



# Awards Criteria & Entries

Information for Councils





## Cities Power Partnership

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[citiespowerpartnership.org.au](http://citiespowerpartnership.org.au)

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# Welcome

to the fifth annual Cities Power Partnership Climate Awards. As Australia's largest local government climate alliance we are looking forward to once again recognising outstanding council-led initiatives from around the country, and celebrating the achievements of our members.

We are especially excited in 2023 to celebrate in-person at the State Library in Melbourne, as part of the **Climate Summit for Local Government**.

There are TEN Climate Awards up for grabs.

As in past years, there are Achievement Awards in the fields of **renewable energy, sustainable transport** and **energy efficiency**, taking into consideration progress made on CPP pledges, project budget, population size and number of employees in the team.

We will also hail individual and team heroes with the **Climate Champion Award** and the **Climate Ambassador Award**.

The **Innovation Award** will seek to uncover and celebrate transformative climate solutions from every corner of Australia.

The **Collaboration Award** will recognise councils that are working together for greater impact, and the **Ambition Award** celebrates councils with a concrete plan to get to net zero.

Our **Community Choice Award** is back by popular demand. This award gets the wider Climate Council community involved and voting for the town or city in Australia with the best and brightest clean energy project.

New in 2023 is the **Battler Award**. This accolade recognises regional or rural councils overcoming significant challenges to deliver local climate wins. Whether it's a lack of funding, limited resources or difficult external circumstances, we want to celebrate councils doing whatever it takes to act on climate.

Our Climate Award winners and finalists in the past have ranged from net zero community transitions plans, to cutting edge PPAs, to an off-grid stadium and relief centre, to a carbon neutral kinder - and many other amazing solutions in between. We look forward to seeing your entry!

**THANKS FOR ENTERING!**



For inspiration have a look at our [2021](#), [2020](#), [2019](#) and [2018](#) winners and finalists.

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# General Information

There are ten Cities Power Partnership Climate Awards:

 **1** Renewable Energy Achievement Award

 **6** Climate Ambassador Award

 **2** Energy Efficiency Achievement Award

 **7** Climate Champion Award

 **3** Sustainable Transport Achievement Award

 **8** Collaboration Award

 **4** Ambition Award

 **9** Community Choice Award

 **5** Battler Award

 **10** Innovation Award

## Important Dates to Note:

### Entries open:

Tuesday,  
May 16, 2023

### Entries close:

Friday,  
July 28, 2023

### Winners announced:

Thursday, September 7, 2023  
at the [Climate Awards Gala Dinner](#)



# How to Enter

The information on the following pages will outline the submission process and the judging criteria but entries will be made via the [Cities Power Partnership Awards website](#), where submission and criteria information can also be found.

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to email us at [cpp@climatecouncil.org.au](mailto:cpp@climatecouncil.org.au).

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**Best of luck with your  
award submission!**



The award entry process is via a dedicated awards website hosted by Award Force.

Entrants will need to set up an account with a username and password (or use existing details from last year) and proceed through the entry steps which are clearly explained throughout.

The screenshot displays two side-by-side forms on a website. On the left is the 'Register' form, which includes fields for 'First name', 'Last name', 'Email', and 'Mobile (optional)'. It also has a 'Password' field with a note 'Must be at least 12 characters' and a 'Confirm password' field. Below these are two checkboxes: one for agreeing to the privacy policy, cookie policy, and terms of service, and another for agreeing to receive notification emails or SMS. A purple 'Register' button is at the bottom. On the right is the 'Log in' form, featuring an 'Email or mobile' field, a 'Password' field, a 'Remember me' checkbox, and a purple 'Log in' button. A 'Forgot password' link is located below the 'Log in' button. To the left of the forms is a teal 'WELCOME!' message with instructions for getting started, including a list of three steps: 1. Register an account, 2. Start your entry, and 3. Submit your entry by Friday, September 18. It also includes social media icons for Pinterest, LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, Email, and a plus sign for more options.

The award entry login page looks like this

You can save draft entries prior to submission and it's easy to add attachments to support your entry.

