



CII-ITC Centre of Excellence  
for Sustainable Development



Confederation of Indian Industry

# Leading the Way Towards Sustainability



21<sup>st</sup> CII-ITC  
SUSTAINABILITY  
AWARDS  
2026

Excellence in Sustainable Business



# ABOUT THE Awards

CII-ITC Sustainability Awards celebrate businesses that embed sustainable practices in their strategies and processes and go much beyond to embrace community and societies in their agenda.

CII-ITC Sustainability Awards define the science of sustainability performance. Excellence in sustainability is a journey of continuous improvement in processes and results. Uniquely based on EFQM Excellence Framework, these Awards are designed for those who **strive effortlessly to make sustainability their business.**

**The Framework is layered with over 250 indicators** covering governance, ecology, and social dimensions of doing business.

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*In 20 glorious years, this iconic Awards has developed its reputation in the country for its credibility and rigorous processes in assessing businesses' sustainability performance and recognising them towards excellence in sustainable businesses.*

*This Awards is for those who have put in their commitments, strategised inbuilt processes and set higher standards for contributing to India's vision and goals for building a sustainable future.*

*More than Awards, it stands as a testament to those visionaries who have embarked on this journey, strive to lead and pave the way towards a more sustainable and resilient future.*

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CII-ITC Sustainability Awards recognise and reward excellence in businesses that are seeking ways to be more sustainable and inclusive in their activities. More than recognition, the Awards measure performance and provide detailed feedback for opportunities to excel.

More than **20** years of recognising sustainable businesses, CII-ITC Sustainability Awards have become a symbol of credibility and pride for companies. Cumulatively, **1400+** applied of which **500+** were recognised.

Limited number of applications are accepted to maintain strong competition and high standards of excellence.



# YOU SHOULD Apply Because



You want to assess your sustainability performance based on the Business Excellence Model.



You want to get strategic insights and identify improvement areas based on comprehensive and rigorous assessment by independent CII-certified Sustainability Assessors.



Positions your organisation as a responsible, future-ready organisation aligned with national and global sustainability standards.



You want to be recognised as Excellent in Sustainable Business by the most credible Sustainability Awards in the country.

## ELIGIBILITY Criteria

You can apply, if you are

Operating in India, for At Least Five Years

A Large, Medium, Small, Micro-sized Enterprise or Independent Unit/ Division

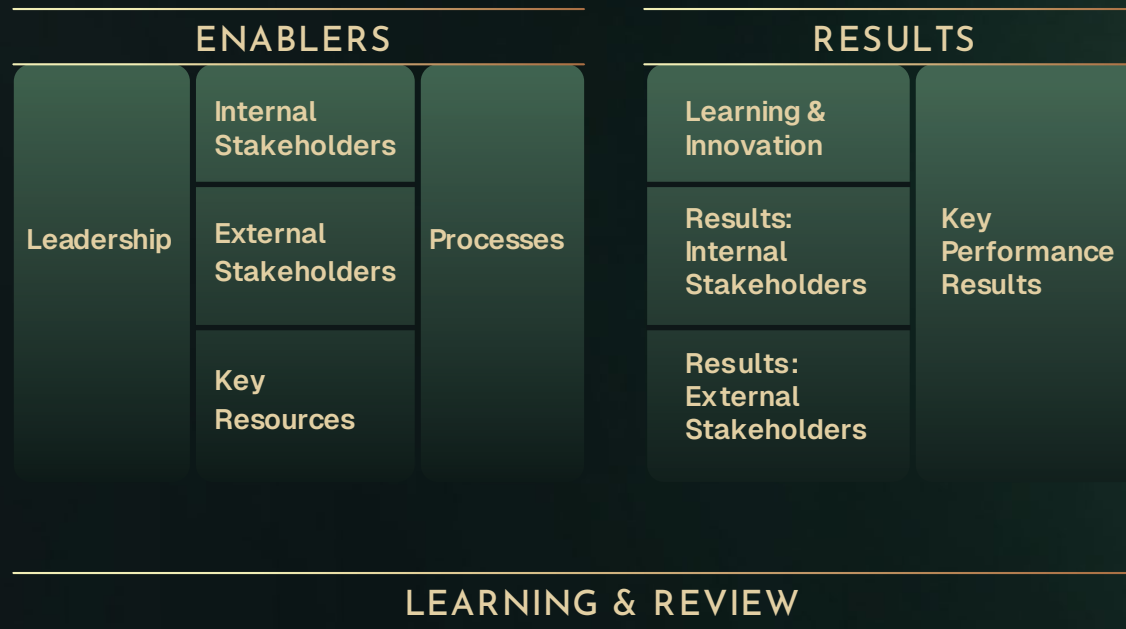
From Manufacturing or Service Sector



SCAN TO  
APPLY

# ASSESSMENT Methodology

The Awards adhere to a transparent and rigorous assessment process based on the Sustainability Excellence Assessment Model, developed using the following frameworks:



The assessment is conducted over a period of six months by a pool of trained CII-certified Sustainability Assessors from diverse professional backgrounds that spend approximately **1,000** man-hours per application. The result of each assessment is reviewed by a preeminent Jury, comprising of former bureaucrats, representatives of government, civil society and academia at two stages before arriving at the final decision.

