

Climate Resilience

Awards for Business

2026

Application Guide for Organizations

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Recognizing Leading Business Performance in Climate Resilience

Apply now to showcase how your business is building resilience to climate change through real-world action and measurable impact

A resilient future will not be built by ambition alone.

It will be built by organizations that can demonstrate what works.

Resilience against climate change is becoming a strategic priority for businesses worldwide. Yet resilience projects and solutions often receive less visibility, recognition, and investment than climate mitigation initiatives.

To help shift this reality, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and the Global Resilience Partnership (GRP) launched the Climate Resilience Awards for Business. Following a successful first edition in 2025, the initiative returns for a second year to further spotlight business leadership and innovation in climate adaptation and resilience.

We identify, evaluate, recognize, and showcase leading examples of business resilience action that deliver measurable and credible outcomes.

Award Categories

Organizations may submit projects under one of four award categories:

Building Climate-Proof Infrastructure

This category celebrates projects that safeguard the resilience of the built assets, facilities, energy systems, transport systems, industrial operations and other critical infrastructure of businesses, municipalities, and communities against acute and chronic climate change-related hazards. The strongest submissions will show how a project transforms the broader infrastructure and energy systems that businesses, municipalities, and communities depend on.

Solution Type	Examples (non-exhaustive list)
Physical environment & infrastructure development	Heat-resilient building retrofits for offices or data centres; Climate-proof transport and logistics hub; Coastal protection for ports and cities; Elevated substations in flood-prone areas
Nature-based solutions	Wetlands protecting industrial sites from flooding; Green roofs reducing urban heat impacts on facilities; Mangrove restoration protecting port infrastructure
Workforce protection & behavioural changes	Facility emergency response training; Climate resilience operating procedures for critical assets; Heatwave preparedness programs for infrastructure operators
Product & business model design or redesign	Resilient building materials; Infrastructure engineering services; Infrastructure resilience as-a-service
Technology and innovation solutions	Smart grid resilience systems; Automated flood barriers; Digital twins for climate stress testing infrastructure
Information & data solutions	Infrastructure climate risk mapping & assessment; Early warning systems for critical assets; Scenario analysis

Financial or insurance solutions	Parametric insurance for climate risks, Resilience bonds financing infrastructure development
Value chain & procurement solutions	Climate resilient infrastructure procurement standards; Supplier requirements for resilient infrastructure; Diversified infrastructure service providers

Promoting Water Stewardship

This category highlights businesses' efforts put into managing water stress and ensuring water security by addressing flooding, drought, and water management, in particular with solutions that prevent water-related disruption or improve the security of water supply for businesses and communities. The strongest submissions will show how a project transforms the broader resilience of water resources that businesses, municipalities, and communities depend on.

Solution Type	Examples (non-exhaustive list)
Physical environment & infrastructure development	Industrial water recycling facilities; Flood protection infrastructure; Drought-resilient water storage systems
Nature-based solutions	Watershed restoration; Wetlands rehabilitation; Catchment reforestation for water security
Workforce protection & behavioural changes	Water stewardship training; Employee water conservation programs; Farmer training on water-efficient irrigation
Product & business model design or redesign	Water-efficient products; Drought-resilient crops and agricultural products; Water management advisory services
Technology and innovation solutions	Smart irrigation systems; Water leak detection technology; Industrial water efficiency solutions
Information & data solutions	Water risk mapping and assessment; Drought or flood forecasting tools; Basin monitoring systems
Financial or insurance solutions	Water resilience financing products; Drought or flood insurance products
Value chain & procurement solutions	Water stewardship requirements for suppliers; Water-resilient sourcing strategies; Supplier water risk assessments

Safeguarding Agriculture & Food Systems

This category recognizes companies that build resilience across agriculture and food systems, from agricultural production to processing, storage, logistics, and distribution, helping ensure food security and nutrition in the face of climate-related physical risks and supply chain disruptions. The strongest submissions will show how a project transforms the broader agriculture and food systems that businesses, municipalities, and communities depend on.

