

2026 Nominations

Form Preview

Bluebell Sustainable Business Awards 2026 Nominations

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Summary

The Bluebell Sustainable Business Awards recognise organisations and individuals that make an outstanding contribution to sustainability and climate action across the ACT. They celebrate leadership, achievements and innovation.

All ACT businesses are invited to nominate for the awards. The award winners will be announced at the Bluebell Sustainable Business Awards breakfast on Thursday 10 September 2026.

Nominations are open from **Monday 6 July** to **midnight Monday 3 August 2026**.

In your entry, you will need to include:

- **What you did, and how and why you did it:** describe the initiative, change, or project you undertook. Explain what you did, how it was implemented, and the reasoning or values that drove your approach.
- **Results and achievements:** outline the outcomes of your actions. Demonstrate the positive impact on your business or organisation, the local community, and the environment or climate, using examples or evidence where possible.
- **What makes it stand out:** tell us what sets this initiative apart. This could include innovation, leadership, collaboration, bold decision-making, or how your work challenged existing practices or inspired others.
- **Scalability and wider application:** explain how your initiative could be applied, adapted or scaled in other contexts, regions, or industries.

What the judges look for:

Your nomination will be evaluated based on your answers, judges will not include any knowledge that is not documented on the nomination. The nomination should take the judges through the initiative, challenges and achievements.

Include what sets your initiative apart, what is unique and exciting, and the potential for scalability.

Eligibility

All businesses across the ACT who implement sustainable practices in the workplace are invited to nominate.

Some award categories have specific eligibility requirements, please see the Terms and Conditions.

Are you involved with Climate Change and Energy Programs? Tick all that apply *

- ☐ Sustainable Business Program
- ☐ Solar for Apartments
- ☐ Sustainable Event Program
- ☐ Not currently involved
- ☐ Other:

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Business size

- ☐ 1 - 20 staff
- ☐ 21 - 200 staff
- ☐ 201+ staff (can include multi tenanted buildings or shopping centres with more than 5 tenants)

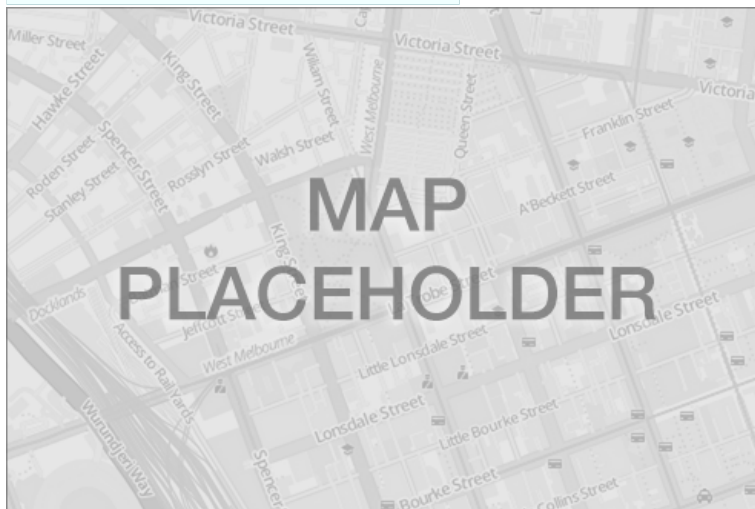
Contact Details

Name of Business or Event *

Organisation Name

Address *

Address



Address Line 1, Suburb/Town, and State/Province are required.

Phone Number *

Must be an Australian phone number.
For landline numbers, please include area code '02'

Email *

Must be an email address.

Website

Must be a URL.

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Organisation Logo *

Attach a file:



Organisation logos will be used as part of the Award Nominations Breakfast presentation. The file needs to be either a .jpg or .png file format.

Award Nominations

How to prepare your nomination

When preparing your nomination, there are a few key things to keep in mind to ensure your nomination stands out.

- Provide specific, detailed examples of how your business has achieved the criteria set out in the award category. If possible, provide multiple examples.
- Show your impact with evidence. If you have any data or statistics – use them.
- Explain what is innovative or leading about your approach – why is it important?
- Describe how the initiative was delivered, including any challenges and partnerships.
- Highlight the benefits for your organisation, community and environment.
- Demonstrate how the work can continue, grow or be replicated by others.
- Address the award criteria directly and write clearly, using plain English.
- Stay within the word limit.

See below for an example written response:

[Business] implements several practices that reflect circular economy principles. The organisation's aim is to maximise social value while minimising environmental impact through embedded policies and day-to-day operational practices. Examples include the following.

Food waste minimisation: Surplus ingredients and by-products from food preparation are redirected into external reuse streams rather than discarded. For example, spent coffee grounds and botanical scraps are supplied to a local small business that incorporates them into handmade soaps and skincare products. Other food by-products are provided to local producers and community groups for composting and soil enrichment. These initiatives extend the life of materials, reduce waste to landfill, and support other circular economy businesses within the community.