*Specific questionnaires developed for Manufacturing, Services and MSME Sectors.*

- Methodology is adapted from the internationally acclaimed European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM) approach wherein equal weight is assigned to 'Enablers' and 'Results,' indicating a cause-effect relationship
- Assessment is based on more than **250** indicators which cover 16 aspects of sustainability. The assessment has been made more comprehensive to include aspects such as Strategy, Business Ethics, Corporate Governance, Employee Development, Human Rights, Product Responsibility, Environment Management, Supply Chain, Corporate Social Responsibility, Biodiversity, etc.
- For companies that do not qualify the preliminary stage, no feedback report is provided to the applicants

Feedback report is provided to the applicants in two phases. For companies that do not qualify for site visit, feedback reports are provided after desk assessments are over. This will be around November 2026

For companies that qualify for site visits, feedback reports are provided after the end of the Awards cycle. This will be around December 2026

## STAGE 1

### Application

- Receiving Application of Intent
- Receiving filled application document from the applicant
- Preliminary screening of the applications

## STAGE 2

### Desk Assessment

- Desk assessment by team of CII trained assessors
- Consensus on assessment results by assessment team
- Jury meeting to decide on the applications qualifying for site assessment
- Feedback report to applicants who could not qualify for site assessment

## STAGE 3

### Site Assessment

- On-site assessment by the same team of assessors
- Revised consensus by assessment team
- Jury meeting to decide on winners
- Feedback report to the applicants

## STAGE 4

### Awards Presentation

- Announcement of winners 2026
- Announcement for assessors recognition 2026
- Feedback report to winners

## IMPORTANT Dates

**22<sup>nd</sup>**  
May 2026

Last Date to  
Receive Aol

**5<sup>th</sup>**  
July 2026

Last Date to Submit  
Awards Questionnaire

**December**  
2026

Announcement  
of Awards

# AWARD Categories

## CORPORATE EXCELLENCE

This Award recognises comprehensive efforts companies make in excelling at sustainable business. It expects companies to integrate sustainability into governance, strategy, business processes, and demonstrate through results that sustainability is making an impact on its business and relevant stakeholders.

### **Recognitions\* in Corporate Excellence**

- **Business of the Year**

This role model Award celebrates the company that has successfully proven a business case for sustainability and demonstrates a company-wide commitment to advancing the sustainable business agenda.

- **Outstanding Accomplishment**

The Award recognises companies that have demonstrated outstanding policy, practice and results by successfully incorporating sustainability in their core business.

- **Commendation for Significant Achievement**

The Award recognises companies that have demonstrated commendable results from deployment of policy and processes.

## SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS LEADER OF THE YEAR

Honours a visionary leader who embeds sustainability and innovation at the core of business strategy, driving measurable impact, accelerating the transition to sustainable development.

**Organisations applying for the Corporate Excellence category can nominate their leaders - MDs, CEOs and Members of Board for this category.**

*\*Recognitions are based on cut-offs and deliberation of the Jury. Companies apply to Award categories and not to recognitions.*

*Number of winners per category is not pre-determined and is left to the discretion of the Jury.*

*If applicants want to change Award category during the Aol stage, the same can be altered only during Aol stage and not at a later stage.*

## DOMAIN EXCELLENCE

### **Climate & Environment Stewardship**

The Award recognises companies that demonstrate outstanding environmental performance by adopting innovative strategies, policies, and practices that significantly minimize environmental footprint leading to long-term value creation.

### **Responsible Business and Social Impact**

This award recognises pioneering companies that create lasting impact on both business and society through collaborative programs with government and civil society for sustainable value creation.

### **Nature & Biodiversity Exemplar**

This Award recognises companies for implementing measures related to protect, restore ecosystems and sustainable management of biodiversity services in value chain.

### **Recognitions\* in Domain Excellence**

- **Excellence**

The Award recognises companies that have demonstrated outstanding policy, practice and results in this domain.

- **Commendation for Significant Achievement**

The Award recognises companies that have demonstrated commendable results through policy deployment and processes.