You can also revisit the awards website anytime after your entry has been submitted if you've forgotten something or would like to add information.

### My entries → Start entry

All questions must be answered, unless marked optional.

Details Criteria Attachments Team information Contributors

🔍

Category

Sustainable Transport Achievement Award

Entry name

The Sustainable Transport award recognises excellence in reducing carbon emissions from council operations or broader community transport emissions.

This may include a fleet sustainability strategy adoption & implementation, mobility strategy adoption, corporate fleet electrification progress, provision of public EV charging infrastructure, planning approvals to improving access for walking & cycle tracks & more.

The following three components will have equal weighting in the judging process.

- Leadership & Innovation
- Outreach & Communication
- Outcomes & Results

Starting a new award entry looks like this

# Criteria for Awards

The following pages outline specific information we are looking for. All criteria information in this booklet is also available on the [award submission website](#).

Entries can be **current projects** or **completed projects from up to three years ago**, but not older than a 2020 completion date.

We will **accept previously submitted projects** that have **not won an award** on the condition that there is new data, milestones or successes to report. If you are unsure whether your project qualifies, please get in touch with us at [cpp@climatecouncil.org.au](mailto:cpp@climatecouncil.org.au)

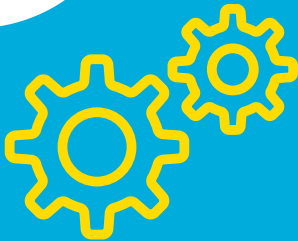
One criteria that applies to all entries is that councils **must have completed the 2022 Cities Power Partnership reporting survey**.

Another thing to note: entries that **align with the pledges** your council has committed to will be looked on more favourably. Please be sure to mention this in your entry or as a side note.

Images and copy submitted with your entry **may be used for CPP marketing or social media**. Please bear this in mind when giving a title to your project, and in the way you write about it because it may be used in promotional items or announcements. If you would like to attribute the work to a photographer, please let us know. If you prefer us not to use the material, also please let us know.

Any questions about criteria can be sent to [cpp@climatecouncil.org.au](mailto:cpp@climatecouncil.org.au).

## Innovation Award



## Collaboration Award





**Ambition Award**



**Battler Awards**



**Climate Champion Award**



**Climate Ambassador Award**



# Achievement Awards

These awards recognise excellence in projects, programs and policies that work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the areas of:



**Renewable Energy**



**Energy Efficiency**



**Sustainable Transport**

The Achievement Awards will be judged by two criteria groups: Summary (20%) and Impact (80%).

Additionally, in order to fairly judge both small and large projects side by side, judges will take three other factors into consideration:

- > **Budget size:** both the project budget amount, and what percentage this amount is of your Council total budget.
- > **Population size:** the approximate number of people who live in your council area.
- > **Team size:** the number of full time equivalent people working on this project.



## Award Entry Criteria

Submitted projects must aim to reduce emissions of council operations, or aim to empower communities or businesses to reduce emissions. Entries can be **current projects**, or **completed projects from up to three years ago**, but not older than a 2020 completion date. We will **accept previously submitted projects** that have **not won an award** on the condition that there is new data, milestones or successes to report. If you are unsure whether your project qualifies, please get in touch with us at [cpp@climatecouncil.org.au](mailto:cpp@climatecouncil.org.au).

Images and/or videos accompanying written words are welcome!

And remember, entries that incorporate details on relevant CPP pledges completed or being worked on will be looked on favourably! Please be sure to mention this in your entry.

### Summary (300 words; 20%)

- > Summarise your project.

### Impact (100 words; 80%)

#### Required:

How has this project contributed to meeting Council emissions reduction goals? Please include the following:

- > Greenhouse gas emissions saved or expected to be saved and what percentage that is of your Council's total emissions
- > Indicate whether it is corporate, or corporate **and** community.
- > What is the time frame? (i.e. how many tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> avoided over what number years).
- > Financial savings (total savings over life of project, annual savings).
- > Tangible community benefits as a result of this project.

