



The Global LEAP Solar E-Waste Challenge

SUPPORTING INNOVATIONS IN OFF-GRID SOLAR E-WASTE MANAGEMENT

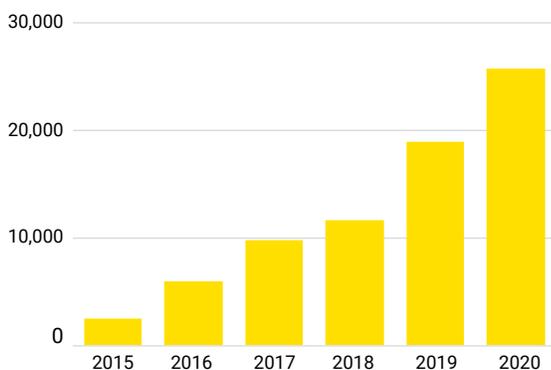
As the off-grid solar market grows rapidly, innovative approaches to e-waste management will demonstrate the sector's commitment to sustainability.

Investing in E-Waste Solutions

More than one billion people live without access to electricity. Off-grid solar products represent the most effective and efficient way to electrify many of these communities, and in 2016 an estimated 30 million off-grid solar products were sold globally. The market for these products is nascent, however, and most of the products sold to date have not yet reached end-of-life.

E-waste generated by the off-grid solar sector represents less than 0.1% of global e-waste streams, but investment now will ensure the industry's growth is sustainable over the long term and further enhance the sector's reputation as a leader in environmental responsibility. **The Global LEAP Solar E-waste Challenge will therefore make \$1 million in grant funding available to companies with innovative solutions for off-grid solar e-waste management.**

Figure 1: Growth of off-grid products placed on the market (t) in 14 African countries.



Magalini et al. 2016



Submit your application by 15 May 2019.

The Global LEAP Solar E-Waste Challenge will identify and fund innovative approaches to management of e-waste in the off-grid solar sector in sub-Saharan Africa, which includes solar lanterns, solar home systems (SHSs), and solar-powered appliances at their end-of-life.

Grant funding is available for recycling and e-waste management companies who work with (or plan to work with) the off-grid solar sector operating across sub-Saharan Africa, other specialized e-waste service providers, and off-grid solar distributors who want to pilot or expand end-of-life operations.



Recycling and e-waste management companies



Specialized e-waste service providers



Solar home system companies and solar product distributors

Successful applicants will receive funding to support implementation of their proposed projects over a 12-month period. A series of case studies based on lessons learned from each project will be developed at the end of the implementation period.

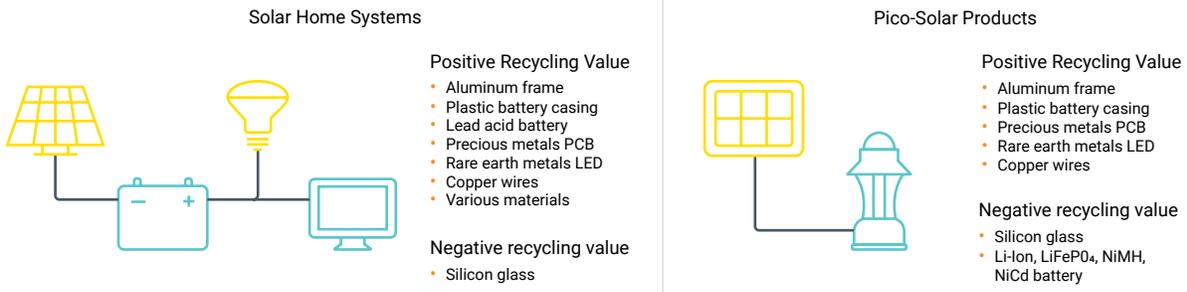
More details about the Global LEAP Solar E-waste Challenge and the application form can be found at globalleapawards.org/e-waste.

The Global LEAP Solar E-Waste Challenge

What is Solar E-Waste?

Solar e-waste consists of all the materials and component parts that make up off-grid solar products. This ranges from lead acid and lithium-based batteries to copper cabling and the silicon in solar panels. Some of these materials have cash value while others do not, as shown in the figure below:

Figure 2: Solar product components and constituent materials



The economics of solar e-waste are challenging given current market dynamics and the costs associated with product take-back and collection. The Global LEAP Solar E-Waste Challenge aims to catalyze innovative thinking that helps overcome these barriers to solar e-waste management.

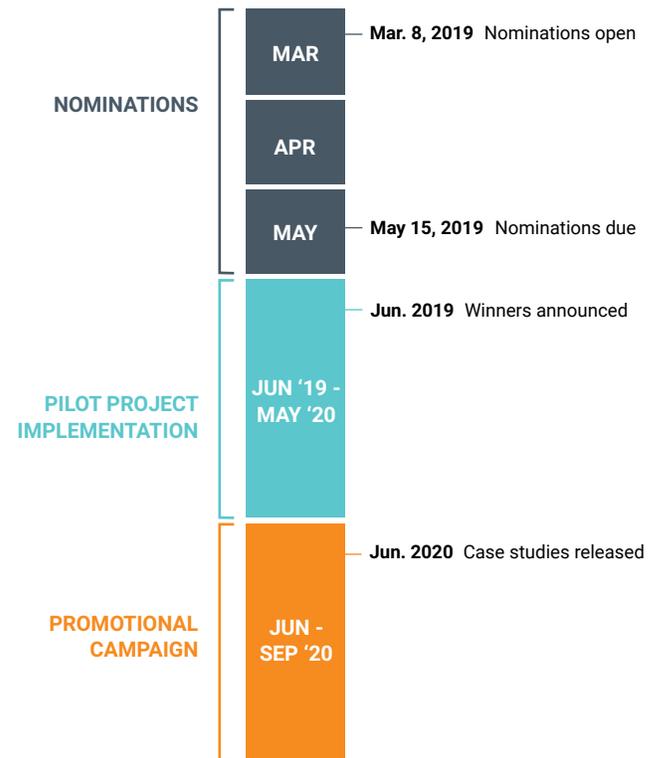
Program Objectives

- Raise awareness** by educating key off-grid solar market stakeholders about the importance of improved e-waste management
- Catalyze innovation** by funding pilot projects and scaling the most promising current efforts by early movers
- Demonstrate best practice** by documenting and disseminating lessons learned from winning projects during the implementation period
- Unlock additional resources** by mobilizing partnerships to invest in the development of sustainable e-waste solutions for the sector as a whole

Contact

- globalLEAPawards.org/e-waste
- e-waste@globalLEAPawards.org
- [@LEAP_Awards](https://twitter.com/LEAP_Awards)

Timeline



The Global LEAP Solar E-Waste Challenge is a program under the Efficiency for Access Coalition and is supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) as part of its commitment to Scaling Off-Grid Energy (SOGE) Grand Challenge for Development

