

Smart Energy Excellence Awards Information Pack

About the Awards

The Smart Energy Excellence Awards 2026 are administered by the Smart Energy Council, the Independent Body for the Australian Renewable Energy Industry.

The Smart Energy Excellence Awards recognise and promote the significant achievements across the entire renewable energy industry. Culminating in a Gala Dinner in Sydney on Wednesday 6th May 2026 at Doltone House Jones Bay Wharf, entering these awards is an opportunity for you and your organisation to gain valuable exposure and be celebrated as industry leaders.

Key Dates

Gala dinner registrations open	11 December 2025
Award entries open	11 December 2025
Awards entries close	13 March 2026
Awards finalists announced	17 April 2026
Smart Energy Excellence Awards Gala Dinner Doltone House, Jones Bay Wharf, Sydney	6 May 2026, 6pm - 10:30pm

Key Information

Entry Portal

All award submissions must be completed online via the
<https://eventfrog.eventsair.com/2026-smart-energy-awards>

We recommend you prepare your responses offline and then paste them into the portal when ready, before the deadline. Applicants can self-nominate, and can enter as many awards as are relevant to them.



Awards Entry Process

- Follow the link to the <https://eventfrog.eventsair.com/2026-smart-energy-awards> or visit <https://www.smartenergyawards.com.au/>
- Click on the relevant award category
- Create an account
- Create the contact information tab
- Complete all fields on the Abstract Nomination tab, navigate through the menu displayed on the left of the screen
- Review the nomination then agree to the terms & conditions and submit the completed abstract, or it can be saved as a draft to edit and submit later
- FAQs and T&Cs can be found on the relevant tabs on the navigation bar in the awards nomination portal

Award Category Information

This information provides an overview of each award category. Please read this information carefully when deciding which categories to enter.

Smart Installer Award

Honouring the people behind Australia's sustainable energy revolution by recognising installers setting new standards in technical mastery, safety, and customer care across solar and energy storage.

Judging Criteria:

1. Provide a brief overview of your professional background and business
2. How have you provided excellence in customer service? Include examples.
3. Provide examples of your commitment to your community.
4. What steps have you taken to grow your business in 2025?
5. What would winning this award mean to you?
6. Provide three testimonials.

Innovation Award

Showcasing the breakthroughs transforming how Australia generates, stores, and manages energy by celebrating ideas, products, and technologies that inspire collaboration and impact.

Judging Criteria:

1. Provide an overview of your organisation.
2. Describe the technical innovation you are nominating and explain why it is a breakthrough.
3. Outline the market impact your innovation has achieved and its potential for scalability or replication.
4. Explain how your innovation integrates with existing systems and prepares for future energy needs.
5. Describe how your organisation has demonstrated collaboration and leadership in developing or deploying this innovation.

Outstanding Member Award

Acknowledging Smart Energy Council members showing exceptional leadership, advocacy, and engagement to strengthen collaboration and innovation across Australia's smart energy community.

Judging Criteria:

1. Provide an overview of your involvement with the Smart Energy Council.
2. Describe how you have demonstrated leadership and advocacy within the smart energy community.
3. Explain how your efforts have strengthened collaboration and delivered positive community impact.
4. Outline innovative practices or initiatives you have implemented to support the renewable energy transition.
5. Describe how you have enhanced visibility, representation, and commitment to growth in the sector.

Training and Professional Development Award

Highlighting programs and trainers uplifting skills, standards, and CPD opportunities to ensure Australia's clean energy workforce remains accredited and future-ready.

Judging Criteria:

1. Please provide an overview of your organisation.
2. What is the compelling value proposition for your training and professional development offerings?
3. Is your training SAA accredited, and if so, what are the accreditation numbers?
4. Explain how you provide innovative solutions to evolving training needs.
5. What positive sector impact have your training programs had?

Smart Employer Award

Recognising workplaces investing in their people, championing diversity, safety, and innovation, and building a stronger, values-driven clean energy industry.

Judging Criteria:

1. Provide an overview of your organisation.
2. Describe how you engage and support employees, including training and professional development.
3. Explain your diversity, inclusion, and workplace safety initiatives.
4. Outline how your leadership and organisational culture contribute to innovation and the smart energy transition.
5. Describe the impact your approach has had on employee engagement, retention, and the broader industry.

