



Flood & Coast Excellence Awards 2022 – Guidance Notes and Category Descriptions

Everyone from across the flood and coastal risk management sector is invited to nominate their project, scheme or initiative for one of the Environment Agency's Flood & Coast Excellence Awards 2022.

There are 11 award categories for 2022 and entry is quick and free to enter. Categories are:

- Climate Resilient Places
- Coastal Management
- Community Partnerships
- Digital Excellence
- Enabling Nature Based Solutions
- Inspirational Person
- Flood and Coast Graduate of the Year
- International Excellence
- Surface Water Management
- Towards Net Zero
- Asset Management Excellence

1. How to enter

To enter your nomination, complete the [online](#) submission.

To start your entry, please register an account. This ensures all the information you submit is password protected and allows you to save your submission as a draft to come back to later. Registration takes a few seconds. If you already have an account, please login at the bottom of the registration page.

Once you have created your profile you can submit your entry and select your award categories.

You will need to provide details of your project, including a summary and evidence of no more than 1000 words. Include supporting material such as diagrams, photographs, videos and/or social media links to describe and illustrate your project, scheme or partnerships, people or initiative.

You may submit multiple nominations in more than one category, but you must complete a separate entry form for each submission. If the same project is entered and shortlisted in multiple categories, it will go to the final judging panel in the category it scored the highest in.

You need to complete your 1000 word submission in a Word document and upload your submission to the online platform. You can select and add images, videos or any media files. You can upload multiple files at the same time. The following files are accepted;

- images - jpg, jpeg, png, gif, tiff, tif
- video - mp4, webm
- documents - pdf, xml, doc, xlsx, xls, open office
- music - mp3, wav, ogg

The max upload size is currently set at 1 GB, but we highly recommend you keep your files small so judges don't need to wait a long time for your work to load up.

To embed media, click on the box to embed media and this will add a row for you to provide a URL to the content you wish to embed. The following links are recognised by the online platform:

- YouTube
- Vimeo
- Soundcloud
- Slideshare

At the end of the form there are additional questions for you to provide more details if required, before you complete your contact details and submit. You can re-visit to your award submission at any time and make any changes up until the deadline date.

If you need help with your entry or require any clarification, please email Natalie Fortune at floodandcoast@environment-agency.gov.uk. Once you've completed your submission the online platform will confirm your submission is received.

The deadline for submissions is **23:55 GMT on Sunday, 13 February 2022**. The winners will be announced at the Flood & Coast awards dinner on 8 June.

2. Who can apply

The Flood & Coast Excellence Awards are open to any project, scheme or initiative that has taken action on climate change linked to flood and coastal risk management or has contributed to managing and building local resilience to flooding. This includes projects,

schemes and initiatives developed or supported by consultants, contractors and risk management authorities, community-level initiatives as well as partnership working.

To be eligible, the project, scheme or initiative, must have been completed or implemented between 1 January 2021 and 31 December 2021. For work to be considered 'complete' or 'implemented', it must demonstrate that it provided or continues to provide an active benefit for people and the environment. There are no restrictions on the geographical location of the nominations submitted.

The awards also recognise inspirational individuals within the flood and coastal erosion risk management community pursuing the goals of climate resilience places. You may nominate someone else or yourself for this award.

3. Judging process

All nominations are reviewed by a group of judges. Judges will be made up of subject-matter experts from across government, the private sector and academia to ensure a fair and balanced judging process. The judges will identify and shortlist the top submissions in each category. The 3 highest-scoring entries in each category will become finalists. As a finalist you will need to produce additional photos and be interviewed to help bring the nominations to life. Posters to promote the finalists will also be showcased at the Flood and Coast Conference 2022.

4. Award ceremony

The 2022 finalists will be featured at the Flood and Coast 2022 conference. We will announce the winners at the Flood and Coast prestigious awards ceremony on 8 June 2022. We will also showcase the Flood & Coast Excellence Awards 2022 video on the Environment Agency YouTube channel and finalists will be promoted externally.

5. Timeline

- **13 February 2022** – Deadline to submit entry forms and supporting documents.
- **February/March 2022** – Expert panels in each subject area will shortlist submissions. Finalists and unsuccessful entrants will be notified.
- **March/April 2022**– Interviews with finalists and production of promotional material
- **June 7-9 2022** – **Conference with awards ceremony on 8 June 2022**

6. Categories and criteria

Climate Resilient Places

This award recognises projects or programmes that improve place-based resilience to the future impacts of extreme weather on communities, infrastructure and assets. This includes:

- buildings, infrastructure and flood defences built to withstand the impacts of extreme weather
- innovation in engineering solutions
- excellence in routine maintenance and emergency works to existing assets
- changes to land management practices that improve resilience and adaptation to climate change
- implementation of natural flood management measures
- integration of spatial planning and flood risk management

