

RENEW MENA ANNUAL AWARDS FOR GENDER EXCELLENCE IN THE ENERGY SECTOR

NOMINATION BACKGROUND & FORM

About the Awards

The RENEW MENA Annual Awards for Gender Excellence in the Energy Sector aims to celebrate achievements of remarkable women, as well as institutional achievements of agencies working on gender diversity in the energy sector across MENA. With little to almost no widespread acknowledgment of such achievements, the purpose of the award is to promote these supportive role models for other women and organization aspiring to make a difference in the energy sector across MENA.

Categories of the Awards:

There are two main categories for the RENEW MENA awards program: individual and institutional.

- **For the individual award categories:** The following three award types correspond to RENEW MENA's three pillars which include i) facilitating STEM education-to-work transitions, ii) advancing recruitment, retention, and advancement, and iii) promoting entrepreneurship and financial inclusion:
 - a. ***Excellence in Leadership for Women in Energy***: Nominees for this category will be women who have excelled within the energy sector either in private or public companies/institutions/organizations. Notably, women who are considered flagship success in the energy sector. Successful women in the sector who have also demonstrated the ability to provide mentorship to junior or other staff will be additionally flagged.
 - b. ***Excellence in Innovation & Entrepreneurship***: Nominees for this category will be women who are entrepreneurs in the energy sector who have demonstrated contribution to energy transition, to addressing local challenges, sustainability and/or scalability. Businesses should be supporting energy transition across MENA.
 - c. ***Young Professional Excellence***: Nominees for this award will be young females within the age of (18-29) who have shown excellence in their early career journey, including significant, unique accomplishments to join and excel in energy sector.

- **For the institutional award categories:** The following five award types will be granted through a combination of nominations from the RENEW community and scoring of achievements as submitted in the Partner List of Activities:
 - a. ***Rising Star***: This award is based on nominations. Recipients of the award on behalf of institution can be a male or female. Institution nominated can be (public, private, university, NGO, or other) and must demonstrate achievements in best practice/exemplary workplace policies/practices and inclusive, enabling environment, etc. The institution does not need to be a formal partner but can be a collaborator or aspiring partner.
 - b. ***Innovation Award***: This award is based on nominations. Recipients of the award on behalf of institution can be a male or female. The institution nominated (public, private,

university, NGO, or other) and must demonstrate innovative, new initiatives promoting energy career access and advancement for women in the areas of STEM education-to-work or female recruitment, retention, and advancement in the sector through capacity building, internships and mentorship programs, entrepreneur incubators, financing, etc. The institution does not need to be a formal partner but can be a collaborator or aspiring partner.

- c. **Education-to-Work Champion: This award will be based on numerical scoring of activities submitted in Partners List of Activities.** Presented to the RENEW Partner that has carried out the highest STEM education outreach to female students in a year. Recipient can be a male or female.
- d. **Career Catalyst Achievement: This award will be based on numerical scoring of activities submitted in Partners List of Activities.** Presented to the RENEW Partner that has carried out or created the highest number of activities to support women's recruitment or advancement in the workplace. Recipient can be a male or female.
- e. **Partner of the Year: This award will be based on overall assessment of activities (including numerical scoring) submitted in Partners List of Activities.** This award will be presented to the RENEW Partner that is active and attentive throughout implementation and result sharing cycle and has met all deadlines. Recipients can be a male or female. Institutions nominated need to be partners and have submitted a Partner List of Activities to help validate the nomination.

For nominated candidates, be it individual or institutional, a maximum of one award can be given.

Criteria

Preference will be given to candidates who have demonstrated active participation in the partner institutions as gender focal points and collaborators/partners themselves, or have been externally recognized by partners and collaborators, or through RENEW activities; for their achievements as role models and leaders.

Individual Candidates: candidates for individual awards must be women living in the MENA region and can be working full time or part time. Candidates seeking employment or out of the labor force (due to retirement, etc.), must demonstrate different proactive achievements and contributions toward the RENEW MENA mandate.

Institution Candidates must be working inside the MENA region; being national/regional institutions in MENA, or global institutions which demonstrate actual existence (through their work and labor force) in MENA region. The practice/initiative they are nominated for should be implemented in MENA region. The Institutions should name their representative person (male or female) and show his/her relevance to the achievement considered. Depending on the award type (as presented above), candidates can be either nominated or selected directly by the Interim Secretariat; hence, eligibility of institution can depend on their submission of a completed Partner List of Activities

Overall, evaluation of nominations and selection of winners will be carried out by the Interim Secretariat. Persons serving on the RENEW MENA Steering Committee or as part of the Interim Secretariat or Evaluation Committee are not eligible for nominations. Anyone within or outside of the RENEW MENA network can either self-nominate or submit a nomination for someone else, based on the guidelines provided on this form (see nomination process section). Not all award types need to be filled every year.

