



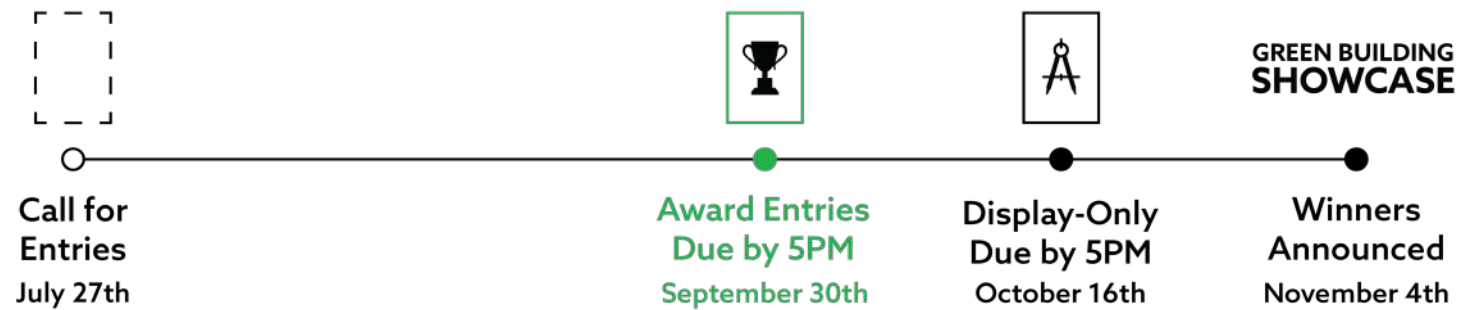
GREEN BUILDING SHOWCASE

2026 Call for Entries



2026 GBS AWARDS PROGRAM SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Every year, Built Environment Plus highlights the successes of the local green building community with our annual Green Building Showcase Awards Program and Celebration. Projects may be submitted for consideration in the GBS Awards Program, and all entries will be displayed in the GBS '26 Project Gallery on November 4th. Projects may also be submitted as Display-only Submissions for the Project Gallery.



SUBMIT YOUR WORK FOR AWARD CONSIDERATION

Have a project or product that you believe deserves recognition? Enter it into the BE+ GBS '26 Awards Program, which features the Category Award Series and the Green Building of the Year Award.

Choose which award category you want to compete in. If you want to submit more projects, or enter a single project into multiple award categories, you may purchase additional entries. The board you submit for award entry will be displayed at the Green Building Showcase on Nov. 4th.

Through the completion of the submission form, and the design of your gallery board, you will be able to make the case to our judges as to why your project is the category leader.

THE JUDGING CRITERIA

- That the entry is designed or built by a Massachusetts company or is located in Massachusetts.
- How well the data provided emphasizes why the entry is leading for the selected award category.
- How innovative the entry is – How does it break new ground?
- How significant of a positive impact the entry has on the environment, social equity, and the economy – How much good does it do?
- How replicable the entry is – Can it be a model for others to copy?

AWARD ENTRY RULES & REQUIREMENTS

There will be one winner for each award category.



All entries must be designed or built by a Massachusetts company or be in Massachusetts. They can be submitted for other awards with a new entry and fee. All submissions will be displayed at GBS '26 and eligible for People's Choice Award.

2026 GREEN BUILDING OF THE YEAR AWARD

Must be built and completed within the past 5 years (as of 11/04/26). You cannot re-submit an entry that previously won Green Building of the Year at the BE+ Green Building Showcase.

The top three finalists for Green Building of the Year will have the opportunity to give a 3-minute project overview during GBS '26.

TEN CATEGORY LEADER AWARDS:

Building Decarb Upgrades & Interventions
Carbon and Energy
Equity and Inclusion
Health and Wellness
Site and Landscape

Student Project of the Year (*free entry*)
Sustainable Building Operations
Sustainable Construction Innovation
Sustainable Interior Fit-out
Sustainable Whole-Building Renovation

Can be partially completed or completed buildings, innovative products, designs, plans, master plans, landscapes, infrastructure and programs or other sustainable innovations related to the built environment. See full category descriptions on pp 3-5.