Solution Type	Examples (non-exhaustive list)
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Physical environment & infrastructure development	Climate-resilient food storage facilities; Heat-resilient cold chains; Flood-protected food processing plants
Nature-based solutions	Regenerative agriculture methods; Agroforestry systems; Soil restoration projects; Green corridors for safe wildlife crossings
Workforce protection & behavioural changes	Smallholder and farmer adaptation; Food supply chain resilience training
Product & business model design or redesign	Climate-resilient food products; Agricultural advisory services; Resilient food logistics and transportation business models
Technology and innovation solutions	Drought-resistant seed technologies; Precisions agriculture systems; Climate-smart cold chain technologies; Vertical farming
Information & data solutions	Seasonal climate forecasting for farmers; Agricultural risk intelligence platforms; Crop monitoring systems; Satellites for location-based risk identification (wildfires)
Financial or insurance solutions	Crop insurance products; Agricultural resilience financing schemes; Blended finance; Farmer microfinance or microinsurance
Value chain & procurement solutions	Climate-resilient sourcing programs of key commodities (e.g., cocoa, coffee, wheat); Supplier diversification strategies; Sustainable agricultural procurement standards

Protecting People First

This category focuses on projects that strengthen the capacity of workers, customers, value chain partners and communities to cope with, adapt to, and transform in response to climate change. The strongest submissions will go beyond protecting people from immediate hazards to building lasting adaptive capacity.

Solution Type	Examples (non-exhaustive list)
Physical environment & infrastructure development	Worker cooling shelters; Climate-resilient housing; Heat-resilient public facilities
Nature-based solutions	Urban cooling corridors; Community tree planting; Community watershed restoration
Workforce protection & behavioural changes	Workforce heat protection programs, Climate resilience training for community capacity building; Emergency planning
Product & business model design or redesign	Worker resilience services; Heat-protection products; Community adaptation services
Technology and innovation solutions	Wearable heat stress monitoring devices; Worker safety technologies; Heat warning applications
Information & data solutions	Heat-health forecasting; Community warning systems; Occupational climate risk assessment
Financial or insurance solutions	Health insurance covering climate risks; Worker resilience funds; Climate risk microfinance or microinsurance
Value chain & procurement solutions	Supplier worker protection standards; Human rights and climate resilience procurement criteria

Who Can Apply?

Applications are open to businesses of all sizes, sectors and geographic locations, including:

- SMEs
- Large corporations
- Multinational enterprises
- Financial institutions
- Cooperatives
- Industry associations
- Other business-led organizations

Both of the following applicant types are welcome:

Resilience & Adaptation Implementers

Organizations improving the resilience or climate adaptation of their own operations, assets, people, infrastructure, within or beyond their value chain.

Resilience Solution Providers

Organizations providing products, services, technologies, financing, or advisory support as part of their business model that help their clients, customers or other beneficiaries become more resilient against climate change.

Solution providers are encouraged to submit applications that provide information on project implementation and resilience impact from their client's perspective to demonstrate the resilience outcomes in practice.

Separate SME and Corporate Recognition

SMEs and large organizations or corporates compete separately within each award category to ensure fair comparison between organizations of different scale.

Solution implementers and providers compete together and are evaluated based on the demonstrated resilience outcomes of the submitted project.

Eligibility Criteria

Participation is open to businesses of all sizes and from all regions worldwide, provided the following eligibility requirements are met:

- Applicants must submit projects that address or contribute to resilience and climate adaptation outcomes related to one or more award categories.
- Applicants must be able to demonstrate implementation beyond the concept or planning stage.
- Applicants must demonstrate a sound business case (beyond CSR or philanthropic activities).
- Applicants must follow the official submission form and include all required information in their application.

What Are We Looking For?

Through the Awards, we are looking to spotlight initiatives with measurable and credible business resilience and sustainability outcomes.

We are looking for projects or solutions that help organizations either to:

- ✓ Cope with climate risks, absorb climate shocks and maintain critical functions
- ✓ Adapt and adjust operations and strategies to changing climate conditions
- ✓ Transform and create long-term resilience through new systems, business models, partnerships, or other approaches

The strongest applications clearly demonstrate how a project improved resilience across seven main dimensions:

1. Business Resilience Impact – The Core of the Awards

How did the project strengthen business resilience against climate change? Examples may include:

- Reduced climate-related disruptions
- Improved business continuity
- Reduced losses, costs, or downtime
- Increased resource security
- Strengthened value chains
- Improved adaptive capacity

2. Sustainability Impact – The Added Benefits

In addition to business resilience impact, did the project generate additional benefits in one or more of the following categories? While not required, demonstrated climate mitigation, nature, or people benefits can strengthen the application.

