



GLOBAL
SUSTAINABLE
FINANCE
CONFERENCE

KARLSRUHE SUSTAINABLE FINANCE AWARDS 2026



OFFICIAL RECOGNITION &
NOMINATION GUIDE

Presented during the
**GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE FINANCE
CONFERENCE 2026**

*Turning Global Disruption
into Investment at Scale*

 27–28 AUGUST 2026

 KARLSRUHE, GERMANY



Excellence in Advancing Sustainable Finance for the Real Economy

1. Overview

Established in 2012, the Karlsruhe Sustainable Finance Awards are among the longest-standing international recognitions dedicated to excellence in sustainable banking, finance and responsible business leadership.

Presented annually in Karlsruhe, Germany, the Awards honour distinguished institutions and leaders that have demonstrated the ability to combine commercial success with long-term economic, social and environmental value creation.

The Awards recognise demonstrated achievement, institutional credibility, strategic leadership and practical results.

In an increasingly demanding global environment, recognition is reserved for organisations and leaders able to convert challenge into resilience, innovation, competitiveness and sustainable growth.

2. Why the Awards Matter Now

The global economy is being reshaped by geopolitical uncertainty, supply chain realignment, capital market shifts, energy transition pressures, technological disruption and rising expectations regarding resilience and responsibility.

In this environment, sustainable finance is no longer a peripheral agenda. It is becoming central to how institutions manage risk, identify opportunity, attract investment, strengthen competitiveness and create long-term value.


The Karlsruhe Sustainable Finance Awards recognise those already leading this transition — institutions and executives demonstrating that sustainability, prudence, profitability and strategic foresight can advance together.

3. Strategic Relevance to GSFC 2026

The Awards form an integral part of the Global Sustainable Finance Conference 2026 (GSFC 2026), whose theme is:

Turning Global Disruption into Investment at Scale

At a time when significant liquidity exists globally, yet often struggles to reach productive sectors, infrastructure and investment-ready opportunities, GSFC 2026 focuses on practical solutions for mobilising capital with speed, prudence and scale.



The Awards complement this agenda by recognising institutions and leaders already translating disruption into investment, innovation and measurable economic progress.

They therefore serve not only as recognition, but also as examples of leadership, execution and strategic direction for the wider financial and business community.

4. Award Categories

The Awards recognise excellence across four key dimensions reflecting innovation, capital deployment, institutional transformation and leadership.

4.1 Best Innovation in Sustainable Financial Products & Services

(Innovation)

Recognising institutions that are redefining financial products and services to better mobilise and deploy capital into the real economy.

This category honours innovation that goes beyond incremental improvement—solutions that address structural gaps, respond to emerging risks and opportunities, and demonstrate clear commercial viability alongside measurable economic, social or environmental value.

Examples may include lending solutions, deposits, investment products, guarantees, insurance solutions or new capital mobilisation mechanisms that are scalable, replicable and aligned with evolving market needs.


4.2 Outstanding Sustainable Project Financing

(Capital Deployment)

Recognising leadership in financing projects that translate capital into tangible economic activity, infrastructure and productive investment.

This category highlights institutions that are effectively bridging capital with real-economy opportunities—structuring and financing projects that are investment-ready, bankable and capable of delivering strong developmental outcomes alongside sound commercial returns.

This may include energy, transport, logistics, industrial transformation, urban development, water, technology or other productive sector investments contributing to long-term growth and sustainability.



4.3 Outstanding Business Sustainability Achievement

(Institutional Transformation)

Recognising institutions that have successfully embedded sustainability into their core business model—across strategy, governance, operations, products, supply chains and organisational culture.

This category honours organisations where sustainability is not treated as a standalone initiative, but as a driver of competitiveness, resilience and long-term value creation.

Recognition is given to institutions demonstrating a holistic and credible approach, with clear evidence of implementation, internal alignment and measurable outcomes across the organisation.

4.4 Sustainability Leader of the Year

(Leadership)

Recognising Presidents, CEOs or senior leaders who have demonstrated exceptional leadership in guiding their institutions through complexity, disruption and transformation.

This category honours leadership that translates vision into action—shaping institutional direction, influencing markets and driving sustainable value creation over the long term. It recognises individuals whose leadership strengthens performance, builds stakeholder confidence and contributes to advancing sustainable finance and responsible business practices at scale.

5. Indicative Evaluation Considerations

Recognition is based on a holistic assessment of merit, achievement and relevance. The evaluation reflects the four core dimensions of the Awards:

5.1 Innovation

- Originality and distinctiveness of the approach
- Ability to address real market needs or structural gaps
- Degree of advancement beyond existing practices
- Potential for scalability and wider application

5.2 Capital Deployment

- Effectiveness in mobilising and deploying capital into productive sectors
- Alignment with real-economy needs and investment opportunities
- Financial soundness and commercial viability
- Contribution to infrastructure, industry or economic development

5.3 Institutional Transformation

- Integration of sustainability into strategy, governance and operations
- Alignment across products, processes and organisational culture
- Evidence of implementation and internal adoption
- Contribution to long-term resilience, competitiveness and value creation

5.4 Leadership

- Strategic vision and clarity of direction
- Ability to translate vision into execution and measurable outcomes
- Influence on institutional performance and market practices
- Contribution to advancing sustainable finance and responsible business leadership

Evaluation may also take into account the overall credibility, consistency and long-term relevance of the achievements presented.

6. Eligibility

Expressions of Interest may be submitted by:

- Commercial banks
- National development finance institutions
- Non-bank financial institutions
- Investment institutions
- Corporates and business enterprises
- Infrastructure and project sponsors
- Presidents / CEOs / senior leaders

Regional and cross-border achievements are welcome.

7. Nomination Process

Step 1 – Expression of Interest

Institutions or leaders wishing to be considered are invited to submit a concise Expression of Interest including:

- Name of institution / nominee
- Category of interest
- Brief summary of relevant achievements

Step 2 – Initial Review and Shortlisting

Expressions of Interest are reviewed by the organisers. Based on this review, selected institutions and leaders may be shortlisted to proceed to the next stage.

Step 3 – Formal Nomination Submission

Shortlisted institutions will be invited to submit additional information through category-specific nomination forms designed to support a structured and comprehensive evaluation.

These submissions may include information on innovation, commercial performance, impact, implementation and broader relevance.

For the Sustainability Leader of the Year category, selected nominees will be invited to submit a concise leadership brief highlighting strategic vision, institutional achievements and wider impact.

Final Consideration

Recognition is based on merit, demonstrated achievement, relevance and alignment with the spirit and objectives of the Awards.

8. Recognition Ceremony

Selected recipients will be recognised at a formal ceremony during the Global Sustainable Finance Conference 2026 in Karlsruhe, Germany, in the presence of senior leaders from banking, finance, business and the public sector.

9. Enquiries / Expressions of Interest (EOI)

Expressions of Interest should be submitted by 22 May 2026 to:

mail@eosd.org

Subject Line: **Karlsruhe Sustainable Finance Awards 2026**

