

And the winners of EUSEW 2018 are...

The winners of the EU Sustainable Energy Awards 2018 were announced today at a dedicated Awards Ceremony with the European Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy, Miguel Arias Cañete, in Brussels. So which projects swayed the judges and the public vote?

12 projects across 4 categories (Consumers, Public Sector, Young Energy Leaders and Businesses) made it onto the Awards shortlist this year. The Citizens' Award was also presented to one of the 12 nominees, voted for by the public in the weeks leading up to EUSEW 2018.

CONSUMERS: Consumers at the centre of the energy system

The Consumers award went to Bio.Energy.Parc (Saerbeck, Germany). In 2008, the 7,200 inhabitants of Saerbeck decided to become self-sufficient in renewable energy by 2030 implementing over 150 actions based on an approach to link people and profits and transforming an old army munitions site into a sustainable energy park. [More info](#)

Speaking after today's ceremony on behalf of Bio.Energy.Parc.Saerbeck, Guido Wallraven said: "We are proud to have received this award today. It's a big 'yes' to continue our way. We have been working on this project for the past 10 years and we are not at the end yet. This prize gives us the motivation to continue."

PUBLIC SECTOR: Leading by example

The Public Sector award went to PEACE Alps (Turin, Italy), which supports Alpine authorities in making the transition to a low-carbon area. Involving more than 200 municipalities across 6 countries, PEACE_Alps focuses on energy management, building renovation and public lighting. It also helps authorities overcome barriers in implementing their strategic action plans. [More info](#)

Asked what advice he had for other projects, Silvio De Nigris accepting the award on behalf of PEACE_Alps said: "Have a good project that is a good idea, with a good team behind it. We have been lucky at PEACE_Alps with such a team. It's about the spirit of the people and believing in the change and transition."

BUSINESSES: Greening businesses

The Businesses award this year went to WiseGRID (Valencia, Spain), which is funded by the EU's Horizon 2020 programme. WiseGRID has developed a set of 9 solutions to improve the electricity grid and empower customers, by making the grid smarter, open and more consumer orientated. [More info](#)

"It's very exciting. We are very happy about both our awards – from the jury and especially the citizens' Award – this means that it's not just the technology which is ready to help the energy transition but society is also willing to embrace the energy transition," said Antonio Marques accepting the award for WiseGRID.

YOUNG ENERGY LEADERS: Youth for climate action

New this year is the Young Energy Leaders award which went to Czech Sustainable Houses (Český Krumlov, Czech Republic). What began as an online hub providing information on sustainability,

developed into an annual architectural competition inspiring young architects to lead the way in energy transition with their innovative, energy-saving designs. [More info](#)

“This award is for all the people that worked on Czech Sustainable Houses project. We started this project four years ago and we’ve created the largest student architecture competition. We also created a new system for energy management and households. We’re just a little grassroots organisation, but we’re dynamic,” explained an elated Pavel Podruh, Czech Sustainable Houses project on hearing that his project won.

Finally, the Citizens’ Award was revealed, chosen from the 12 finalists in an online poll. Nearly 10 000 votes were cast online. At the 3 June deadline, WiseGRID was the winner with over 2 000 votes – confirming the jury’s choice!

About the nominees

The 12 finalists for the 2018 EUSEW Awards were chosen from about 100 applications from 19 countries of this year’s most successful projects for clean, secure and efficient energy. Now in its 12th edition, these Awards are a prominent feature of the EUSEW Policy Conference each year.

The finalists in each category were:

Consumers – Karise Permatopia – EcoVillage, Denmark; Bio.Energy.Parc.Saerbeck – Renewables Community, Germany; and PEAKapp – a household energy administration App, Austria.

Public Sector – 300 Schools Retrofit Programme, France; Peace_ALPS – Cross-border cooperation on energy issues; 10 years of North-West Croatia Regional Energy Agency, Croatia.

Businesses – WiseGRID – Tools for a smarter grid, Spain; REScoop Plus – helping renewable energy cooperatives cut consumption, Portugal; and Infinity Building – A low-cost sustainable building.

Young Energy Leaders – Czech Sustainable Houses – Young architects competition, Czech Report; Green Your Brewery with EkoEnergy!, young Europeans helping the environment, Finland; L’Ecovigilessa Vanessa – the ecopolicewoman, Italy.

More information

[The EU Sustainable Energy Awards](#)

[2018 Finalists](#)

[#EUSEW18](#)

The EU Sustainable Energy Week continues with a full programme

- With over 60 sessions and about 3000 participants registered, the high-level [EUSEW Policy Conference](#) is Europe’s most important conference on energy efficiency and renewables. Organised every year by the European Commission (Directorate-General for Energy and EASME), EUSEW 2018 will focus on this year’s theme – ‘Lead the clean energy transition’ (Brussels, Charlemagne Building and Residence Palace, 5 -7 June). For the full programme and web-streaming of sessions: [EUSEW website](#).
- A **networking village** hosts a range of activities including an Energy Fair with interactive stands; Energy Talks; an Energy Lab with 10 projects pitching in front of experts; and Energy One2One meetings.

- Going on throughout the months of May and June around Europe are the **Energy Days** – which are activities and events that promote clean energy transition. Find out [here](#) about Energy Days near you.