#### If available:

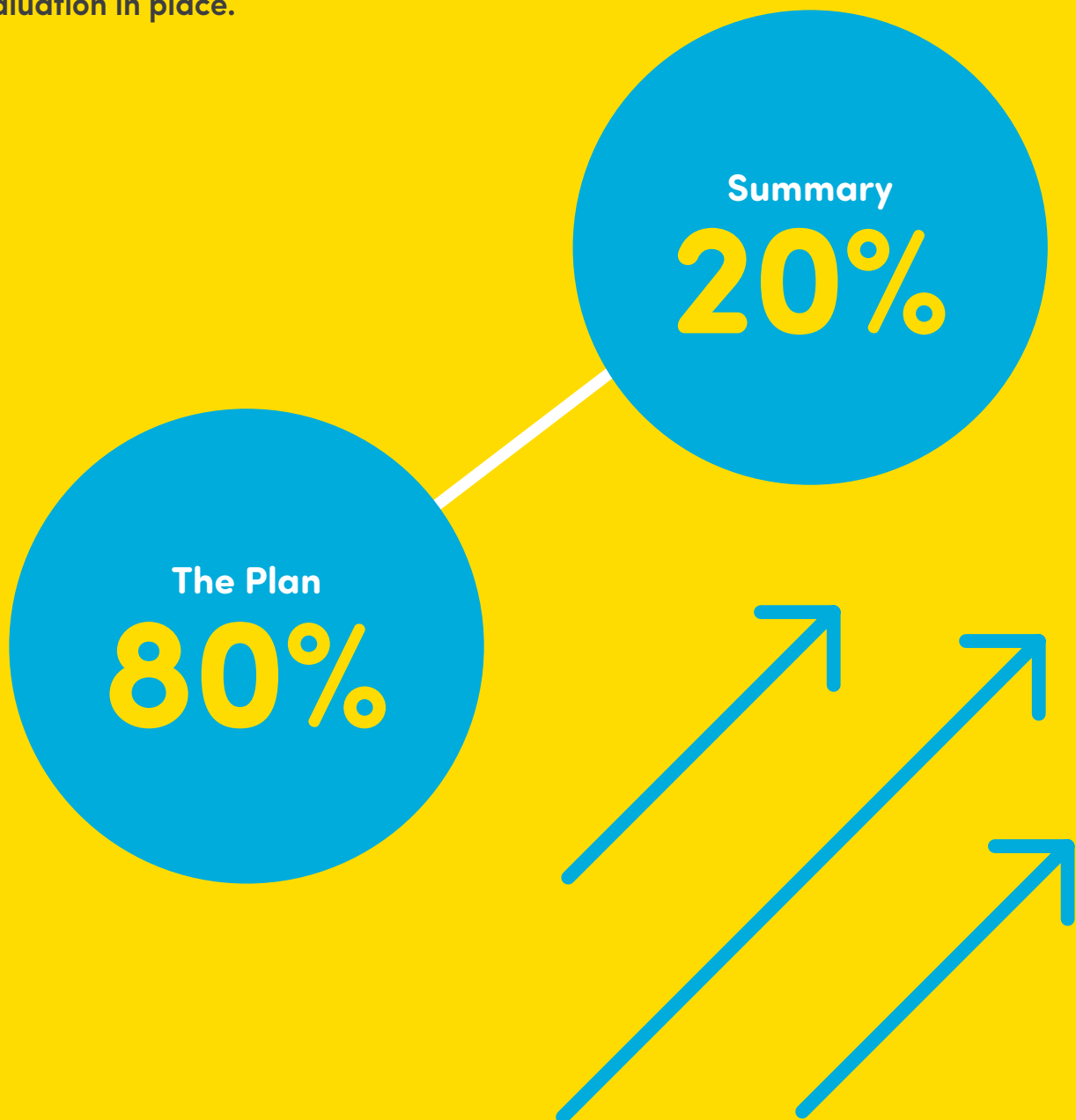
- > Resource consumption savings (electricity/gas/fuel) annually and over the life of the project.
- > Total renewable energy generation annually and over the life of the project.