For the individual nomination, candidates should demonstrate excellence in at least **two or more** of the following criteria dimensions for the following award categories:

**Excellence in Leadership for Women in Energy Award &
Excellence in Innovation and Entrepreneurship Award**

Leadership & Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A high level of initiative and drive to support women in the sector, especially graduates and first-time job-seekers. ✓ Holding leadership positions in energy projects, organizations, or initiatives. ✓ Taking the lead in driving positive transformations and advocating gender equality in the energy sector. ✓ Excellence in management and/or championed positive change effectively through formal or informal leadership
Advocacy for Gender Equality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Investment in time or support to create a workplace environment that promotes gender diversity in the workplace. ✓ Active efforts to advance gender equality and diversity within the energy industry. ✓ Involvement in campaigns or initiatives raising awareness about gender issues in the sector.
Professional Development and Mentorship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Positively and impactfully influences others to build consensus in group, departmental or organizational settings. ✓ Participation in programs supporting young women's professional growth in the energy sector. ✓ Engagement in mentorship relationships, either as a mentor or mentee.
Sustainable Practices Commitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Integration of gender considerations into sustainable practices within energy ✓ Demonstrated dedication to addressing both gender and environmental concerns.
Adaptability and Overcoming Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Demonstrated adaptability in overcoming challenges in the energy industry. ✓ Success in navigating barriers and stereotypes associated with being a young woman in the sector.
Innovative Contributions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Innovation in developing or conceptualizing ideas for new products and systems that contribute to clean energy transitions and/or social impact.

Young Professional Excellence Award

Educational and Career Accomplishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ High performance in STEM studies. ✓ Demonstrated success or potential in the initial phases of an energy-related career.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Young professionals that demonstrate early initiative, leadership potential, as well as clear achievements that distinguish them from their peers on topics related to green transition and/or women’s economic empowerment.
Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Involvement in campaigns or initiatives raising awareness about on gender equality, climate justice, or issues related to equity and diversity in the energy sector.
Adaptability and Overcoming Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Ability to navigate and/or overcome barriers and stereotypes associated with being a young woman in the sector.
<p>Note: It is highly preferred that nominations for this award type includes at least one recommendation letter from mentors, teachers, or professionals affirming the nominee's achievements and potential.</p>	

*For the institutional nominations, candidates for the **Rising Star Award and Innovation Award** should demonstrate achievements in two or more of the following criteria:*

Diversity & Inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Demonstrated dedication to promoting diversity and inclusion promotion within the energy sector. ✓ Implementation of policies and practices promoting equal opportunities.
Leadership & Mentorship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Implementation of leadership and mentorship programs supporting women's (young women's) career advancement in the energy sector.
Innovative Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Introduction of innovative practices and initiatives that have the potential to make positive change across the cleaner energy value chain and/or toward greater participation of women in the sector.
Professional Development Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Offering tailored professional development opportunities for women (young women) in the energy sector. ✓ Creation of programs supporting skill development and career progression for women (young women).
Measurable Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Demonstration of measurable improvements in gender diversity and inclusion metrics within the organization or sector. ✓ Providing evidence of the positive impact of gender diversity on organizational performance and success.
Advocacy & Policy Influence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Advocacy for gender-friendly policies and practices within the energy sector. ✓ Influence on industry-wide policies and initiatives promoting gender equality and excellence.

Remaining awards (**Education to Work Champion Award, Career Catalyst Award, and Rising Star Award**) will be based on numerical scoring of achievements submitted via the Partner List of Activities.

Winners will be announced during the annual RENEW MENA Conference. Prior to the announcement, maximum three nominees will be informed if they have been selected as finalists but only one award will be made in each category.

Nomination/application Process

Anyone may submit a nomination as self or for another candidate; this also applies for institutional nominations. It is the responsibility of the nominator to summarize the nominees' achievements in sufficient detail to document why this individual or institution should be considered, above all others, for this distinguished award, and to provide the contact details of the individual nominee or the representative of the institutional nominee. For self-nominations, candidates should provide a motivation letter, curriculum vitae (CV). A recommendation letter is highly desired for self-nominations to the Young Professional Excellence award.

In the nomination form below, the nominator will be asked to provide basic identifying information about the nominee and the nominator (organization, title, etc.). The nominator will then be prompted to provide evidence for each of the criteria listed below. The form gives up to 250 words per question to describe how the nominee meets or exceeds each criterion. The nominator can improve the nominee's chances of selection for the award if they provide specific examples of the ways in which the nominee has met this criterion rather than making generalized statements. The responses should contribute to better understanding of how this nominee contributes to the advancement of women's participation in the energy sector. The nominee's resume or bio can be attached if available (and with their permission).

Timeline

Deadline for submission is April 15, 2024. The selection committee should select max three finalists for each category and may decide to cancel one or more categories should no candidate qualify. The finalists should be informed minimum 7 days prior to the annual RENEW conference. The winners will be announced on the conference.

- [Click here to submit for individual nomination](#)
- [Click here to submit for institutional nomination](#)