

Award Descriptions & Eligibility Criteria

The 2030 Districts Vision Awards recognize individuals, projects, and programs advancing high-performance, low-carbon buildings and communities across Seattle and Bellevue. These awards celebrate measurable impact, leadership, and innovation in energy, water, and transportation performance, while fostering collaboration and equitable outcomes.

The following award descriptions and eligibility criteria are intended to guide nominations and ensure a clear, consistent, and transparent review process for the 2027 Vision Awards.

Award Descriptions

- **Energy Award:** The Energy Award recognizes exceptional performance in energy efficiency, electrification, and renewable energy. Submissions must demonstrate measurable greenhouse gas emissions reductions, innovative clean energy integration (solar, storage, geothermal), or whole-building electrification strategies. Nominations should highlight verified performance metrics, operational optimizations, or third-party certifications (e.g., LEED, ENERGY STAR, Zero Carbon, Passive House).
- **Water Award:** The Water Award honors high-performance achievements in water conservation, reuse, stormwater management, and related operational energy reductions. Submissions should emphasize cutting-edge design and operational strategies, such as blackwater/greywater recycling, net-zero water systems, and advanced green infrastructure. Nominations should highlight verified consumption metrics or relevant sustainability certifications (e.g., LEED Water Efficiency, Living Building Challenge Water Petal).
- **Transportation Award:** The Transportation Award highlights excellence in low-carbon mobility, EV infrastructure deployment, active transit, and smart transportation demand management. Submissions should showcase innovative physical design and operational programs, such as fleet electrification, shared mobility hubs, or transit subsidies, that yield measurable reductions in commuter emissions. Nominations should highlight alignment with or certifications from high-performance standards (e.g., LEED Location & Transportation).
- **Leadership Award:** The Leadership Vision Award is for individuals or organizations demonstrating outstanding leadership, collaboration, and long-term commitment to advancing the 2030 Districts mission, including impact across energy, water, and transportation performance.
- **Embodied Carbon Award:** The Embodied Carbon Award recognizes projects that significantly reduce the carbon impacts associated with building materials and construction. Submissions should demonstrate strategies such as adaptive reuse, material salvage and reuse, low-carbon material selection, whole-building life-cycle assessment, design optimization, or other innovative approaches to reducing embodied carbon. Nominations should highlight measurable or documented carbon reductions.

while demonstrating how embodied carbon strategies complement broader improvements in building energy, water, and/or transportation performance.

- **Building Retrofit Award:** The Building Retrofit Award recognizes outstanding improvements to existing buildings that advance energy, water, and/or transportation performance while extending the useful life of the building. Submissions should demonstrate substantial performance improvements through strategies such as electrification, building envelope upgrades, high-efficiency systems, water conservation, renewable energy, or other comprehensive retrofits. Nominations should highlight measurable performance improvements, greenhouse gas emissions reductions, or other outcomes that demonstrate the value of reinvestment and decarbonization in existing buildings.
- **Tenant Improvement Award:** The Tenant Improvement Award recognizes exemplary tenant improvement projects that integrate high-performance, low-carbon, and resource-efficient strategies within leased or occupied spaces. Submissions should demonstrate approaches such as efficient lighting and HVAC systems, electrification, low-carbon materials, water conservation, waste reduction, or strategies that encourage sustainable transportation and occupant behavior. Nominations should highlight measurable performance improvements, innovative design or operational strategies, and the role tenants can play in advancing whole-building sustainability goals.

Nominee Submission Considerations

When preparing your nomination, consider how you might highlight:

- Alignment with the 2030 Districts mission, including energy, water, and transportation impact
- Measurable outcomes, such as energy or water savings, emissions reductions, or other performance metrics
- Innovative or creative strategies that advance sustainability beyond standard practice
- Leadership, collaboration, and influence on teams, projects, or the broader community
- Potential for the project, program, or approach to be replicated or scaled
- Clear and accurate contact information, and any supporting visuals or materials that illustrate impact

Eligibility Criteria

- **Eligible nominees:** Individuals, projects, or programs aligned with the 2030 Districts mission.
- **Geography:** Nominees must be based in or have demonstrated impact in Seattle or Bellevue.
- **Timeline:** Projects and programs must demonstrate meaningful progress or measurable impact during 2026 or 2027. Projects that started earlier but show significant outcomes in this period are eligible. Ongoing programs with sustained performance improvements are eligible. Timeline requirements do not apply to individual nominees.

- **Submission & Award Limits:** Nominees may be submitted in multiple years and across multiple categories, but are only eligible to receive one Vision Award.

Award Timeline

- **November 1st, 2026:** Nominations open. The initial nomination form is designed to be quick and low-lift. Use this form to provide high-level information; it will be used to screen for alignment with the 2030 Districts mission and identify finalists. Please ensure contact information is accurate.
- **January 31st:** Initial nominations will be reviewed and finalists will be notified. Selected finalists will be invited to provide additional project information, photographs, headshots, and other relevant materials. Finalist materials are due no later than March 15th.
- **March 15th:** Final review and winner selections will be made.
- **April 7th:** Winners will be announced live and awarded at the 2027 Vision Awards!

Review Process

All nominations and finalist submissions will be evaluated by an independent panel of reviewers to ensure a fair and transparent process. Reviewers will use a standardized scoring rubric to assess alignment with the 2030 Districts mission, measurable impact, and innovation. Finalists will be selected based on these evaluations, and winners will be determined in advance of the Vision Awards event, where they will be announced live.