#### Additional Information:

- > **Budget size:** both the project budget amount.
- > **Population size:** the approximate number of people who live in your council area.
- > **Team size:** the number of full time equivalent people working on this project.

# Ambition Award

This award is a dedicated commendation for an ambitious council that has a detailed plan for their climate change mitigation pathway. They have outlined the actions required to achieve net zero targets with a clear timeframe, budget allocation, accountable departments, and measurements and evaluation in place.



## Award Entry Criteria

The primary subject for assessment in this award is the plan itself, although judges are unlikely to read the plan in its entirety.

### Summary (300 words; 20% weighting)

Please include a summary of your plan:

- > Origin, path to implementation and successes (to date).
- > Any supporting websites, videos, testimonials, media coverage that will help the judges assess the plan.

### The Plan (80% weighting)

Please address the following in the space provided:

- > Does your plan include interim targets and/or action over time to reach your overall target?
- > How have you incorporated the use of data/science to determine targets/mitigation planning?
- > Does your plan have a target for community emissions?
- > What about your plan makes it a robust framework for the future?
- > Are there components of the plan you would like to highlight?
- > What key actions will your council undertake to deliver this plan?

# Battler Award

This award, new in 2023, seeks to acknowledge those regional or rural councils doing it tough. We recognise that some councils are facing very different internal and external circumstances that impact the ability to take action on climate. We want to celebrate the councils that are delivering tangible results despite the roadblocks.



## Award Entry Criteria

The type of challenge is open-ended. The key criteria will be how the council overcame barriers and delivered.

*Note: The Battler Award is for councils that define themselves as regional or rural.*

### Background

(200 words; 20% weighting)

Tell us about your project/plan/event/situation and the challenge(s) it faced.

### The Deliverable

(300 words; 50% weighting)

Please describe how you overcame resistance or barriers to deliver your project/plan/event.

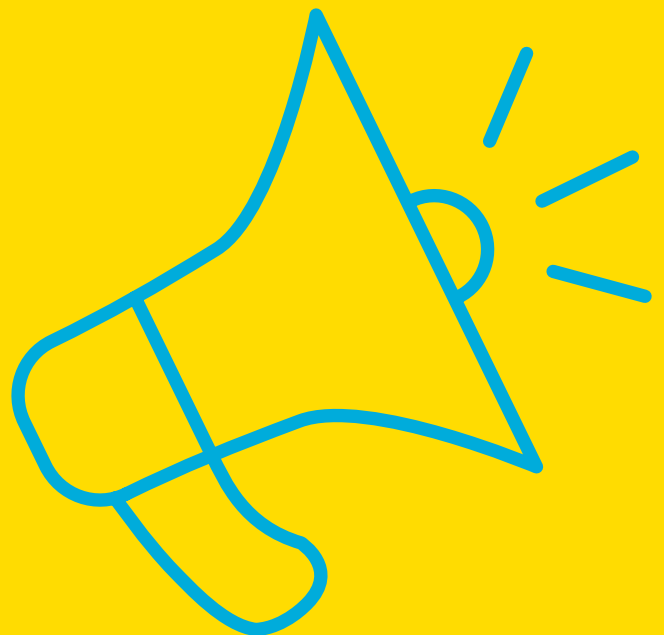
### Outcomes

(200 words; 30% weighting)

- > Describe how your deliverable will make (or has made) a sustainable impact on organisations, industry or community.
- > How has overcoming your barrier paved the way for future success?
- > Please include supporting websites, videos, testimonials, media coverage that will help the judges assess your entry.

# Climate Ambassador Award

The Cities Power Partnership provides members with proactive, strategic media outreach and training, as well as opportunities for advocacy to promote councils' amazing work to local, state and national media, and to the broader Climate Council audience of supporters.





## Award Entry Criteria

This award recognises an elected official who has contributed to the wider climate debate by regularly participating in media opportunities, speaking engagements, community forums, presentations and more.

