



EMERGING CLIMATE CHAMPIONS AWARD

Evaluation Rubric – June 2025

Emerging Climate Champions Award: Evaluation Rubric

About the Evaluation Rubric

The Emerging Climate Champions Award **Evaluation Rubric**, below, will be used to assess applications during Participatory Review and during Evaluation Panel Review. During Participatory Review, each valid application will be reviewed by at least four (4) peer Applicants who will assess each application on the four criteria that comprise the evaluation rubric. Once Participatory Review is complete, top Applicants will advance to the Evaluation Panel, where they will be reviewed by at least four (4) Evaluation Panel reviewers who will use the same evaluation rubric to assess each application.

The rubric is built upon four distinct criteria, guiding reviewers to consider each trait in isolation when evaluating applications. In both stages of review, reviewers will assign a score for each of the four criteria and provide a comment to justify each decision. Those scores and comments will be compiled into one composite assessment of each application, and each Applicant will receive its “package” of scores/comments from the assigned reviewers (who will be anonymous to the Applicants).

This process is designed to be transparent, fair, and open while providing a value-added experience for Applicants. Even Applicants who do not receive an award will receive feedback from peers and many will receive feedback from Evaluation Panel reviewers about their applications.

The Evaluation Rubric includes four criteria that are equally weighted across each five-point scale. Each Applicant can receive between 1 and 5 points on each scale, representing a total possible scoring range between 4-20 from each Reviewer. When reviewing the rubric, there are different descriptors within each scale. They are:

1. **Trait:** The name attributed to each Review Criterion (e.g., “Durable”).
2. **Prompt:** One or more questions, intended to clarify areas of consideration when defining a Trait.
3. **Evaluation Range Definitions:** Clarifying statements to define sub-scoring ranges (e.g., 2 vs. a 4).

With four (4) reviews per application, the total maximum score from the four assigned reviewers for each trait is 20, and the maximum aggregate total score is 80 points.



EMERGING CLIMATE CHAMPIONS AWARD

Evaluation Rubric – June 2025

#1 EXPERIENCE

Is there evidence of the organization's meaningful contributions in working with communities on climate-related issues?

LOW

1	Proposal offers no evidence of engaging communities on climate issues, and/or organization lacks relevant climate programs.
2	Proposal offers examples of one-off, short-term engagements such as workshops, and/or no evidence of organization's climate contributions in the communities it serves.
3	Proposal offers several examples of community-facing climate projects, and/or some evidence of organization's positive but inconsistent contributions in the communities it serves.
4	Proposal offers several examples of community-facing climate projects, and/or clear evidence of the organization's positive and consistent contributions in the communities it serves.
5	Proposal provides several compelling examples of community-facing climate projects, and/or strong evidence of the organization's transformative and consistent contributions, built on trusted partnerships and collaboration with the communities it serves.

HIGH

#2 IMPACT POTENTIAL

Is there evidence that the organization's strategy or theory of change has delivered or has potential to deliver clear and measurable results in the context(s) in which it operates and for the climate issue it identifies?

LOW

1	Organization lacks a strategy or theory of change. Activities are disconnected from the climate context it seeks to address. No evidence to support claims of impact.
2	Organization has an unclear theory of change. Proposal cites climate-relevant activities but no explanation of how they lead to measurable outcomes or impact.
3	Organization has a coherent theory of change with logical steps connecting activities to climate outcomes. Proposal offers limited evidence (outputs, short-term outcomes) that demonstrates the strategy can work. Significant



EMERGING CLIMATE CHAMPIONS AWARD

Evaluation Rubric – June 2025

	refinement of the strategy is needed to demonstrate measurable results and realize the organization's impact potential.
4	Organization has a strong, evidence-backed theory of change. Proposal offers examples of activities and projects designed to achieve measurable results. Organization has shown the ability to adapt its strategy based on learnings in order to realize its full impact potential.
5	Organization has a strong, evidence-backed, and context-relevant theory of change. Proposal offers several examples of activities, projects, and programs designed to achieve significant, measurable climate impact. Organization has demonstrated ability to adapt and refine its strategy in ways that will grow its impact potential.

HIGH

#3 DURABLE

Does the organization have the skills, capacity, knowledge, relationships, and/or lived experience to ensure its continued success. Is there a clear, long-term vision and is the organization on a path to achieve it?

LOW

1	No evidence that the organization can continue its work. Proposal lacks a compelling vision for the future.
2	Limited evidence the organization can continue its work. Team has some skills, capacity, and knowledge but unclear long-term vision.
3	Moderate evidence the organization can continue its work. Team has necessary skills, capacity, and knowledge, but significant improvements are needed to realize its vision.
4	Strong evidence the organization can sustain its work over time. Team has strong skills, capacity, knowledge, relationships, and lived experience as well as a clear vision for the future. However, slight modifications are required in the organization to realize its vision.
5	Robust evidence the organization can sustain its work over time. Team has strong skills, capacity, knowledge, relationships, and lived experience guided by a clear, compelling vision for the future. Organization has demonstrated ability to adapt and evolve its approach to meet changing needs.

HIGH



EMERGING CLIMATE CHAMPIONS AWARD

Evaluation Rubric – June 2025

#4 COMMUNITY-LED

Does the organization shift the balance of power by empowering leaders from communities it serves, integrating community input, or fostering local community ownership for its climate solution?

LOW

1	Organization leadership is not reflective or representative of the experiences and perspectives of the community it serves. Community members served/affected by the organization have no way to influence and shape decisions.
2	Organization leadership includes some of the experiences and perspectives of the community it serves. Community members served/affected by the organization have limited, inaccessible ways to provide feedback on the organization's work.
3	Organization leadership is reflective or representative of the experiences and perspectives of the community it serves. Proposal cites some examples that show community members served/affected by the organization are able to provide feedback on the organization's work.
4	Organization leadership is reflective and representative of the experiences and perspectives of the community it serves. Proposal offers several examples that show community members served/affected by the organization have provided feedback on the organization's work.
5	Organization leadership is reflective and representative of the experiences and perspectives of the community it serves. Proposal offers several examples that show community members have provided feedback or have easily accessible ways to provide feedback that influence and shape decisions of the organization.

HIGH