ZAYED
SUSTAINABILITY
PRIZE

Corporate Brochure

2026-2027

Background

The Zayed Sustainability Prize, a tribute to the visionary legacy of the UAE's founding father, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, stands as a beacon of hope and progress for sustainable development. This prestigious award honours and empowers those who are driving transformative change across the categories of Health, Food, Energy, Water, Climate Action, and Global High Schools.

Each year, the Prize rewards organisations and high schools for their groundbreaking solutions, fostering innovation on global challenges. Over the past 18 years, through its 139 winners, the Prize has positively impacted over 411 million lives worldwide. By recognising these innovators, the Zayed Sustainability Prize inspires countless others to amplify their efforts, creating a positive ripple effect.

The Zayed Sustainability Prize aims to create a better world by advancing sustainable progress, ensuring a legacy of enduring impact on humanity and the planet. This Prize is more than an award; it's a catalyst for global impact, a celebration of human ingenuity, and a commitment to shaping a sustainable future for all.



The Categories & Criteria



Distributed across five organisational winners with US **$1M** each and six Global High Schools winners with US **$150,000** each. In addition, **10** organisational finalists receive US **$100,000** each, and **12** Global High Schools finalists receive US **$25,000** each.

HEALTH
Improving access to universal healthcare

FOOD
Optimising food security and agricultural productivity

ENERGY
Enabling access to clean energy

WATER
Improving access to safe drinking water and sanitation

CLIMATE ACTION
Enhancing climate adaptation and resilience

GLOBAL HIGH SCHOOLS
Shaping future sustainability leaders

The categories are evaluated based on three criteria

IMPACT

Impact refers to a positive change that addresses social, economic, technological and or environmental challenge(s) and has proven to make the world a better place by improving the well-being of humanity.

Organisations must demonstrate that their solution:

- Has had a positive impact on the quality of peoples' lives
- Is resilient to potential social, economic, technological, and environmental challenges
- Involves good governance by employing skilled people and establishing fair policies
- Has a detailed plan of how the Prize money would be used to further increase their impact

INNOVATION

Innovation refers to a novel solution or a transformation of an existing solution that solves a challenge or a need, generates value and brings significant positive impact. A solution can be a technology, a service or a business model.

Organisations must demonstrate that their solution:

- Has a unique value proposition
- Is disruptive or transformative
- Is technically and commercially viable
- Is adopted by the market

The Prize does not award early stage startups, inventions, prototypes or solutions that have not demonstrated any impact on the ground.

INSPIRATION

Leading by example, Sheikh Zayed, the founding father of the UAE, placed great value on the pursuit of socio-economic development that meets the needs of both current and future generations. Continued through the Prize, Sheikh Zayed's legacy is a source of inspiration for the entire world.

Organisations must demonstrate that their solution:

- Reflects Sheikh Zayed's core values, sustainability, and humanitarian efforts, which were central to his own approach and actions
- Can inspire and influence others to advance sustainable and human development
- Can further inspire sustainable actions from the wider community by instigating behavioural changes

Health



This category recognises organisations that have demonstrated impactful, innovative and inspiring sustainability solutions in the areas of health that include, but are not limited to:

- Ensuring access to essential and affordable healthcare
- Improving maternal and newborn health
- Tackling epidemics (AIDS, Malaria, Tuberculosis, etc.)
- Preventing and treating waterborne, communicable, and non-communicable diseases
- Reducing illness from pollution, hazardous chemicals, and contamination

Organisations must also demonstrate a clear vision and long-term plan to further deploy their solution and scale up their impact, as well as inspiring others to follow suit by advancing sustainable and human development.

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THIS CATEGORY, ORGANISATIONS MUST BE AN SME OR NPO.