### Media Coverage (400 words; 50% weighting)

Please describe the range of climate action-related media coverage you have generated within the past 12 months. This can include radio, tv, online, print, successful social media posts and interviews. Please include links to coverage wherever possible.

### Advocacy (400 words; 50% weighting)

Show how you have advocated for local government climate action.

- > Illustrate the level of activity in internal and external council communication channels. These could include mayoral columns, letters to the editor, op-eds, blog posts, social media activity or short videos.
- > Show how you have increased the profile of your Council as a local leader on climate action through:
  - Participation in industry or local government associations, climate alliances, think tanks
  - Presentations to peers or community via public forums, conferences and events

# Climate Champion Award

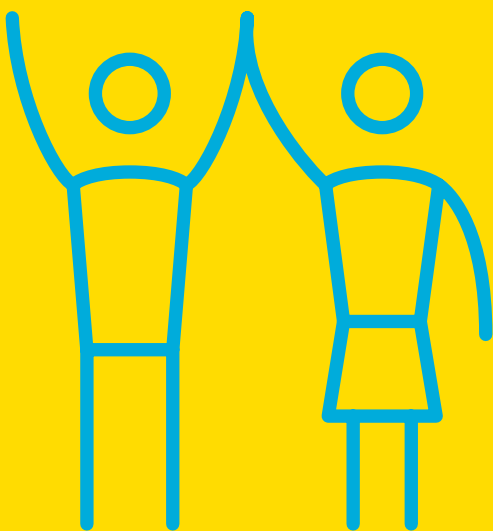
The Cities Power Partnership is only as strong as the talented council employees who work day to day on emissions reduction - both through their own initiatives and through their completion of CPP program pledges.

Cities Power Partnership Support

30%

Advancing Climate Initiatives

70%



## Award Entry Criteria

This award recognises an employee or a team that has consistently worked towards initiating, championing and completing carbon emission reductions project(s) within council and the community.

*Note: this does not necessarily have to be a Sustainability team/person but any team/person within Council that has led emissions reduction initiatives.*

Entries may be via self-nomination or through a colleague or manager. Criteria is divided into two sections: supporting the Cities Power Partnership, and advancing Council/community climate initiatives.

### Cities Power Partnership Support (300 words; 30% weighting)

Demonstrate how you have participated in the development of the Cities Power Partnership network.

#### **You could include:**

- > Attendance or presenting at monthly Cities Power Partnership webinars, including initiating discussion in the Q&A.
- > Assisting the Cities Power Partnership with things like proactive media relations and follow up, providing a quote for a media release, participating in a case study request for a report, etc.
- > Using Council Connect on a regular basis.