Submissions in this category should address as many of the following criteria as possible:

- demonstrates an innovative approach to meet the challenges of future extreme weather risks
- delivers multiple benefits (social, environmental, economic) and provides quantifiable evidence where possible
- demonstrates exemplary project or programme management to deliver projects quicker, more safely and/or more efficiently
- demonstrates effective collaborative working across organisations
- demonstrates effective engagement with the local community
- identifies and seizes opportunities for innovative funding
- takes an approach that can be adopted elsewhere and/or advances international learning

Coastal Management

This award recognises innovative, sustainable approaches to protecting and managing coastal zones and developing adaptation strategies that promote their long-term resilience. This includes:

- coastal monitoring programmes that strengthen our evidence base for informing coastal adaptation plans and activities
- coastal change projects that protect communities, enhance the environmental quality of coastal areas and deliver wider benefits to the local economy
- creating wetlands and undertaking beach nourishment and managed realignment of the coastline using creative ways to adapt to coastal change

Submissions in this category should address as many of the following criteria as possible:

- demonstrates an innovative approach to addressing coastal risk management issues
- delivers multiple benefits (social, environmental, economic) and provides quantifiable evidence where possible
- demonstrates exemplary project or programme management to deliver projects quicker, more safely and/or more efficiently
- demonstrates effective collaborative-working across organisations
- demonstrates effective engagement with the local community
- identifies and seizes opportunities for innovative funding
- can be adopted elsewhere and/or advances international learning

Community Partnerships

This award recognises effective local partnerships that encourage and enhance community level participation in managing flood and coastal risk. This includes:

- collaborative-working among organisations with a responsibility for flood and coastal risk management and representatives of communities at risk
- communication and community flood action and flood volunteer groups involved in flood risk communication, promoting flood resilience, building community self-reliance and campaigning for flood defences
- community-led flood and coastal erosion schemes

- improving community engagement in flood risk management decision-making, delivery and flood response, taking into account challenges during the pandemic

Submissions in this category should address as many of the following criteria as possible:

- demonstrates an innovative approach to communicating and engaging with communities
- demonstrates community participation, action and/or leadership and shows how this has added value
- uses an innovative funding approach which includes participation from communities
- demonstrates effective collaborative-working across organisations
- can be adopted elsewhere and/or advances international learning

Digital Excellence

This award recognises the innovative use of digital solutions or technologies in flood and coastal erosion risk management. This includes:

- digital tools to communicate flood and coastal risks
- improving the efficiency or effectiveness of flood risk management activities through digital solutions
- enhanced collaboration digitally with partners and incident responders.

Submissions in this category should address as many of the following criteria as possible:

- demonstrates an innovative digital solution that addresses a specific and important problem or goal in flood and coastal risk management
- delivers multiple benefits (social, environmental, economic) and provides quantifiable evidence where possible
- demonstrates effective collaborative-working across organisations
- demonstrates effective communication and engagement using digital solutions
- can be adopted elsewhere and/or advances international learning.

Enabling Nature Based Solutions

This award recognises a project or project team who have used a range of nature-based solutions across a catchment. Their work will support the ambition to mainstream nature-based solutions to increase resilience to flooding, coastal erosion, and droughts. This includes:

- adopting a range of nature-based solutions that reduce and manage flood, coastal erosion and droughts
- providing a range of benefits beyond flooding, coastal erosion and drought, people and nature (for example – water quality, increased biodiversity, health and wellbeing)
- sustainable resource and land management to tackle environmental challenges

Submissions in this category should demonstrate as many of the following criteria as possible:

- utilising a range of nature-based solutions (including planting trees, creating leaky barriers, restoring peatland and salt marshes)
- multiple benefits are created and monitored (for example - water quality, increased biodiversity, health and wellbeing)
- effective partnership working with a range of stakeholders
- attracting funding from a range of sources and demonstrating innovation in delivery
- sharing learning with other nature based projects
- **projects contribute to the aims of the 25 Year Environment Plan** and [Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England](#),

Inspirational Person

This award recognises an individual in the flood and coastal risk management community, whether just beginning their career or already highly experienced, who has inspired others in the past year. This includes:

- leaders who act as an excellent role model, setting high standards and championing others
- those who have promoted a culture of diversity and inclusive working
- young people who are challenging the status quo or energising their professional community.

