



The Decentralised Energy Awards 2024

Guidance

The Association for Decentralised Energy's annual awards showcase innovation, best practice and achievements across heat, power, flexibility and efficiency. The Awards provide an opportunity for organisations and professionals from across the sector to celebrate success and collective attainment.

This guidance document gives some further detail and insight as to what we're looking for in the entries. It should be read in conjunction with the Award Rules which can be found on the ADE website. Entries which do not comply with the Rules will be rejected.

The Essence of the Awards

We are looking for good news stories to help celebrate and promote our industry's achievements. We want to hear how your project made a difference, about the journey you took people on and the impact you've made. **We're particularly interested in how you've excelled at customer service, contributed to a just energy transition to net zero and see the energy system as a whole.**

The entry forms are short and have been designed to help you tell your story. The entries must be technically robust, but we're looking for a human angle too. How did it come about? What was the need? Who did you work with? What challenges did you face? What is your solution? What positive impact did it have?

Changes for 2024

The categories have changed slightly for 2024, reflecting our industry and the landscape in which we operate. The new categories are:

1. Project: Heat
2. Project: Energy Efficiency
3. Project: Industrial Energy
4. Project: Flexibility
5. Project: Energy Smart Places
6. Digitalisation
7. Supply Chain and Skills Development
8. Leadership in Diversity
9. Individual: Rising Star

Any scale of project can enter any of the categories, from industrial to domestic and everything in between.

What could you win?

The glory on awards night, a shiny trophy... but also the recognition of your peers across the sector. The ADE will feature details of all the winning entries on its website and across its social media, celebrating your success and profiling your work. We may also write your entry up into a case study and use it to showcase the excellent work the sector is doing in the journey to net zero. In the past, winning entries have also hosted MP and other VIP visits for the ADE, potentially allowing you to engage directly with political stakeholders whilst giving them a tour of your own sites.



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The Award Categories

The award categories are divided into four sections.

1: Project Awards

The Project awards celebrate operational demonstrations of the decentralised energy system in action. In all of the Project Awards, the judges are looking for entries that:

- Showcase best practice in conceptualisation, planning and delivery
- Demonstrate innovative and creative solutions
- Enable users to better engage with the energy system
- Bring together all partners of the project in the application
- Combine a compelling story with solid data to demonstrate impact
- Provide excellent customer service and contribute to a just transition to net zero.

The projects can be located anywhere in the world, as long as the company is based in the UK. Project awards must be operational for at least 6 months. You will need to complete an entry form and a Data Collection Form to enter these categories.

Category	Focus
Heat	Recognising projects that are delivering real results in the supply of heat to customers as part of our journey to net zero 2050.
Energy Efficiency	Recognising projects that utilise energy efficiency technologies or principles to deliver demand – and carbon – reduction for users.
Industrial Energy	Recognising projects that are delivering carbon and cost savings to the industrial sector.
Flexibility	Recognising projects that harness flexibility mechanisms to deliver exceptional outcomes and take us a step closer to the flexible energy system of the future.
Energy Smart Places	Recognising projects at a locality or community level that combine elements of heat, energy efficiency, power and flexibility into area-based approaches that deliver carbon benefits for local people or organisations.

2: Digitalisation Award

The judges are looking for entries that:

- Truly stand out from the field as bringing something new to the sector
- Enable users to better engage with the energy system and transition to net zero
- Bring together all partners of the project in the application
- Illustrates why your product or approach matters in a compelling story
- Provides as much data as possible to demonstrate the potential impact

The projects can be located anywhere in the world, as long as the company is based in the UK. Entries can still be at pilot phase, but should be more than just an untested idea or concept. You will need to complete an entry form only for this category.

Category	Focus
Digitalisation	Recognising digital innovation across heat, efficiency, power and flexibility that accelerates the path to net zero, enabling insights, engagement and results.



3. Organisation Awards

The organisation awards are two new categories for 2024, each celebrating organisations that facilitate and drive forward decentralised energy in the transition to net zero. We are looking for the game-changing, ground-breaking organisations. You will need to complete an entry form only for these categories.

Category	Focus
Supply Chain and Skills Development	Recognising organisations, projects or initiatives that are addressing the crucial supply chain and skills challenges faced by the decentralised energy sector. We're looking for initiatives that have brought imaginative approaches to these challenges and delivered measurable outcomes, both quantitative and qualitative.
Leadership in Diversity	Recognising organisations, projects or initiatives that are demonstrating leadership in building equality, diversity and inclusion in the decentralised energy sector.

4. Individual Awards

There is just one individual award this year – the Rising Star. The Rising Star award is an opportunity for us to celebrate new talent in our sector. The judges are looking for people with vision and drive, who are already having an impact in their field. There is no age limit, however we would expect the entrants for this category to have been working in the sector for a maximum of five years. You will need to complete an entry form only for this category.

At their own discretion, the ADE may also present a President's Award to recognise an individual who has given exceptional service to the Association and its work.

The entry forms

1: Project and Digitalisation Awards

Project Awards entries will need to complete the main application form and a data collection form.

Digitalisation Award entries will need to complete the main application form only.

Below we take each question in turn and give some ideas as to what we're looking for. The entries are very competitive, so it's worth taking the time to make yours stand out. What makes yours particularly interesting or worthy of an Award?

