

ACEC *Indiana*
ENGINEERING
EXCELLENCE AWARDS

CALL FOR ENTRIES

Dates to Remember

September 10, 2026 from 1- 2 PM ET

Call for Entries Q/A Session

October 28, 2026 at 4 PM

Submission Deadline

November 2- December 2, 2026

Judging Occurs

Mid-December 2026

Award Selections made and recipients notified

January 6, 2027

National EEA Submission Deadline

April 13, 2027

ACEC Indiana EEA Luncheon



2027 ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Recognizing Exceptional Ideas and Innovations in Engineering

ABOUT THE AWARDS

The American Council of Engineering Companies of Indiana (ACEC Indiana) Annual Engineering Excellence Awards (EEA) competition recognizes engineering firms for projects that demonstrate an exceptional degree of innovation, complexity, achievement and value to a statewide audience of clients, industry leaders, legislators and others.

There are four award designations that your project may win: State Finalist, Merit, Honor or (I) Grand Project Award. All eligible projects will be recognized on stage at the ACEC Indiana Awards Ceremony. Awards plaques will be presented to the entering firm and the client/owner during the April 13, 2027 Awards Ceremony.

- **Grand Project Award** will be selected from the eligible Honor Award recipients. This will not be announced until the Awards Luncheon.
- **Honor Awards** will be given at the recommendation of the judges. All Honor Awards are eligible to progress to the National ACEC EEA Competition, at the firm's expense. ACEC National rules and submission criteria differ GREATLY from ACEC Indiana's.
- **Merit Awards** are given to those projects worthy of recognition.
- **State Finalist** acknowledgment is awarded to all qualifying project submissions.

REASONS TO PARTICIPATE

The Engineering Excellence Awards recognize exceptional ideas and innovations in engineering by showcasing your successful projects to a statewide audience of clients, industry leaders, legislators and other decision makers.

- Increases public knowledge and enhances the image of consulting engineers.
- Highlights the value and importance of professional engineers to our state's legislators.
- Provides invaluable public relations and marketing opportunities including a 30-60 second project video.
- Gives you an opportunity to recognize clients and partners with awards and publicity.
- Award recipients are recognized at the ACEC Indiana Annual Awards Ceremony, through newsletters sent to more than 1,200 local officials throughout the state, in ACEC Indiana's newsletters, social media and in the Engineering Excellence Awards section of the ACEC Indiana website.

Publicity

- Entering the ACEC Indiana Engineering Excellence Awards competition is one of the most effective ways to elevate your firm's brand and drive business development across the state. Winning an EEA award puts your firm's technical ingenuity, leadership, and community impact directly in front of public and private sector clients, industry peers, and state leaders.

ELIGIBILITY & GENERAL CRITERIA

- Any firm engaged in the private practice of consulting engineering or surveying maintaining an office in the state of Indiana is eligible to enter the awards program whether or not the firm is an ACEC IN member. ***For a project to be eligible, a substantial/leadership role must have been completed by personnel in the Indiana office. Projects may have been executed anywhere in the world.***
- ACEC also highly recommends joint-award submissions whenever multiple firms collaborate on the same project.
- *In any given year, a project entry may be submitted to the ACEC EEA competition through **only ONE state MO.***
- Construction of a distinct phase or a completed project (Categories B through L, with the exception of D) must have been substantially completed and ready for use between **November 1, 2022, and October 31, 2026**. Studies and research (Category A) or surveying and mapping projects (Category D) must have been publicly disclosed by the client between **November 1, 2024 and October 31, 2026**.
- A firm may submit a maximum of four project entries per year.
- ACEC Indiana and the Judging Committee reserve the right to determine the eligibility.

Entry Notes

- Your 2027 Entry fee includes: (1) 30-60 second video showcasing the project; (1) plaque for the client/owner; (1) plaque for the submitting firm.
- **The entry fee does NOT include any registrations to the Awards Ceremony. The submitting firm is responsible for inviting and making payment for all Award Ceremony guests with the exclusion of INDOT Personnel.**

ENTRY FEE

\$750 per project for ACEC Indiana Members

\$2,000 per project for non- ACEC Members

Portal access will be provided after payment is made on ACEC Indiana's website.

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
OCTOBER 28, 2026**



OFFICIAL ENTRY INSTRUCTIONS

All materials must be submitted electronically through the online submission portal. The completed Project Submission PowerPoint Template must be uploaded at the time of submission.

Completed Submission/s Must Include:

- 1 Completed Online Portal Entry for each project (approximately 20% of overall submission)**
 - Portal components- Basic project information, photo release statement, contacts, uploads for Project Submissions PowerPoint, 6 photos and client/owner letter(s).
- 2 Completed Project Submission PowerPoint Template (approximately 80% of overall submission)**
 - Template components- Entrant's role in project, project descriptions, schedule and budget details and four criteria items as listed on page 5. This presentation will be used by the judges as part of their evaluation. Do not include sound, transition effects, animations, present timing, or slide show sequencing.
- 3 Images and Captions**
 - High resolution, professional-quality photographs or illustrations must be provided. Photos should tell the story of the project to the judges. Accepted file formats are JPG or JPEG. Upload six files of at least 300 DPI in landscape orientation. One photo must be identified as the photo for use in promotional material. One of the six photos can be a collage if needed. Captions must be typed separately, not on the photo. Videos will not be accepted.

CLIENT OWNER LETTER

The typed letter from the client and/or owner should describe the relationship with the entrant in the development of the project and how it exceeded needs. A letter from both the client and owner should be provided if applicable.