### Advancing Climate Initiatives (400 words; 70% weighting)

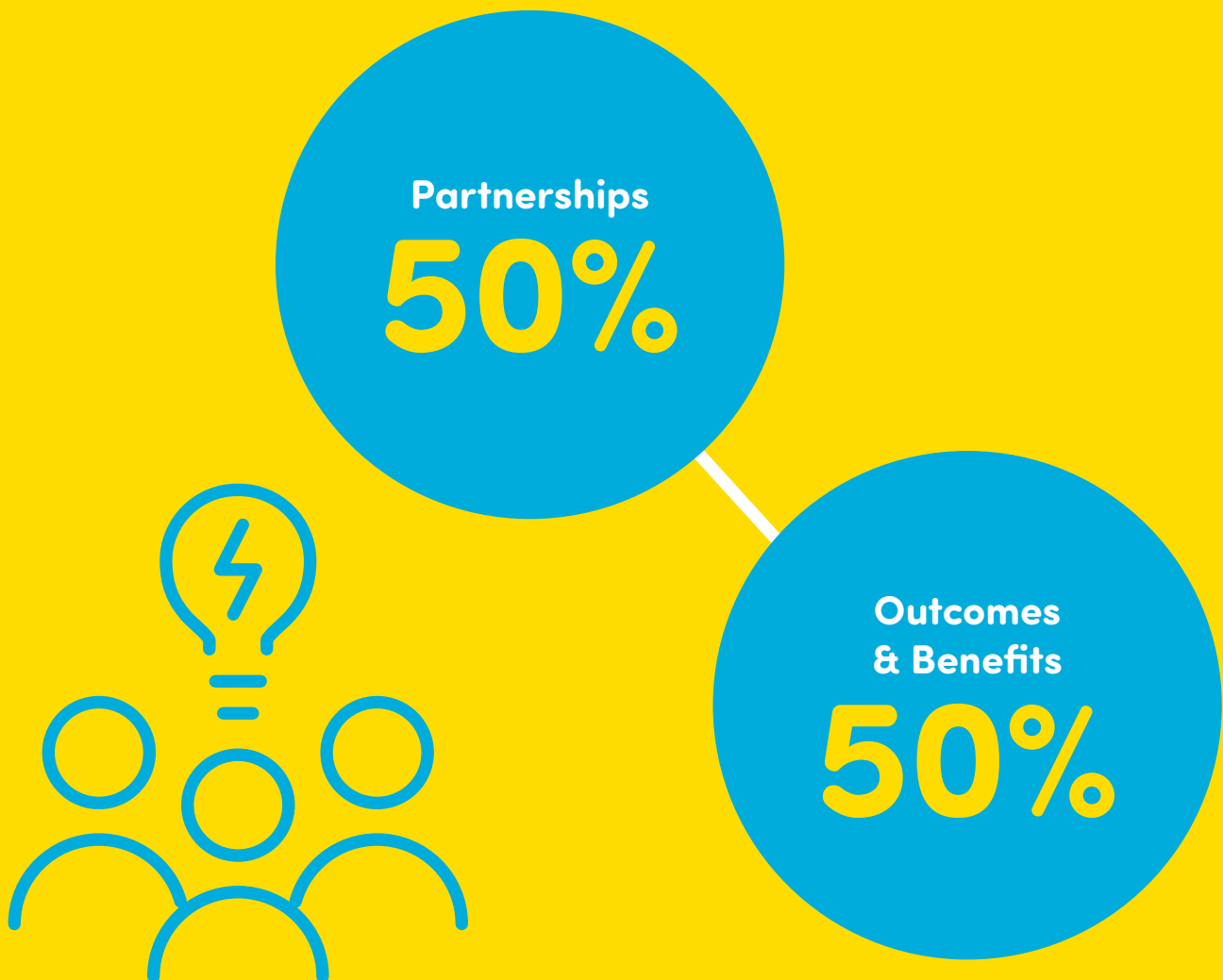
#### **You could include:**

- > How you or your team played a critical role in delivering an impactful emissions reduction project.
- > How you communicated and engaged with other Council departments to ensure project buy-in
- > The impact of the project and your role in that effort.

# Collaboration Award

The Collaboration Award touches on a crucial aspect of the Cities Power Partnership program: **working together for greater impact**. At the heart of the CPP is connecting and knowledge sharing - something we encourage all of our members to achieve however best they can.

It is in this spirit that we offer the Collaboration Award, created to honour a council that epitomises this.



## Award Entry Criteria

The Collaboration Award will go to the council that best demonstrates how their partnership has embodied working together for great impact, and resulted in tangible climate action outcomes. Examples of partnerships could be with other councils, industry, community organisations or universities and could involve regular structured knowledge-sharing, joint projects, formal partnerships or other forms of collaboration that advances emissions reduction within council and the community.

### Partnerships

(400 words; 50% weighting)

- > List the organisation(s) you have partnered with and the primary motive(s) for creating the alliance(s).
- > What did Council do to make this collaboration work well?

