



EUROPEAN COAST GUARD COOPERATION

Greening Award Initiative: Rules of the Competition

1. Background

In the context of the implementation of the European Green Deal at Member State level, sustainability is now a core part of the operational work of many authorities performing coast guard functions. As a result, and in the framework of the Annual European Coast Guard Event (AECGE), held at EMSA's premises in June 2023, the 'Greening Award Initiative' (henceforth 'the Award') was announced as a new part of future Annual European Coast Guard Events.

The Award seeks to give visibility to the actions and activities that are carried out and developed across the multiple authorities that make up the European coast guard community, directly or indirectly addressing this collective Green Deal effort.

2. Scope

The Award is open to all national authorities exercising coast guard functions in the European Union, Norway, and Iceland. A full list of all eligible authorities can be found at: <https://coastguard.europa.eu/> ('Coast Guard Authorities Map').

3. Objectives

The initiative has three main functions:

- to **underline that the green transition is a collective duty in line** with the ambitions of the European Green Deal.
- to **raise awareness among the general public** of the coast guard community's role as a driver towards greater sustainability.
- to **raise awareness among the coast guard community** itself of sustainability actions among different Member State authorities and encourage the adoption of such best practices (breaking silos and cross-fertilising).

4. Entry Categories

There are three award categories: Greening Operations; Outreach and Awareness-Raising; and Greening at Work, as outlined in the table below. Authorities are encouraged to propose their projects and activities in accordance with the theme of each category (in the first column) and the environmental parameters (in the second column). The third column gives examples of the type of projects that could be submitted under each of the three categories; **these are examples only** and are not binding.

(Table a)

Award Category	Environmental Parameters	Examples
<p>Greening Operations</p> <p><i>Improved environmental footprints and collaborative actions – the use or incorporation of best practices into the sustainability action, building and/or transferring knowledge within or outside the authority, etc.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>An improved environmental footprint – how is the measured environmental footprint of the operation improved as a result of the action implemented?</i> 2. <i>Community engagement - Does it engage the community or involve internal and/or external stakeholders?</i> 3. <i>Collaborative actions - Does it break silos within or outside the authority in order to achieve an effective outcome?</i> 	<p><i>Planning asset deployment on multipurpose operations, or sharing assets, thus saving fuel and cutting down on emissions.</i></p> <p><i>Use of alternative fuels or power sources in operational assets, e.g., patrol vessels.</i></p> <p><i>Use of digitalisation to increase sustainability.</i></p>
<p>Outreach and awareness raising</p> <p><i>Projects focused on raising awareness among the public in order to expand the outreach and longevity of sustainable actions.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Audiences reached - How many people were reached by the project/action? How did the outreach take place – for example, through social media, digital channels, TV/ radio/ newspapers, face to face, at events or fairs?</i> 2. <i>Audience engagement - How did the audience engage or react with the messages passed?</i> 	<p><i>Campaigns based around a sustainability theme.</i></p> <p><i>Participation in a TV or radio programme with a sustainability angle or aspect.</i></p> <p><i>Outreach to young people/schools on a sustainability theme.</i></p>
<p>Greening at work</p> <p><i>Efforts to implement behaviours and initiatives in the working environment</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>An improved environmental footprint – what results did the action bring, and how did it change behaviours within the organisation?</i> 	<p><i>Implementation of environmental schemes such as EMAS.</i></p>

<p><i>which benefit and have an impact on sustainability.</i></p>	<p>2. <i>Multi-level engagement – was everyone committed to the action, from senior management level to junior staff level?</i></p> <p>3. <i>Beyond the organisation - Was there collaboration with any other entities in the realisation of the action? Were best practices imported into the organisation or did the organisation pass on best practices to other entities during the implementation of the action?)</i></p>	<p><i>Banning single use plastics/moving to recycled-only paper.</i></p>
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An authority can submit more than one application, provided that each application is for a different project. There is no limit on the number of applications one authority may send, and authorities can submit applications in more than one category.

5. How to Participate

Candidates are invited to submit their applications through the online application form available at <https://coastguard.europa.eu/>

Application forms should include as much information about the entry as is necessary for the organisers to understand the submitted project, its actions, its outcomes, and its results. Supplementary material, which could include, but is not limited to, photographs, video recordings, links to third party websites, reports, etc., can be submitted via the filesharing link of the submitting authority's choice.

By submitting their entry, participants agree to the eventual divulgation and publication of images and information on the projects for promotional purposes on the websites of EMSA, Frontex, and EFCA, and their social media channels.

The deadline for applying is **30 March 2026 inclusive**.

Any inquiries may be sent to the Awards Secretariat using the following email address: greeningaward@coastguard.europa.eu

6. Benchmarking process

Once received, all the applications will be scored against the environmental parameters in column 2 of the table in section 4. During the scoring process, the organisers reserve the right to request

further information from the participants, or to request high resolution images that clearly demonstrate their project. A qualitative assessment of each project will be carried out by a project team consisting of personnel from EMSA, EFCA, and Frontex.

The assessment will list all the proposals to be awarded with a certificate of participation, plus the 'notable' projects and entries falling under the categories above.

The qualitative assessment will take into consideration the number and complexity of parameters fulfilled together with the perceived social impact of the measure(s) undertaken. The qualitative assessment will be based on the information submitted only and **no further research will be conducted to verify the information presented**. As an exception, should one or more projects or activities falling under the same category be considered equally 'notable', both or all may be awarded with the same category trophy.

The results will be first announced at the upcoming Annual European Coast Guard Event. Once presented, the results will be made available on the European Cooperation on Coast Guard Functions website and may be published on the social media and online channels of the organising Agencies.

7. Awards

All entrants will receive a certificate signed by the Executive Directors of EFCA, EMSA and Frontex. The projects designated as most 'notable' in each category will each be awarded with a specially designed trophy, which will be presented at the Annual European Coast Guard Event 2026. The respective coast guard authorities will be invited to present their notable projects at the same event.

8. Promotion and dissemination

From 4 May 2026 to the date of the AECGE event, information about the submitted and assessed projects can be disseminated through the social media and online channels of the organising Agencies to raise awareness of the individual and collective sustainability actions at European coast guard level. This dissemination will be coordinated by the Secretariat of the Awards.

9. Data Protection

The processing of personal data in the Union institutions and bodies like agencies is regulated by Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC.

Any personal data collected by EMSA within the performance of the tasks in the remit of the Greening Award Initiative shall be processed pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2018/1725. Should the Data Subjects have any queries concerning the processing of their personal data, they shall address them to the data controller or EMSA Data Protection Officer at: DPO@emsa.europa.eu.

The Data Subjects shall have right of recourse at any time to the European Data Protection Supervisor.