## APPLICATION FEE

### Corporate Excellence

Company / Unit Turnover (₹Crores)	Application Fee (₹)*
>10,000	1,75,000
5000-10,000	1,55,000
500-4,999	1,35,000
50-499	75,000
<50	25,000

### Sustainable Business Leader of the Year

1,00,000

### Domain Excellence

>10,000	1,25,000
5000-10,000	1,00,000
500-4,999	75,000
50-499	50,000
<50	20,000

\* Plus GST as per GoI Norms

#### Terms & Conditions

- Application fee is non-transferable and non-refundable regardless of how far applicants go in the process or whether they ultimately qualify for any recognition.
- Application fee is charged to meet expenses to conduct sustainability performance of applicants. Payment of fees neither indicates nor implies any chance of winning a recognition.
- Offline sample questionnaire can be provided on request.
- The online Awards questionnaire will only be shared upon receiving the completed AoI. Kindly note that the AoI will not be considered complete until the application fee has been received.
- Applying for Corporate Excellence does not qualify the applicant for other domains. All domain applications have to be applied for separately.
- All cost relating to travel, accommodation and other logistics will be borne by the applicant if they qualify for site visit.

- It is not mandatory for Corporate Excellence applicants to apply for the Sustainable Business Leader of the Year (SBLY).
- Any turnover company can apply for SBLY.
- Separate fee applicable for SBLY.

## DISCOUNTS TO AVAIL

### 20% OFF

On the fee of Corporate Excellence application, if the company applies for domain excellence.

### 20% OFF

For repeat applicants (base year 2025) in the same Award category. In case company applies for two Award categories, discount will be provided only for one application.

### 20% OFF

On the fee applicable to corporate applicant if one of its unit has also applied.

\*Only one discount can be availed, whichever is maximum

# Excellence That Continues to Inspire





# TESTIMONIALS FROM The Winners

“ *This Awards is indeed very special for the industry for the reason the way this assessment process is undertaken. This includes face-to-face discussions with the leadership, field visit and all-in-all one thousand hours of time spent on the assessment makes this, a special hard earned recognition. This is a platform for learning and sharing best practices and collectively contribute to the journey of sustainability.*

SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC  
INDIA PRIVATE LTD.

“ *We have been applying for this Awards since two years and the overall the assessment process and the feedback report has really helped us to bring more focus on energy & water conservation which has led to devising focused programmes and building a sustainability business strategy.*

SHRIRAM ALKALI AND CHEMICALS;  
DCM SHRIRAM LIMITED

“ *This Awards is truly one of a kind in the industry, with a rigorous assessment process that has become more robust and mature with each passing year.*

RE SUSTAINABILITY LTD.

“ *The entire Awards process is very participatory. The application process conducted by the CII is very professional. We appreciate the level of details which are touched at the ground level. This gives a better perspective on the efforts the company is pursuing on a sustainable basis.*

EXIDE INDUSTRIES LTD

# CII CERTIFIED SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSOR PROGRAMME

The CII-certified Sustainability Assessor programme is for professionals to provide services to business in the area of sustainability.

Since 2006, CESD has built a talent pool of sustainability professionals in India. This has created an exclusive club of over **600+** sustainability assessors. These assessors are competent to drive excellence in sustainability in companies.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Working professionals from corporates and PSUs with at least **14+ years** of work experience can apply
- Experience may range from sustainability (environment, health and safety, corporate social responsibility, biodiversity, human rights, business ethics, product responsibility, and sustainable supply chain) to any other corporate functions

## BENEFITS

- Get trained on Sustainable Business Excellence framework
- Network, learn and enrich your experience by becoming a Sustainability Assessor
- Get profiled as a CII-certified sustainability professional
- Get certified as Sustainability Assessor



WHEN ?

18-21  
May 2026



WHERE ?

New Delhi

## VALIDITY OF CERTIFICATION

- The validity of certificate is for 3 years
- CII will ensure one cycle of assessment in the period of three-year of validity. CII does not commit additional cycles of assessments

## ASSESSORS RECOGNITION

Every year the best assessors are recognised, based on their participation in the assessment process, peer review and applicant feedback. Winners are recognised during the presentation of the CII-ITC Sustainability Awards.

## HOW TO APPLY?

- Interested professionals and companies should send their detailed CV to [sustainabilityawards@cii.in](mailto:sustainabilityawards@cii.in).
- HR departments are encouraged to nominate employees from their respective companies.

## PARTICIPATION FEES

	Fees (₹)
Participation Fee	55,000

\* Not inclusive of applicable taxes

\* GST as per Gov norms

\* 10% discount will be applicable if company applies for Awards or 2 nominations gets shortlisted

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Every new trained assessor is mandated to complete assessments as assigned during the Awards cycle. The certification is issued only after successful completion of training course and Awards assessment
- All expenses pertaining to assessment during CII-ITC Sustainability Awards are taken care by the applicant. Any expense that is not related to training is borne by assessors
- Assessors are not remunerated for their services
- Assessors are required to abide by CII's Code of Conduct for Assessors
- CII reserves the right to discontinue services of assessors in case of misconduct; without any explanation
- Only two applications will be accepted from an organisation in order to maintain diversity.



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For further details, please contact the Awards Team:

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**[www.sustainabledevelopment.in](http://www.sustainabledevelopment.in)**