Food



This category recognises organisations that have demonstrated impactful, innovative and inspiring sustainability solutions in the areas of food that include, but are not limited to:

- Decreasing hunger and malnutrition
- Increasing agricultural or other food processing productivity
- Ensuring sustainability of food systems
- Enhancing sustainable food production

Organisations must also demonstrate a clear vision and long-term plan to further deploy their solution and scale up their impact, as well as inspiring others to follow suit by advancing sustainable and human development.

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THIS CATEGORY, ORGANISATIONS MUST BE AN SME OR NPO.

Energy



This category recognises organisations that have demonstrated impactful, innovative and inspiring sustainability solutions in the areas of energy that include, but are not limited to:

- Ensuring access to affordable and reliable clean energy
- Increasing production of clean energy
- Improving energy efficiency and energy infrastructure
- Implementing clean energy technology innovation

Organisations must also demonstrate a clear vision and longterm plan to further deploy their solution and scale up their impact, as well as inspiring others to follow suit by advancing sustainable and human development.

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THIS CATEGORY, ORGANISATIONS MUST BE AN SME OR NPO.

Water



This category recognises organisations that have demonstrated impactful, innovative and inspiring sustainability solutions in the areas of water that include, but are not limited to:

- Ensuring access to safe and affordable drinking water
- Ensuring access to sanitation and hygiene
- Increasing water use efficiency

Organisations must also demonstrate a clear vision and long-term plan to further deploy their solution and scale up their impact, as well as inspiring others to follow suit by advancing sustainable and human development.

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THIS CATEGORY, ORGANISATIONS MUST BE AN SME OR NPO.

Climate Action



This category recognises organisations that are fostering efforts to address environmental challenges and promote climate resiliency:

- Building climate adaptation and resilience
- Implementing sustainable land use and environmental conservation
- Developing nature-based solutions for conserving/restoring ecosystems and natural resources
- Utilising carbon capture, usage and storage

Organisations must also demonstrate a clear vision and longterm plan to further deploy their solution and scale up their impact, as well as inspiring others to follow suit by advancing sustainable and human development.

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THIS CATEGORY, ORGANISATIONS MUST BE AN SME OR NPO.

Global High Schools



The Global High Schools category recognises high schools, or secondary schools, from six global geographic regions that propose impactful, innovative and inspiring sustainability projects in one or any combination of areas among health, food, energy and water.

The Prize is intended to encourage students to develop and implement their sustainability ideas and is not aimed at administrative projects or educational reforms at the school.

These student-led projects must demonstrate innovative approaches to address global challenges and inspire students to take active roles in sustainable development.

The application must be submitted by the students and be supported by the school management.

The projects must:

- Demonstrate how they meet the three criteria: impact, innovation, inspiration
- Be able to be implemented and operational within one to two years
- Benefit the school community and/or their local/regional community for several years



Evaluation Process

The evaluation of each submission to the Prize consists of a rigorous, three-stage process. Each category is evaluated according to our three core criteria: Impact, Innovation, and Inspiration.

FIRST STAGE

Due diligence is conducted on all submissions to ensure that they meet the evaluation criteria of the Zayed Sustainability Prize.

SECOND STAGE

The Selection Committee evaluates and scores entries to create a shortlist of finalists to pass on to the last stage of the process – the Jury.

THIRD STAGE

The Jury meets, in person, to deliberate on the finalists and elect the winner(s), in each category. Final decisions must be unanimous.

The winners of the 2027 Zayed Sustainability Prize will be announced at our Awards Ceremony in 12 January 2027.

Process Milestones

JAN 2026

Launch of Submissions

22 JUN 2026

Close of Submissions

JULY 2026

Due Diligence Completed

AUG 2026

Selection Committee Deliberation

15 SEPT 2026

Jury Meeting

12 JAN 2027

Awards Ceremony





Get Involved

If you are a sustainability advocate and wish to make a difference, feel free to support us by creating awareness about the Prize on social media.

To recommend a deserving enterprise, organisation or high school, please reach out to us at **info@ZayedSustainabilityPrize.com**

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