Reducing single-use items: To minimise disposable packaging, the business has implemented a reusable takeaway cup system that allows customers to borrow, return and reuse cups across participating venues. In addition, a bulk milk dispensing system using reusable crates has replaced single-use plastic bottles, preventing thousands of bottles from entering the waste stream each year.

Responsible waste management: All organic waste, including compostable packaging and paper products, is processed through local partners for composting and agricultural reuse. In the past year, more than 10 tonnes of waste was diverted from landfill. The business participates in container return schemes and specialist recycling programs for hard-to-recycle items, ensuring materials such as lids, batteries, foil and cooking oil are recovered and reused. Packaging that would otherwise be discarded is repurposed for secondary uses by customers.

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Through these initiatives, the business acts as an exemplar for positive environmental impact for staff, customers and participants, demonstrating practical waste reduction and resource recovery.

Tick all categories you wish to nominate for:

- ☐ Circular Economy
- ☐ Sustainable Event
- ☐ Zero Emissions Transport
- ☐ Energy Transition
- ☐ Community Impact
- ☐ Sustainable Small Business of the Year
- ☐ Corporate Climate Leader
- ☐ Innovation Excellence
- ☐ Minister's Award for Leadership

Circular Economy Award

This award celebrates a small business that has embraced circular economy principles by significantly reducing waste and resource consumption through innovative reuse, repair and recycling practices.

Any ACT business or organisation that operates from a commercial premises (non-residential) is eligible.

Provide details on the practices your business or organisation has implemented that support the principles of circular economy. Highlight initiatives that focus on responsible design, production and consumption of materials and resources, as well as projects that extend product life cycles. (Guide 150-200 words, max 500 words)

Word count:

Supporting attachments for nomination:

Attach a file:

A maximum of 6 files may be attached.

NOTE: please upload image files (e.g. JPEG or PNG) only. Please include photos with staff and the achievement.

Sustainable Event Award

Awarded to a public event in the ACT that has reduced energy and water consumption and/or minimised waste, while encouraging public participation in sustainable practices.

Any public event (such as festivals, concerts, markets and fetes) held in the ACT since 18 August 2025 (inclusive) is eligible.

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Provide details of the sustainability strategies implemented at your event. This should include how you supported vendors and encouraged patrons to reduce energy, water and waste. (Guide 150 - 200 words, max 500 words)

Word count:

Must be no more than 500 words.

Supporting attachments for nomination

Attach a file:

A maximum of 6 files may be attached.

NOTE: please upload image files (e.g. JPEG or PNG) only. Please include photos with staff and the achievement.

Zero Emissions Transport Award

Awarded to a business or organisation that has adopted zero-emission transportation and advocated for public and active travel.

Any ACT business or organisation, excluding Government Fleets, is eligible.

Provide details of your ACT zero emissions vehicle, public transport and/or active transport strategy and how you implement it. (Guide 150-200 words, max 500 words)

Word count:

Supporting attachments for nomination:

Attach a file:

A maximum of 6 files may be attached.

NOTE: please upload image files (e.g. JPEG or PNG) only. Please include photos with staff and the achievement.

Energy Transition Award

Awarded to a business that has achieved measurable energy efficiency and emissions reductions through strategic investments and innovation, solving complex gas transition challenges or developing new technologies for a sustainable future.

Any ACT business or organisation that operates from a commercial premises (non-residential) is eligible.

Provide details on energy-saving upgrades your business or organisation has implemented and describe their impact on overall energy consumption. Detail

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your shift from gas to electricity within your operations and explain how these changes have improved energy efficiency. (Guide 150-200 words, max 500 words)

Word count:

Supporting attachments for nomination:

Attach a file:

A maximum of 6 files may be attached.

NOTE: please upload image files (e.g. JPEG or PNG) only. Please include photos with staff and the achievement.

Community Impact Award

This award celebrates the outstanding efforts of a charity, not-for-profit, or community organisation that has made a significant contribution to sustainability and environmental change.

Any charity, not-for-profit, or community organisation that operates from a commercial premises (non-residential) is eligible.

Provide details on how your charity, not-for-profit, or community organisation has effectively used resources to deliver meaningful, sustainable outcomes. Highlight how your initiatives have created positive change, empowering community members, volunteers or local stakeholders to contribute to sustainable outcomes. (Guide 150-200 words, max 500 words)

Word count:

Supporting attachments for nomination:

Attach a file:

A maximum of 6 files may be attached.

NOTE: please upload image files (e.g. JPEG or PNG) only. Please include photos with staff and the achievement.

Sustainable Small Business of the Year

Awarded to a small business or organisation that has shown outstanding efforts towards improving sustainability in the areas of waste, energy, water and/or transport.

Any business with 20 or less staff (full-time equivalent) that operates from a commercial premises (non-residential) is eligible.

