



**ZAYED  
SUSTAINABILITY  
PRIZE**

2023-2024



## BACKGROUND

The Zayed Sustainability Prize is the UAE's pioneering global award that recognises and rewards small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), nonprofit organisations (NPOs), and global high schools with impactful, innovative and inspiring sustainable solutions.

Established by the UAE leadership in 2008, the Prize honours the humanitarian and sustainability legacy of the UAE's founding father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. Over the past 15 years, the Zayed Sustainability Prize has awarded 106 winners who have positively impacted the lives of over 378 million people around the world.

# THE CATEGORIES & CRITERIA

The total Prize fund of US\$ 3.6 million is distributed amongst six categories:



**Health**  
US\$ 600,000



**Food**  
US\$ 600,000



**Energy**  
US\$ 600,000



**Water**  
US\$ 600,000



**Climate Action**  
US\$ 600,000



**Global High Schools**  
US\$ 600,000



The categories are evaluated based on three criteria:



## 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 start-ups, inventions, prototypes or solutions that have not demonstrated any impact on the ground.

## 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

## 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 innovative, impactful and inspirational sustainability solutions in the areas of health that include, but are not limited to:

- Ensuring access to essential and affordable healthcare
- Improving access to maternal and new-born 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 a SME or an NPO.

## FOOD

This category recognises organisations that have demonstrated innovative, impactful and inspirational 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 a SME or an NPO.



## ENERGY

This category recognises organisations that have demonstrated innovative, impactful and inspirational 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 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 a SME or an NPO.

## WATER

This category recognises organisations that have demonstrated innovative, impactful and inspirational 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 a SME or an NPO.



## CLIMATE ACTION

This category recognises organisations that have demonstrated innovative, impactful and inspirational solutions producing positive results in the following areas:

- Climate Adaptation and Resilience
- Nature-based solutions

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 a SME or an NPO.

## GLOBAL HIGH SCHOOLS

The Global High Schools category recognises high schools or secondary schools, from six global geographic regions that propose innovative, impactful, and inspirational sustainability projects in the areas of health, food, energy and/or water. The proposed project could be in one area (e.g., water) or a combination of areas (e.g., energy, water, food, and health).

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.

The award in this category is not given for past achievements but will enable students from winning high schools to implement sustainability projects in their own schools.

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

The application must be submitted by the students and supported by the school management and 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 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 select the winner(s), in each category. Final decisions must be unanimous.

The winners of the Zayed Sustainability Prize will be announced at our annual Awards Ceremony.

## PROCESS MILESTONES

---

**23 JAN 2023**  
Launch of  
Submissions

**23 MAY 2023**  
Close of  
Submissions

**5 JUNE 2023**  
Due Diligence  
Completed

**31 JULY 2023**  
Selection Committee  
Deliberation

**5 SEPT 2023**  
Jury  
Meeting

**DEC 2023**  
Awards  
Ceremony



## GET INVOLVED

If you are an organisation with a sustainability innovation or a high school with a sustainability project, in the areas of health, food, energy or water, you can enter your submission by visiting [www.ZayedSustainabilityPrize.com](http://www.ZayedSustainabilityPrize.com)

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.



@ZSP\_ORG | @zayedsustainabilityprize



## **ZAYED SUSTAINABILITY PRIZE**

PO Box 54115, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

[info@ZayedSustainabilityPrize.com](mailto:info@ZayedSustainabilityPrize.com)

[ZayedSustainabilityPrize.com](http://ZayedSustainabilityPrize.com)