Submissions in this category should address as many of the following criteria as possible:

- advocates climate adaptation and resilience as part of the wider policy agenda on climate change, biodiversity and green economic recovery
- inspires and motivates others by acting as an excellent role model and setting high standards especially during the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic
- challenges the status quo, embraces innovation and energises their professional community
- inclusive and confident in engaging others, communicates clearly and collaborates successfully
- empowers others through openness and a commitment to diversity, recognising and helping others fulfil their potential
- has pro-actively influenced and promoted gender balance, diversity and inclusion in their workplace or sector

Flood and Coast Graduate of the Year

This award is for a graduate who has made the most significant input to the strategic goals of the Environment Agency's vision for climate resilient places. We are seeking to reward a person that:

- has been inspirational amongst their peers
- furthered the understanding of climate resilient places and contributed with solutions
- is a recent graduate in any discipline which could be scientific, engineering, design or socio-economic provided that their work is aligned to climate resilient places goals

A recent graduate is considered as someone who graduated after 2017 and/or is currently on one of the Environment Agency's recognised Graduate Training Schemes. The climate resilient places goals are set out in the [Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England](#).

Submissions in this category should address as many of the following criteria as possible:

- challenges the status quo in their discipline, embraces innovation and energises their professional community, acting as an excellent role model
- seeks to understand issues and work across academic disciplines for holistic solutions
- identifies fair and sustainable solutions that can progress action on Net Zero carbon goals and climate resilience

- is inclusive and confident in engaging others, communicates clearly and collaborates successfully helping others to fulfil their potential

International Excellence

This award recognises world-class practices and approaches to managing flooding and coastal erosion that are not currently mainstream in the UK. It also recognises best practice and shows outstanding international leadership. This includes:

- emerging international thinking and world-leading research on flood and coastal risk management issues
- technical excellence in delivering flood risk management and managing coastal change
- effective partnerships, engagement or shared learning between countries

Submissions in this category should address as many of the following criteria as possible:

- demonstrates an innovative approach to addressing a specific and important problem or goal
- delivers multiple benefits (social, environmental, economic) and provides quantifiable evidence where possible
- demonstrates effective collaborative-working across organisations and borders
- demonstrates effective engagement with the local community
- demonstrates shared learning between countries
- considers future adaptability and potential to be adopted elsewhere

Surface Water Management

This award recognises cutting-edge, sustainable approaches to protecting and managing surface water that reduce the risk of flooding and improve adaptation to climate change. This includes:

- using green infrastructure and investing in sustainable drainage systems to reduce surface water flooding
- capturing surface water to recharge aquifers and support groundwater resources
- changing land use practices and developing surface water management techniques that provide multiple benefits
- integration of spatial planning and surface water flood risk management

- creating approaches for property flood resilience and enabling their adoption through pilots, promotion and financing

Submissions in this category should address as many of the following criteria as possible:

- demonstrates innovative approaches to meet surface water management challenges
- delivers multiple benefits (social, environmental, economic) and provides quantifiable evidence where possible
- demonstrates exemplary project or programme management to deliver projects quicker, more safely and/or more efficiently
- demonstrates effective collaborative-working across organisations
- demonstrates effective engagement with the local community
- identifies and seizes opportunities for innovative funding
- can be adopted elsewhere and/or advances international learning

Towards Net Zero

This award recognises projects, programmes and initiatives which support decarbonisation of the Flood Coastal Erosion Risk Management sector. This includes:

- reducing carbon emissions associated with flood and coastal risk management infrastructure in the design, construction, operation and decommissioning stages
- shifting to alternative energy sources for flood and coastal management schemes
- using nature-based solutions to reduce flood risk and/or capture carbon while protecting and restoring habitats
- undertaking research and developing methods for measuring and evaluating carbon reduction opportunities
- demonstrating behavioural changes that are compatible with a transition to net zero

Submissions in this category should address as many of the following criteria as possible:

- factors net zero considerations into decision-making at the earliest stages
- delivers meaningful and quantifiable carbon savings, reductions and/or carbon capture
- takes an innovative approach to cutting emissions and/or capturing carbon
- delivers multiple benefits for climate, nature, and communities and provides quantifiable evidence where possible

- considers the entire life-cycle emissions of the project and seizes on opportunities to engage and influence the supply chain in reducing emissions
- captures, documents and shares lessons learned on the successes and failures of decarbonisation efforts, so that solutions might be adopted elsewhere and scaled up
- shows a collaborative approach to finding solutions and achieving the goal

Asset Management Excellence

This award recognises best practice in routine operation, maintenance and emergency works to flood and coastal erosion risk management assets. This includes:

- a team or a project that has delivered excellent management of assets, including embankments, pumping stations, barrages, river and channel maintenance works, coastal defences, water control structures, culverts and pipes, sustainable urban drainage systems and surface water systems

Submissions in this category should address as many of the following criteria as possible:

- delivery of climate resilience and use of long-term adaptive approaches
- achievement of multiple secondary benefits including efficiency, value for money, progress towards net zero carbon goals and environmental net gain
- creates and tests innovative engineering solutions
- demonstrates excellence in the support needed to enable this infrastructure such as use of data and modelling, project management, innovative finance, community engagement and developing skills and talent

If you have any questions about the Flood & Coast Excellence Awards, please contact Natalie Fortune: flodoandcoast@environment-agency.gov.uk.