2026 CATEGORY LEADER AWARDS

BUILDING DECARB UPGRADES & INTERVENTIONS

Small upgrades, such as duct sealing or replacing end-of-life mechanical systems, can go a long way in improving performance and reducing carbon pollution in existing buildings. These "zero over time" (ZOT) strategies avoid the high capital costs of deep energy retrofits by focusing on the smaller, incremental improvements to reduce emissions over time. This award recognizes targeted, phased interventions rather than whole building major renovations that include deep energy retrofits. It focuses on physical improvements that reduce operational carbon emissions, and could include a ZOT plan. The submitted project should have a product or practice that is high impact, innovative, and replicable.

CARBON & ENERGY

As we face a global climate emergency, we know that buildings are both a major contributor and thus a major intervention point. In order to meet the Paris targets we must eliminate all GHG Emissions in the built environment by 2040. This award recognizes a new construction or major renovation project that drastically reduces its embodied and operational carbon through innovative solutions with high impact and high replicability, or moves the needle significantly towards net negative carbon emissions.

EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Social equity in the built environment requires careful attention to justice and fairness. People are directly involved or affected by the diversity of the project team, the engagement with the community and users, and in the workforce responsible for the materials and construction of the project itself. This award is to recognize a project that took clear strides to be just and fair in all aspects of its design, construction, and ongoing operation. This project's process and design results should be innovative, high impact, and replicable.

SITE & LANDSCAPE

The site is an integral part of the holistic project, but often the connection between the built architecture and the land itself is often not integrated for true localized ecological cohesion. This award is to recognize a project whose approach to site and landscape design was done with deep consideration of the local ecology, biodiversity, and regional integration, with an outcome that is high impact, innovative, and replicable.

SUSTAINABLE BUILDING OPERATIONS

How we operate and occupy a building over its lifetime can have greater impacts than the building's initial construction. This award recognizes excellence in how buildings are operated and managed across multiple areas including improvements in health and wellness, air quality, water, waste, and energy efficiency, lighting, safety, thermal comfort, accessibility, transportation, acoustics, maintenance, metering, sensors and controls, and adaptability. The submitted project should have a product or practice that is high impact, innovative, and replicable.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

There is a duty of care that comes with designing a project, and it is especially important when considering the health and wellness impacts the built environment can have on us. Healthy materials, water quality and access, active design, lighting, biophilia, ventilation, and other design considerations all come together to create the indoor environmental conditions. This award is to recognize a project that made a significant enhancement in its ability to support occupant health. The result should be high impact, and replicable.

STUDENT PROJECT OF THE YEAR (Free Entry)

The next generations are inheriting the current built environment as well as the challenges we face in its transformation to positively impact the environment, social equity, and the economy. Students K-Graduate are thinking up extraordinary visions and solutions, and with this new award, we look to spotlight and celebrate their contributions to our future. Submissions are free and can be submitted [here](#).

SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION INNOVATION

The construction of the built environment, and its buildings, is often overshadowed by the opening of the finished project and then is lost to time. We know that this phase of the project's life is monumental, challenging, and of very high impact. This award is to recognize the amazing innovation and leadership bringing sustainability to construction through things like waste management, site remediation, IAQ, ecology preservation, and reducing emissions during construction. The submitted project should have a product or practice that is high impact, innovative, and replicable.

SUSTAINABLE INTERIOR FIT-OUT

The interior of a building often uglies out or times out, in terms of tenant turn-over, before it wears out. This award recognizes exceptional approaches to reducing environmental impact from interior fitouts, while improving human health, that are both innovative and replicable. These may include strategies for adaptability, deconstruction, material reuse and more. The submittal could be a part of a project, a whole project, a product or even an initiative that is high impact, innovative, and replicable.

SUSTAINABLE WHOLE-BUILDING RENOVATION

Renovating existing buildings puts embodied carbon to use and minimizes the significant environmental impact of demolition and building new. However, renovations can be complicated and require creative thinking to meet project needs while prioritizing sustainability goals. This award celebrates innovative and holistic approaches to renovating a building by addressing aspects such as energy, equity, water, materials, resiliency, community, health, and more. The submitted project should deliver impacts and insights that can be replicated.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why are award submissions due so early?

