



UN Global Climate Action Awards

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Dear Friends,

This month we shall discuss the framework for UN Global Climate Action Awards [1], and list the winners for 2021, the latest winners announced in October 2021 [2].

We shall first try to understand what is meant by Climate Action [3]. While signing the Paris Agreement at COP 21, all nations realized the importance of mobilizing support from all non-Party stakeholders in achieving the ambitious 1.5 Degree Celsius target. In addition to national governments, they felt the need to involve and engage business, civil society, non-governmental organizations, local administrations down to cities, and groups of women, youth and indigenous peoples.



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The Lima–Paris Action Agenda (LPAA) was a forerunner to Paris Agreement, led by the governments of Peru, France, UN Secretary General and UNFCCC. They identified some focus areas such as resilience, agriculture, forests, renewable energy, cities and sub-nationals, transport etc. [4] These focus areas (amongst others) and the non-Party stakeholders, later formed the foundations for basis for Climate Action. Here is a quote from a report by the French team:

“The LPAA aimed at inspiring, structuring, and showcasing climate action. Its objective was to scale up the level of ambition, by promoting best-in-class initiatives and attracting other actors inside the concrete climate action sphere”.

“The LPAA has resulted in a massive mobilization of state and non-state actors, involving almost 10,000 stakeholders — States, cities, regions, companies, investors and NGOs — from 180 countries in more than 70 cooperative initiatives. All of them were showcased during the COP21, throughout a rich LPAA sequence”.

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The UNFCCC website has a special tab devoted to Climate Action, and details of the award and the winners may be found there [5]. The objective is to highlight good examples and inspire others to follow suit. These awards are presented to recognize ‘innovative and transformative solutions that address both climate change and wider economic, social, and environmental challenges. The projects must be ‘practical, scalable and replicable’.

At present there are 7 focus areas as indicated at [5]

Quote:

1. Climate Leaders: recognizing transformational efforts by governments at any level (national, provincial, state, city, town) that are moving the needle on climate change.
2. Climate Neutral Now: recognizing efforts by individuals, companies and governments that are achieving real results in transitioning to climate neutrality.
3. Financing for Climate Friendly Investment: recognizing successful and innovative climate-smart activities. This focus area is implemented in partnership with the [World Economic Forum](#) Global Project on Climate Change
4. Women for Results: recognizing the critical leadership and participation of women in addressing climate change. This focus area was implemented in collaboration with Masdar and then Donors supporting the implementation of the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan in 2012 - 2020.
5. Planetary Health: recognizing novel solutions that balance the need for both human health and a healthy planet, implemented with the generous support of the [Rockefeller Foundation](#) in 2017 - 2019.
6. ICT Solutions: recognizing successful climate change activities in the field of information and communication technology. This focus area was implemented in partnership with the [Global e-Sustainability Initiative](#) in 2015 - 2017.
7. Urban Poor: recognizing climate action that improves the lives of impoverished people in urban communities. This focus area was implemented with the generous support of the [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#) from 2011-2015.

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The eleven 2021 winning projects are [6]:

- Climate Leaders category:
 - Climate Action Plan of the Metropolitan Area of Guadalajara (PAC metro)
 - City of Paris: Carbon Neutral by 2050 for a Fair, Inclusive and Resilient Transition
 - Samsø: An Island Community Pointing to the Future
- Climate Neutral Now category:
 - House of Baukjen: Carbon Negative Circular Leaders in the Fashion Industry
 - ICA Gruppen: Beyond Climate Neutrality
 - Microsoft: Carbon Negative Goal
 - Taylors of Harrogate: Journey to Carbon Neutrality
- Financing for Climate-Friendly Investment category:
 - Energise Africa
 - Global Innovation Lab for Climate Finance

- IFC Renewable Energy Projects in the West Bank and Gaza
- Sun Funder: Pioneering Climate Investments in Africa

Unquote

I wish to end this blog with a request that Indian NGOs may like to highlight their work in such global forums. I am sure that we are doing quite a lot, but we do not put in enough efforts to publicise our work at the right global forum, and this could be a potential target. I searched for the 2022 awards application portal without success. Instead, I got this option: <https://sdgactionawards.org/how-to-apply/> and this is open till May 8th, 2022.

Still I believe, one may try.

References

1. <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/un-global-climate-action-awards>
2. <https://unfccc.int/news/un-global-climate-action-awards-winners-unveiled-today>
3. <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/introduction-climate-action>
4. <https://cop23.unfccc.int/news/the-lima-paris-action-agenda-promoting-transformational-climate-action>
5. <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/un-global-climate-action-awards>
6. <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/un-global-climate-action-awards/winning-projects#eq-1>

