



The Global LEAP Solar E-Waste Challenge Frequently Asked Questions

The window to submit questions to the Global LEAP Awards Solar E-Waste Challenge has closed. Please review the categories below to view responses to our applicants' frequently asked questions.

Eligibility

Are applications from companies that develop products such as technology enabling software platforms for solar companies, but are non-solar distributors themselves, eligible?

Under the Global LEAP Solar E-Waste Challenge, eligibility is open to the following three broad categories of companies namely: off-grid solar companies, recycling and e-waste management companies, and specialized e-waste service providers operating across sub-Saharan Africa. Eligibility is also open to companies that work with or plan to work with the off-grid solar sector as long as their proposed technology, product, or service offering specifically addresses solar e-waste management optimization. Joint applications are welcome.

Are applications aimed at bringing solar power to rural off-grid communities to alleviate community energy related challenges eligible for the program?

The goal of the Global LEAP Solar E-waste Challenge is to identify and fund innovative solutions for proper management of e-waste generated by solar appliances and equipment. Applications outside of this scope are not eligible.

Can the Global LEAP Solar E-waste Challenge grant be applied in multiple countries across Sub-Saharan Africa for a project, or should it be focused on one country?

All proposed activities under the Global LEAP Solar E-Waste Challenge must take place in Sub-Saharan Africa and can span multiple countries.

Does the Global LEAP Solar E-Waste Challenge support R&D activities on battery technologies such as development of new or add-on hardware features?

The current Global LEAP Solar E-Waste Challenge does not cover R&D activities on battery technologies or product design. However, all other solutions are open to the challenge as long as they align with the program objectives and meet the proposal requirements.

What is the scope of usage of the solar equipment to be considered?

The Global LEAP Solar E-Waste Challenge will provide grant funding to companies with innovative approaches to managing e-waste generated in the off-grid solar sector, which includes solar lanterns, solar home systems (SHSs), and solar-powered appliances e.g. televisions, radios, fans, refrigerators, etc. at their end of life.

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Partnerships and Sub-Grantees

In cases where the Global LEAP Solar E-Waste Challenge grant is being used to support consultants or other partnerships; do these partnerships need to be identified during the application phase?

Identifying partnerships in the application phase will increase the competitiveness of an application. However, this is not a requirement. Where partners have not been identified, applicants should include a plan in their narrative to identify and form needed partnerships.

In the application form under “Sub-Grantee information,” what does “sub-grantee” mean? Don’t we expect the participant itself to receive the grant?

Participant and sub-grantee information can be the same for applications made by single entities/companies. However, in cases of a joint application by two or more companies, the sub-grantee section should be filled out by the lead applicant organization. The lead applicant would be the recipient of the funds should the application be successful.

Usage of Funds

The competition website says it “will make \$1 million in grant funding available to companies.” What is the target award size per company?

The total grant funding available for awards has increased from \$1 million to \$1.6 million USD. Individual awards will range from \$50,000- \$200,000.

Can the Global LEAP Solar E-Waste Challenge be used to support pre-existing e-waste projects or pilots in a company or must they be completely new initiatives?

The Solar E-Waste Challenge grants can be used to bolster existing activities.

Can the Global LEAP Solar E-Waste Challenge grant be used to support a recycling incentive program, among other initiatives? For example, an incentive for customers (e.g., discount on a future product) for returning used batteries?

Applicants are encouraged to be innovative in their proposed solutions. There is no restriction on what the solutions might be as long as the proposed solutions directly address management of off-grid e-waste.

In the application form under “Participant information,” what does “cost share” mean in the question “Does the project include cost share?”

This refers to cases where applicants plan to direct or contribute other financial resources towards aspects of their proposed e-waste project solution.

Recycling and Refurbishment

For the types of solutions described in the call for proposal, is the reuse or reselling of components for another purpose part of “recycling” as material conversion? (For example, using aluminum frames for furniture)

Yes. Recycling solutions covered by the challenge extend to refurbishment and/or repurposing of e-waste components and materials into other forms that can be resold or re-used.

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Does the definition of “refurbishment” include selling the repaired product (after quality testing) to a different customer (probably at a lower price)?

Yes. Recycling solutions covered by the Solar E-Waste Challenge extend to refurbishment and/or repurposing of e-waste components and materials into other forms that can be resold or re-used.

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