

ACE Awards 2023

Categories and Assessment Criteria

About the ACE Awards

The mission of Planet Ark’s Australian Circular Economy Hub (ACE Hub) is to facilitate the transition to a circular economy in Australia and the Asia Pacific. A big part of this journey is to celebrate the achievements and successes of trailblazers at the forefront of the circular transition. The ACE Awards recognises the companies and people who are driving change.

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CATEGORIES AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

RECOGNITION AWARDS

Dedicated and visionary individuals and companies are sparking ongoing change and are driving action in our region to advance towards a circular future. The Recognition Awards shine a light on those already embracing circularity and are providing a beacon towards a circular future.

Emerging Circular Leader

The Emerging Leader Award recognizes an individual, that demonstrates inspirational leadership, effort and vision in progressing the transition to a more circular economy in Australia. Central to circular leadership is its capacity to empower individuals, groups, institutions, and societies to flourish amidst turbulent changes.

This award is designed to shine a light on emerging leaders (up to the age of 34) who are championing circular economy practices and delivering meaningful action with enthusiasm, courage and compassion, but are also acting on clear and well considered plans to amplify their impact.

The characteristics of an emerging leader are of someone who; has a vision of how they intend to shape the world through their implementation of circular economy principles, passionately educates the people in their surrounding about the circular economy as they themselves learn more as to bring everyone along on the journey, and is enthusiastic, optimistic, and creative in how they use the principles of circular economy to shape the future.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for this category, entrants must be between 18- and 34-years-old.

This category is both by self-nomination and nomination. We encourage individuals to complete the application for themselves to be able to give a full picture of how they are a circularity leader both inside and outside their employment channels. Candidates are encouraged to work with mentors on their applications to get an external perspective on what makes them notable circular leaders. Candidates will be asked to provide testimonials.

Circular Leader Award

The Circular Leader Award recognises an individual, that demonstrates inspirational leadership and experience in progressing the transition to a more circular economy. Central to circular leadership is its capacity to empower individuals, groups, institutions, and societies to flourish amidst turbulent changes, where entrenched, inflexible norms must give way to novel and comprehensive approaches that pave the way for achieving envisioned futures.

Shining a light on those who have not only championed circular economy practices, but have also achieved significant advancement, and continue to actively strive for a more circular future.

This award recognises those who have not only seen but have actively progressed the transition from where we were to where we are today and are working to accelerate circular economy in Australia.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for this category, entrants must be based in Australia, and be able to demonstrate at least 5 years of influential circular economy practice experience.

This category is both by nomination and self-nomination. Candidates will be asked to provide testimonials. Judges will place strong consideration on the individual, company or organisation's ability to build recognition within their sector/industry/supply chain.

CIRCULAR TRANSITION INNOVATION AWARDS

The Transition Innovation Awards are inspired by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation's three principles of circular economy: 1) design out waste and pollution; 2) keep materials and products in use for longer and at their highest value; and 3) regenerate natural systems. These principles, underpinned by renewable energy, provide a solutions framework to transition our economy to one that reduces virgin materials consumption and addresses climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. The Transition Innovation Awards celebrate the achievements in each of the principles.

Design for Circularity Award

The first principle of the circular economy is about understanding that waste and pollution are largely a result of the way we design and manufacture products. This category celebrates new and innovative ways to design out negative impacts through intentional design and smart manufacturing processes.

Around 80 per cent of environmental impacts are determined at the design and manufacturing stage, meaning transitioning this area towards greater circularity can have amplified positive impacts throughout the material cycles.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for this category, your solution must have been implemented in Australia, and no earlier than January 2012.

Retaining Value Award

Keeping products and materials in use and at their highest value is a core principle of the transition to a circular economy. The Value Awards recognise those who are successfully achieving this.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for this category, your solution must have been implemented in Australia, and no earlier than January 2012.

Regenerating Nature Award

The Regenerating Nature Award recognises circular innovations that embody the circular principle of regenerating nature through whole system design with positive impact on natural systems, potentially adoptable at scale.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for this category, your solution must have been implemented in Australia, and no earlier than January 2012.

FULL CIRCLE AWARD

Bringing it all together, the Full Circle Award is a recognition and celebration of a systems approach and consideration of all three principles of the circular economy. Projects demonstrate incorporation of all three principles using one or more circular business models and are proven solutions in your sector/industry/supply chain.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for this category, your solution must have been implemented in Australia, and no earlier than January 2012.

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ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

For each submission, judges will consider whether the following criteria have been addressed:

1. R-Strategies
2. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
3. Social and Humanosphere Impact
4. Planetary Boundaries
5. Behaviour Change
6. Economic Impact
7. Education and Information

1. R – Strategies

Drawing upon the 10 R-strategies; recover, recycle, repurpose, remanufacture, refurbish, repair, re-use, reduce, rethink and refuse. Consideration will be taken into which R strategies the project and/or candidate addresses and how.

2. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Drawing on the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals, consideration will be taken into which SDGs the project and/or candidate has addressed and how.

3. Social and Humanosphere Impact

Beyond technical solutions, creating a more human-centred approach to design in our solutions and systems is crucial. Consideration will be taken into how people have been involved to create these solutions beyond the biological and technical spheres.

4. Behaviour Change

Consideration will be taken into what quantifiable measures have created behaviour change in line with the project and/or work of the candidate.

5. Planetary Boundaries

Beyond having an understanding of the circular economy, industry leaders must also demonstrate thought and practice of long-term needs. Consideration of planetary boundaries are extremely important in determining the future success and viability of a solution on a long term and broader scale spectrum. How the project and/or candidate has addressed this in the submission will be considered.

6. Economic Impact

Alongside financial successes and commercial viability, a consideration of the full supply chain, and encouragement of a value change approach will be assessed. Examples may include demonstration of supporting local economies or building of economic resilience within the company or organisation.

7. Education and Information

Sharing of knowledge, collaboration and enabling others to learn is a crucial driver of progressing the circular economy. How the project and/or candidate demonstrates promoting a culture of learning, transparency of sharing knowledge, and communication with stakeholders will be considered.