Emerging Leader Award

Supporting early-career innovators demonstrating initiative, creativity, and influence in shaping the next generation of Australia's renewable energy leaders.

Judging Criteria:

1. What year did your career in the renewable energy industry begin?
2. Provide a brief overview of your professional background and current activities.
3. How are you demonstrating leadership within the industry?
4. What impact has your leadership had on the sustainable energy sector?
5. What would winning this award mean to you?

Stewardship and Sustainability Award

Championing leadership for a sustainable future by recognising individuals, projects, and organisations driving measurable change through innovation, resource recovery, and ethical long-term approaches.

Judging Criteria:

1. Please provide an overview of your organisation.
2. Outline your product, program or service that advances the principles of stewardship or sustainability.
3. What are the compelling environmental and economic outcomes from your product, program or service?
4. What impact has your product, program or service had?

First Nations Leadership Award

Celebrating First Nations leadership and partnerships strengthening sovereignty, participation, and cultural connection in a fair and inclusive energy transition.

Judging Criteria:

1. Please provide an overview of your organisation.
2. Is your organisation led by Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people? If so, who are they and what is their contribution to your organisation?
3. Outline your contribution to First Nations leadership.
4. What impact has your organisation had that stems from that leadership?
5. How is your organisation advocating for First Nations leadership across the broader industry?

International Leadership Award

Acknowledging global impact and significance in the smart energy sector, materiality of scale, international reach and success.

Judging Criteria:

1. Please provide an overview of your organisation.
2. What is your compelling value proposition for the international market?
3. Demonstrate how you have taken an innovative approach to international projects or market development

4. What international project outcomes have you achieved and what are the impacts of these outcomes?

Hall of Fame Award

Paying tribute to trailblazers whose lifetime achievement, vision, and mentorship have shaped Australia's renewable energy movement and continue to guide its future.

Judging Criteria:

1. Provide an overview of the nominee's career in the renewable energy sector.
2. Describe the nominee's lifetime contributions and how they have shaped the industry.
3. Explain how the nominee has demonstrated leadership, vision, and mentorship.
4. Outline the nominee's advocacy work and ongoing impact on the sector.
5. Describe the nominee's connection to and influence within the Smart Energy Council.

Key Contacts

If you have any questions about submitting an award entry, attending the Gala Dinner, or making media enquiries, our team is here to help. Please reach out to the relevant contact below to ensure you get the support you need.

Award Entry: events@smartenergy.org.au

Gala Dinner: events@smartenergy.org.au

Media Enquiries: tim@smartenergy.org.au

Terms and Conditions

1. Organisations and individuals that operate across the renewable energy sector in Australia are eligible to nominate.
2. Organisations must have been operating for a minimum of 12 months and must be solvent throughout the entire awards process.
3. Multiple entries are accepted, with separate submissions for each category.
4. The nomination must address each question relating to the relevant award category.

5. Full-time or part-time employees and board members of the Smart Energy Council, and awards judges are not eligible to enter or nominate for an award.
6. The Smart Energy Council reserves the right to disqualify entries from organisations and individuals that are insolvent or have provided incorrect or unverifiable information.
7. Judging will be undertaken by a panel of independent experts.
8. The judging panel's assessment of each nomination will be in accordance with the judging criteria and weightings.
9. The judging panel will assess each nomination according to the criteria, and select finalists and winners for each category.
10. The judging panel may contact award entrants to verify information included in their submission.
11. Answers should include recent achievements and activities, with a focus on the period from 1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025.
12. The judging panel reserves the right to present two awards in one category and may also decide not to present an award in a category where entries are not considered to merit an award.
13. The decision of the judging panel is final, and all nominees acknowledge and accept this.
14. By registering your details, you agree to the collection, storage, and use of your information by the Smart Energy Council in accordance with our [Information Terms and Conditions of Use Policy](#).
15. Nominations must be completed online. Hard copy nominations will not be accepted.
16. Finalists and winners will be provided with digital awards logos that can be used on marketing collateral and social media.
17. Information on the finalists and winners will be published on the official Smart Energy Excellence Awards 2026 [website](#).
18. Nominees agree for the Smart Energy Council to use all collateral submitted as part of the submission.
19. In accepting these terms and conditions, you accept that you may be filmed and photographed in relation to the Smart Energy Council, and that those images may appear in all forms of media, including print, online, television and other media.
20. By submitting the nomination form, nominees accept and abide by all terms and conditions.