Our Judges need time to review all submissions, and we need time to print.

Does my project need LEED, Passive House, etc. in order to be eligible for an award?

No, projects are not required to have certifications in order to be eligible.

Can I take my board after the showcase?

We will hold onto all winning project boards. You are welcome to take all others.

Does the Award Entry or Display-only Board purchase include admission to GBS on Nov. 4?

No - [you can purchase tickets here](#).

Does Event Sponsorship include Award Entries or event tickets?

Yes, every level of [Event Sponsorship](#) includes at least 2 event tickets, 1 award entry, and 1 display-only submission.

Can I upgrade a Display-only Submission to an Award Entry?

Yes, you can purchase Award Upgrades [here](#).

Does a project have to be in Massachusetts to eligible?

No. Projects can either be in Massachusetts or designed or built by a Massachusetts company.

Does a project have to be completed to eligible?

For the Green Building of the Year Award, projects must be built and completed within the past 5 years (as of Nov 4, 2026).

For all other awards, partially completed or completed buildings, innovative products, designs, plans, master plans, landscapes, infrastructure and programs or other sustainable innovations related to the built environment are all eligible.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

1: Purchase Award Entries

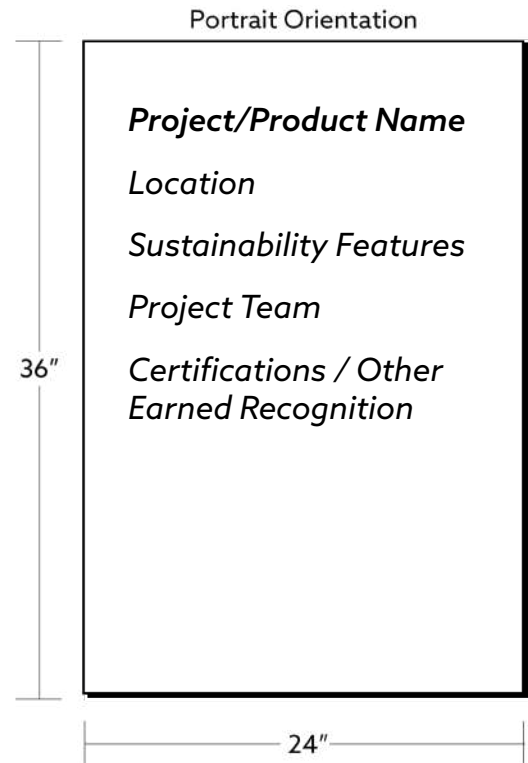
[Purchase entries through Neon](#). (GBS Sponsors will be provided specific instructions.) Keep note of your order number. You will need this when submitting your board.

2: Create PDF Board

BE+ will be handling the printing, fabrication, transportation, and displaying of your board.

All you need to do is create a compelling graphic presentation of your submission and match the following requirements:

- 24" x 36" PDF
- Portrait orientation.
- No crop & bleed marks.
- 10MB file size limit
- Text, diagrams, photos, or other graphic elements allowed.
- Must include the project/product name, location, sustainability features, project team, and list any certifications or other earned recognition.



3: Complete Submission Form + Upload PDF

Submission form fields:

- Award category (*Award category (see pages 3-5 for full details)*)
- Neon order number
- Full name, email address, phone number, and company of submitter.
- Project title, team, and completion date (or Anticipated Date)
- Project Description (<300 words)
- Any data that emphasizes how your project is qualified for selected award category
- How innovative is your entry – How does it break new ground? (<300 words)
- What is the significance of the entry's positive impact on the environment, social equity, and the economy? How much good does it do? (<300 words)
- How replicable is your project? How can the entry be a model for others? (<300 words)

[Complete submission form and upload PDF to form](#)

4: Purchase Tickets to Attend GBS 2026 Awards Celebration, Nov. 4 2026

[Purchase tickets through Neon](#). (GBS Sponsors be sure to use your promo codes.)

Learn more at builtenvironmentplus.org/greenbuildingshowcase/