



Annual Awards Criteria & Planning

Communications Planning

The VAEEC Annual Awards will follow the timeline established below for the 2026 cycle. Announcements and updates will be distributed via the VAEEC website, monthly newsletter, and social media platforms.

1. **Applications Open:** July 10th
2. **Application Deadline:** September 9th
3. **Winner Notification:** September 30th
4. **Awards Ceremony:** October 16th

Award Specifications

- **VAEEC Innovation Award:** For projects or programs utilizing technology, consultancy, or design that serves as a "first of its kind" or significantly advances efficiency standards & benefits through the nominated project or program.
- **VAEEC Impact Award:** For initiatives that connect energy efficiency to broader audiences, that positively impact job creation, workforce training, or EE program delivery in energy efficiency or energy conservation, or enhance the public perception or market impact of the energy efficiency sector, or make a significant contribution to the regulatory, policy, or legislated programs that have a positive impact on energy efficiency or energy conservation.

Submission Guidelines

All nominated projects or programs, or positive outcomes must be located in Virginia and benefit Virginians. Nominated projects must already be completed, and nominated programs must already be offered. There is no application fee for members in good standing, non members may submit applications for a fee of \$250 per submission.

Applications will be scored based on the following criteria:

- Impact or potential impact on reducing overall energy use
- Potential market impact for Virginia (Impact award only)
- Degree of difficulty in overcoming challenges
- Ability for actions to be replicated or serve as a catalyst



Submission Requirements

Applicants must provide the following materials:

- A 400-word maximum summary explaining the project, motivations, provide VAEEC a narrative of What, Where, Why, When, and How.
- Projected or realized energy savings or impact (in kWh or BTU).
- Provide us guidance to how your submission will enhance the sector, or serve as a replicable
- High-quality photos of the submitted project or program.