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Provide details of the sustainability initiatives you have implemented in your workplace and the impact of these initiatives. (Guide 150-200 words, max 500 words)

Word count:

Supporting attachments for nomination:

Attach a file:

A maximum of 6 files may be attached.

NOTE: please upload image files (e.g. JPEG or PNG) only. Please include photos with staff and the achievement.

Corporate Climate Leader Award

Awarded to a large business or organisation actively leading and delivering impact by embedding climate action across operations, reducing emissions and influencing staff, suppliers and customers.

Any ACT business or organisation that operates from a commercial premises (non-residential) is eligible.

Provide details of the sustainability initiatives your business or organisation has implemented and the impact of these initiatives. Outline how your business or organisation is a leader in climate action. How have you embedded sustainability into your corporate culture? This should include how you reduced emissions and influenced staff, suppliers and customers. (Guide 150-200 words, max 500 words)

Word count:

Supporting attachments for nomination:

Attach a file:

A maximum of 6 files may be attached.

NOTE: please upload image files (e.g. JPEG or PNG) only. Please include photos with staff and the achievement.

Innovation Excellence Award

Awarded to a business or organisation that has introduced and implemented an innovative practice that successfully addresses sustainability and fosters climate action to reduce environmental impact.

Any ACT business or organisation that operates from a commercial premises (non-residential) is eligible.

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Provide details on the innovation practice implemented in your workplace and how it addresses sustainability and fosters climate action. (Guide 150-200 words, max 500 words)

Word count:

Supporting attachments for nomination:

Attach a file:

A maximum of 6 files may be attached.

NOTE: please upload image files (e.g. JPEG or PNG) only. Please include photos with staff and the achievement.

Minister's Award for Leadership

This award celebrates a person who inspires and leads others to make a difference. It is awarded to a person who has gone above and beyond to improve sustainability and promote action on climate change within their business or organisation.

Any individual working at an ACT business or organisation that operates from a commercial premises (non-residential) is eligible.

This award is to recognise an outstanding individual.

You can self-nominate.

Name of individual nominated

What changes has the individual led? How have these improved sustainability practices and inspired staff in your workplace? (Guide 150-200 words, max 500 words)

Word count:

Supporting attachments for nomination:

Attach a file:

A maximum of 6 files may be attached.

NOTE: please upload image files (e.g. JPEG or PNG) only. Please include photos with staff and the achievement.

Looking Forward

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What other areas of sustainability is your workplace passionate about? What actions have you taken or are planning to take? Tell us your story. (Max. 200 words)

Word count:

How are you sharing your practices within your workplace? With other ACT businesses or organisations? With the wider community? (Max. 200 words)

Word count:

Terms and Conditions

* indicates a required field

1. Eligibility criteria

Category

Eligibility criteria

Circular Economy

Any business or organisation that operates from a commercial premises (non-residential) in the ACT is eligible.

Sustainable Event

Any public event held in the ACT since 18 August 2025 (inclusive) is eligible.

Zero Emission Transport

Any ACT business or organisation, excluding Government Fleet, is eligible.

Energy Transition

Any business or organisation that operates from a commercial premises (non-residential) in the ACT is eligible.

Community Impact

Any charity, not-for-profit, or community organisation that operates from a commercial premises (non-residential) in the ACT is eligible.

Sustainable Small Business of the Year

Any business or organisation with up to 20 (full-time equivalent) staff that operates from a commercial premises (non-residential) in the ACT is eligible.

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Corporate Climate Leader

Any business or organisation that operates from a commercial premises (non-residential) in the ACT is eligible.

Innovation Excellence

Any business or organisation that operates from a commercial premises (non-residential) in the ACT is eligible.

Minister's Award for Leadership

An individual working at a business or organisation that operates from a commercial premises (non-residential) in the ACT is eligible.

Nominations

All nominations become the property of the ACT Government.

Information and images in nominations may be reproduced for promotional purposes.

Entrants agree to various types of promotion in the public domain.

A business or organisation may not win the same award successively, unless the entry is significantly different.

The Bluebell Sustainable Business Awards are entirely independent of any other ACT Government awards or funding applications.

Participation or selection in any other ACT Government program or award does not influence eligibility or outcomes for these awards.

While the awards focus on recognition and reward for businesses, organisations and public events, the ACT Government does not endorse specific causes or organisations.

Supporting information

Supporting evidence can be provided for all categories, however this is not a condition of entry. Supporting evidence **must not exceed a maximum of six items per category** and **must be submitted in image format** (e.g. JPEG or PNG). Additional evidence beyond these parameters will not be considered as part of the nomination.

Judging Panel

The judging panel will comprise a representative from the City and Environment Directorate and two independent judges.

The judging panel reserves the right to move a nomination from one category to another should they deem it a more appropriate fit.

If an entry does not meet the criteria for a specific category, we reserve the right to remove the application from the category; however, submissions to other categories will remain valid.

All decisions of the judging panel are final.

I have read and agree to the conditions of entry *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No