- **Climate Mitigation** – Examples are GHG emissions reduction, CO2 removals, energy efficiency improvements, renewable energy integration, or other decarbonization benefits
- **Nature** – Examples are biodiversity protection, land or ecosystem restoration and protection, ecosystem services, or water quality or availability improvements
- **People** – Examples are worker safety, health or well-being outcomes, community resilience, capacity building, social inclusion, local economy development, or service access

3. Implementation and Partnership Quality

Does the project showcase a credible, mature implementation into operations, strategy, partnerships and stakeholder engagement, or deployment of products or services by clients?

4. Credibility

Can the resilience or adaptation outcomes be supported by credible supporting documents or media files, data, implementation experience, and partnerships?

5. Innovation

Does the project demonstrate a novel approach, business model, technology, governance model, partnership or financing mechanism?

6. Scalability

Can the approach be expanded, replicated, or adapted across sites, business units, sectors, geographies, or markets?

7. Investability

Does the project or solution demonstrate a compelling business case, financial sustainability, or investment potential?

How to Submit a Strong Application?

1. Start with the Climate Challenge or Opportunity

Clearly explain:

- What climate risk or opportunity existed?
- Who or what was affected?
- Why was action needed?

Strong applications use specific evidence and examples

Instead of:

“Climate change is affecting our operations.”

Consider:

“Extreme heat increased warehouse downtime by 126 hours annually and resulted in \$4.3 million in product losses.”

2. Focus on Outcomes, Not Activities

Judges are interested in what changed as a result of the project.

Instead of:

“We installed cooling systems.”

Explain:

“As part of the project, the installed cooling systems on the local sites reduced heat-related downtime by 74% on average and improved on-time deliveries during extreme heat events from 81% to 97%.”

3. Quantify Outcomes Wherever Possible

Examples of metrics per evaluation criteria include:

Area	Example Metrics
Business Resilience	Avoided losses (\$), avoided downtime (hours, days), continuity improvements, ROI of implemented solution (\$)
Climate Mitigation	GHG emissions reduced, CO2 removals, energy savings, renewable energy use
Nature	Water savings or quality metrics, biodiversity indicators, hectares restored
People	Number of workers protected, beneficiaries reached, health outcomes

Implementation and Partnership Quality	Deployment scale, operational years, performance data, number of stakeholders involved, stakeholder engagement information
Credibility	Verification mechanisms for project's outcomes, MEL / MRV system in place
Innovation	New technology, system or governance redesign
Scalability	Replication potential (FID), transferability of solution across business units, sectors or geographies, integration into business operations
Investability	Funding secured for project, funding model maturity or sustainability, bankability

If data is still being collected, clearly distinguish achieved results from expected future outcomes.

4. Demonstrate Credibility

Strong applications explain:

- How the project was implemented
- Who was involved and how were they engaged throughout the project
- How progress was measured
- What evidence supports the results

Supporting materials such as reports, monitoring data, dashboards, third-party and independent evaluations, photographs, videos, or client testimonials can strengthen your submission. You may submit minimum 1, but maximum 5 supportive material per submission.

4. Think Beyond Your Organization

Projects that create resilience benefits “beyond the fence line” of their facilities or business units are encouraged. Examples include:

- Value chain resilience
- Customer resilience
- Community resilience
- Ecosystem resilience
- Sector-wide learning and replication

Before You Submit

Ask yourself:

- Have we clearly described the climate challenge or opportunity?
- Have we described our implementation approach clearly?
- Have we demonstrated resilience outcomes?
- Have we quantified impact where possible?
- Have we provided evidence supporting our claims?
- Have we explained why our solution is innovative, scalable, and financially viable?
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Questions?

For questions regarding eligibility, categories, or the application process, please contact:

Email: adaptation@wbcsd.org

We look forward to learning about your climate resilience efforts and the impact your organization is creating.

Good luck with the application!