Suggested words: "As owner/client, I am (we are) satisfied with the work of (the consulting engineer) and hereby grant permission to enter this project in the ACEC Indiana 2027 Engineering Excellence Awards Competition and authorize publication of any features or innovations. I (we) further certify that the project was substantially complete and ready for use between Nov. 1, 2024 and Oct. 31, 2026".

Helpful Hint: Request this letter early and allow sufficient time to receive this letter.

Client/Owner Letter Format Requirements

- One-page maximum, typed letter on the client/owner's stationary; a copy is acceptable.
- Addressed to ACEC Indiana
- Signed by client/owner
- Should be saved in PDF format and uploaded to the "Client/Owner Letter" area of the submission page.

Note: INDOT has a standard letter that they require entries to use. Please contact Shelby Dunn, sdunn@acecindiana.org to obtain the letter template.



RATING GUIDELINES & DEFINITIONS

Each entry is judged on the basis of total engineering excellence, the work performed by the **entering firm only** and the rating guidelines listed. The judges decision is final. Entering firms will be notified of their award level shortly after judging is completed.

1 Uniqueness and/or innovative applications of new or existing techniques----25%

- Include as many measurable results as possible to tell the story of the project. For example, data points related to energy savings, number of people impacted by the project, etc.
- Does the entry demonstrate use of a new science or a breakthrough in the general knowledge of engineering?
- Does the entry represent a unique application of a new or existing technology, techniques, materials or equipment?

2 Future value to the engineering profession and perception by the public----25%

- Will the entrant's contribution to the project redefine current engineering thinking?
- Does the entrant's project increase public awareness/enthusiasm about the role of engineering in their everyday lives?

3 Social, economic and sustainable design considerations----25%

- Do the solutions identified produce secondary benefits of value to the community environment?
- Does the entrant's approach provide society with social, economic, or sustainable development benefits?
- Does the entrant's contribution to the project improve the health, safety or welfare of the public or affected environment?
- Is it an economical and cost-effective solution that met or fell below the original budget estimate? *Please be sure to identify reasons why the project might have gone over budget or over schedule.*

4 Complexity----25%

- Did the entrant's efforts successfully address highly complex criteria or unique problems?
- Were extraordinary problems of site, location, hazardous conditions, project requirements, or similar elements present?
- Did the entrant's solutions require the use of out-of-the ordinary technology or ingenuity for achievement of the project's goals?



CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

Submissions must be entered into one of 12 categories outlined below (required by ACEC National). Categories mirror those offered by ACEC National. Choose the category that best fits the project. It is common for a project to be eligible for more than one category. It is up to the entrant to determine which category the project best fits. If you have any questions regarding category selection, please contact Shelby Dunn.

Note: All categories compete together for the ACEC Indiana awards competition. At National, projects compete within their respective category.

A. Studies, Research & Consulting

Non-design services, projects not involving the preparation of construction documents

- New products, materials and technologies
- Expert testimony
- Basic research and studies
- Computer/software technology
- Technical papers
- Public outreach/involvement
- Water conservation
- Security plans
- Project feasibility/studies/risk
- Value engineering

B. Building/Technology Systems

- Mechanical/electrical/plumbing
- Computer/technology
- Communications
- Acoustics
- Software systems
- Sustainability or carbon neutrality
- Efficiency certification standards, e.g., LEED
- Energy efficiency – new and retrofit
- Secure facilities (military, research, correctional)

C. Structural Systems

- Foundations
- Tunnels
- Buildings
- Seismic design
- Towers
- Bridges
- Stadiums

D. Survey & Mapping Technology

- Geometrics, ALTA, land title and rights surveys
- Control, GPS, monitoring or construction surveying
- Survey mapping, GIS/LIS, photogrammetry

E. Environmental

- Hazardous waste
- Solid waste
- Restoration, reclamation or remediation
- Air quality
- Noise
- Recycling
- Waste pond management
- Carbon sequestration and trading
- Mitigation

F. Waste and Storm Water

- Wastewater collection/treatment and disposal
- Residuals management and reuse
- Graywater systems
- CSOs
- Mine tailings
- Agricultural
- Storm water management
- Erosion control

*Entries in **Category A** must be accompanied by a supplementary REPORT containing findings, graphs, drawings and other material as applicable.*

G. Water Resources

- Hydraulics, hydrology
- Surface and groundwater supply development
- Treatment
- Transmission, distribution and storage
- Watershed management
- Water use reduction
- Flood risk management
- Climate adaptation
- Coastal and eco-system restoration
- Locks/dams/water control structures
- Irrigation

H. Transportation

- Highways
- Rail
- Airports
- Marine/ports
- Public transit
- Intermodal facilities

I. Special Projects

- Safety and security
- Corrosion protection/cathodic protection
- Program and construction management
- Land development
- Trenchless technologies
- Recreational facilities
- Subsurface engineering

J. Small Projects

- Total project construction budget does not exceed \$5 million. At the entrant's discretion, except for entries in Category A, projects under \$5 million are not limited to this category.

K. Energy

- Transmission and distribution
- Power generation
- Renewable energy
- Cogeneration
- Energy storage technologies
- Energy usage reduction programs
- Demand side management

L. Industrial & Manufacturing Processes & Facilities

- Petrochemical
- Biotech
- Manufacturing
- Heavy industry
- Industrial waste
- Materials handling
- Mining, metallurgy, mineralogy



CONTACT INFORMATION

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