The entry forms are very similar for the Projects and Digitalisation Awards but please remember:

- Project entries are ordinarily expected to have been commissioned and operational for at least six months.
- Digitalisation entries can be at the design / pilot phase but should be more than just an untested idea or concept. They must make a meaningful contribution to the immediate energy crisis and net zero transition, not something that won't come to market until the mid to longer-term.



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- Although your project or technology may have a heat / efficiency / power / flexibility focus, entries that look to the wider energy system will score higher with the judges. Entries with strong customer outcomes will also score well.

It's also really important that you submit at least three high-resolution colour photographs / graphics with your entry. These will be used in the Awards booklet and at the ceremony, so try to make them as interesting as you can. We would strongly encourage you to include photographs showing the human side to your story as well as the technology if at all possible.

a) Main application forms

Basic information

The name and location of the project, the name of your client (if appropriate) as well as your own contact details.

Who are your end users / customers?

This question asks for an early indication of the scale of your project: industrial, commercial, cities/communities or domestic (or a combination of any of the above).

Project summary

This is just a short paragraph (60 words max) summarising your project. It's our entry-point into your project and will also be used when we're writing the Awards booklet, shortlisting all the entries. Try to include some project specifics (eg site, client, technology, size) as well as why it is a stand-out entry. What difference has it made? What have the key outcomes been?

Project detail

This is where you're given space to tell your story and to give us the detail of your project. You have 500 words and could for example include:

- The client
- The site
- The challenges
- The solution
- The technology
- The innovation
- The team
- The install
- The outputs
- The difference you made

Engagement

This is another opportunity for you to tell us the qualitative side of your story. How did you engage with your client/stakeholders and the wider community? What were the wider social benefits (for example, regeneration or impact on fuel poverty, supporting industrial competitiveness)? How did you contribute to the sustainability or carbon goals of your client? What is the difference your project will make in human terms? You could also include a testimonial from your client or scheme users about the difference the project has made. We're particularly looking for projects that demonstrate excellent customer service so make this section shine.

Impact

Your project must be technically robust. For the Awards to be valuable, we need to reward projects that really deliver. This is where you can tell us the story of how much carbon and cost savings you've made, and the extent to which you're reduced demand (and so improved security of supply). How much did the scheme cost? What are the savings in terms of its overall energy consumption/energy costs/carbon emissions? How are you contributing to the just energy transition?

You can also use this section to tell us about any technological innovative features of your project, such as how it was applied or load balancing through mixed use.



The facts and figures of your project must also be submitted on the Data Collection Form.

Contribution to net zero carbon

We want to hear how your project is helping the energy system and energy users as we strive towards net zero carbon. How will it affect the way we tackle climate change and our approach our zero carbon pathways? Beyond the carbon savings of this particular project, how are you enabling / facilitating change on a wider scale?

The X Factor

This is your closing statement – what we'll be left with when we read your application. Use this space to really sell us your project – convince us why you should win. Why does your project dazzle? Why is it a cut above the rest? Why should it win this award? You can also use this space to (re)tell us your three most impressive statistics.

b) Data Collection form (excel spreadsheet)

All Project Awards entries must be accompanied by a Data Collection form.

Digitalisation entries do not need to complete a Data Collection form but should include details on impact and metrics within the entry form.

The excel spreadsheet has a number of worksheet tabs. If your project includes more than one sector (heat, efficiency, power, flexibility), please add data to additional tabs. Please complete the project details at the top of each worksheet, even though this will feel like duplication.

We're looking for facts and figures, which again need to be robust and demonstrable. Please use published energy prices (eg Energy Trends or supplier's published prices). Calculations should be shown: if you have some stellar numbers the judges need to understand why they are so good. If they can't understand why, they are likely to question them. The metrics required on each worksheet are slightly different, each tailored to the typical data relevant to each project type. If any of the data is confidential, please mark this on the sheet.

We also need to know what technical standards you comply with. These will vary depending on the technology you install; for example, for CHP we would expect certification by the CHPQA. Tell us how you complied too - or submit evidence of your compliance as an appendix.

The Data Collection forms will be assessed by our technical advisors before being submitted to the judges. If any of the questions are not relevant to your project, please answer N/A.

2: Organisation Awards

The Supply Chain and Skills Development Award and the Leadership in Diversity Award are both new for 2024. You only need to complete a Word document, not an Excel data collection form.

a) Supply Chain and Skills Development

This entry form is very similar to main form – see above.

As with the Project and Innovation entries, we want to celebrate:

- Innovative and creative ideas, research and solutions
- Collaborative working and new ways of looking at things
- Compelling stories about your journey and the impact you've made
- Excellent customer outcomes and meaningful contributions to the just energy transition.



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b) Leadership in Diversity

The Leadership in Diversity entry form is narrative, allowing you to let your organisation shine. We are looking for organisations, projects or initiatives that are leading the way in improving equality, diversity and inclusion in the decentralised energy sector.

3: Individual Award

The Rising Star is the only individual award for 2024 and we are looking for someone who really stands out from the crowd. The winner will show a personal commitment and passion for the work they do and will have made a real impact at their organisation, on a project, or across their sector as a whole. The Rising Star is likely to be near the beginning of their career or new to the industry and already showing great potential: they must have no more than 5 years' experience in the sector.

Further support

If you have any questions about the awards, categories or the entry forms do please get in touch. In the first instance please contact Liz Warren at liz.warren@se-2.co.uk.