added.



Zayed Sustainability Prize 2019 awards ceremony sees African innovators shine

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Evaluation process

The Zayed Sustainability Prize has a three-stage evaluation process, beginning with the due diligence conducted by an international research and analysis consultancy. Following this, the shortlisted entries undergo evaluations by a selection committee to determine the finalists. From these finalists, a jury selects the winners, in all five categories, including winning schools from six world regions. The regions are: The Americas, Sub-Saharan Africa, Middle East & North Africa, Europe & Central Asia, South Asia, and East Asia & Pacific.

The evaluation criteria for the Health, Food, Energy and Water categories are:

- **Impact:** Significant and tangible outcomes on the quality of people’s lives.
- **Innovation:** Distinctive characteristics to change the “status quo” and potential to catalyse opportunities that will have a disruptive positive impact and transformative change.
- **Inspiration:** The potential to scale up project outcomes, in the next decade, and the ability to inspire others.

For the Global High Schools category, their projects should be designed to deliver positive educational impact, including providing access to quality education and ensuring students are given key skills and enhanced abilities to achieve their goals. Similar to the other categories, each project should ideally demonstrate new and innovative approaches and be inspirational to others.

Winners of the Zayed Sustainability Prize 2020 will be announced at the annual awards ceremony held during the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week, in January next year. Each category winner will receive \$600,000 in prize funds to enhance and develop their existing solution. In the Global High Schools category, six schools from six world regions will receive up to \$100,000 each, to create or enhance a school or local community project.

For more information, go to www.ZayedSustainabilityPrize.com.