### Outcomes and Benefits

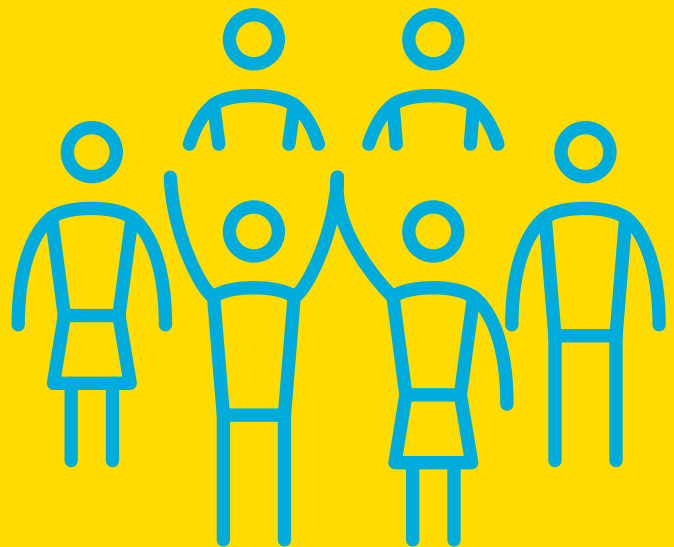
(400 words; 50% weighting)

- > Tell us how effective the partnership/collaboration has been at tackling climate change projects and initiatives.
- > Demonstrate how your partnership has benefitted Council, community and/or both. How have you achieved better results, larger emissions savings or affected more change through your partnership?
- > Provide a testimonial from a partner attesting to the strength, success and ongoing nature of your work together.

# Community Choice Award

The Community Choice Award allows the wider Climate Council community of supporters to get involved in the Climate Awards by voting for the town or city with the best and brightest clean energy project.

The Community Choice Award will be launched jointly by the Cities Power Partnership and the Climate Council at a later date. Stay tuned!



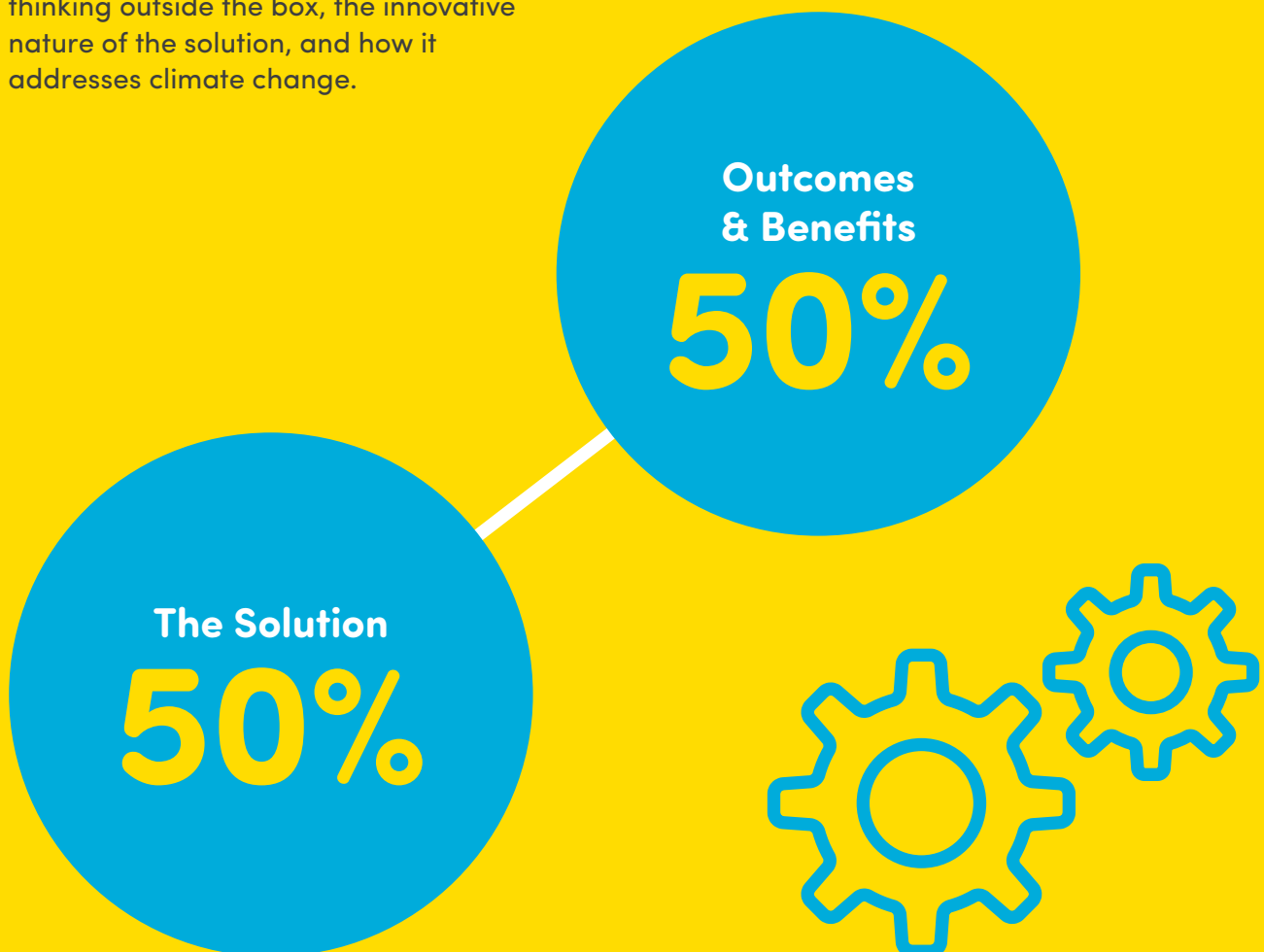
Opposite page images show the 2021 winner, the Borough of Queenscliffe, VIC for their Community-Led Climate Emergency Response Plan.



# Innovation Award

The Innovation Award seeks to uncover and celebrate transformative climate solutions that don't necessarily fall within council's pledge topics but that are still worthy of recognition. This is a chance for councils to talk about a solution that will inspire other councils and other levels of government to act on climate change.

The category of the solution is open as long as it addresses climate change or clean energy. It could address emissions data, community resiliency, the natural environment, the built environment, water efficiency, conservation agriculture, ecosystem protection, etc. The key criteria will be how councils are thinking outside the box, the innovative nature of the solution, and how it addresses climate change.





## Award Entry Criteria

For this award we will consider a new technology, product or process, or integration of a new practice into overall operations that achieves a tangible outcome in climate change mitigation and /or adaptation. Through words, infographics, images or videos, please describe the path and eventual outcome of your solution (if completed).

We consider a solution to be innovative if it:

- > Embodies a new approach that is beyond 'business as usual'
- > Has been implemented in other parts of the world, but not widely in Australia

### The Solution

(400 words; 50% weighting)

- > Outline the origin of your solution. Include things like what precipitated the need for the solution, and what gap it filled.
- > Tell us how your solution is innovative. Why is it not 'business as usual'?

### Outcomes and Benefits

(400 words; 50% weighting)

- > Describe how your project will make (or has made) an impact on organisations, industry or community. Images and/or videos accompanying written words are welcome!
- > Tell us the specifics of how your project is addressing climate change. What progress has it achieved or is predicted to achieve (emissions avoided, cost savings, community benefits, etc)?
- > Tell us how you will track the project's progress or success.

# Past Award Winners & Finalists

View all of our winners and finalists at the following links:

**2021**

[citiespowerpartnership.org.au/  
event/climate-awards-2021/](https://citiespowerpartnership.org.au/event/climate-awards-2021/)

**2020**

[citiespowerpartnership.org.au/  
resources/climate-awards-2020/](https://citiespowerpartnership.org.au/resources/climate-awards-2020/)

**2019**

[citiespowerpartnership.org.au/  
power-partner-awards-2019/](https://citiespowerpartnership.org.au/power-partner-awards-2019/)

**2018**

[citiespowerpartnership.org.au/  
power-partner-awards-2018/](https://citiespowerpartnership.org.au/power-partner-awards-2018/)

Thank you for taking the time to read through this information and for entering the Cities Power Partnership Climate Awards 2023. Any questions can be sent to [cpp@climatecouncil.org.au](mailto:cpp@climatecouncil.org.au).





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