

ACEC *Excellence in Arizona* ENGINEERING AWARDS



2026 Call for Entries

Celebrating Arizona's Most Innovative Engineering Projects

The American Council of Engineering Companies of Arizona (ACEC Arizona) invites engineering and surveying firms to submit their most outstanding projects for the 2026 Engineering Excellence Awards.

IMPORTANT DATES & FEES

The Engineering Excellence Awards recognize projects that demonstrate exceptional innovation, complexity, achievement, and value while highlighting the critical role engineering plays in improving our communities and quality of life.

All submitted projects will be recognized at the **2026 Engineering Excellence Awards Gala in January 2027.**

IMPORTANT DATES

Milestone	Date
Submission Portal Opens.....	July 1, 2026
Entry Deadline	September 31, 2026 (5 p.m.)
Judging	October 1-15, 2026
Winners Notified	October 31, 2026
Engineering Excellence Awards Gala.....	January 2027

ENTRY FEES

Submission	ACEC AZ Member Firms	Non-Member Firms
First Project Submission	\$400	\$650
Additional Project Submissions	\$300 each	\$550 each

Payment Methods: Entry fees may be paid online by credit card or by check payable to ACEC Arizona.

WHY ENTER?

- **Industry Recognition**

Showcase your firm's engineering expertise before clients, public agencies, elected officials, and industry leaders.

- **Marketing Exposure**

Winning projects receive promotion through ACEC Arizona publications, social media, media outreach, and event marketing.

- **Team Recognition**

Celebrate the engineers, surveyors, clients, and project partners who made the project successful.

- **People's Choice Award**

All projects are eligible for attendee voting during the Engineering Excellence Awards Gala.



AWARD CATEGORIES

Projects may be entered in one of eleven categories:

A. Studies, Research & Consulting Engineering Services –

Non-design services, feasibility studies, technical research, public outreach, value engineering, and consulting services.

B. Building & Technology Systems – Mechanical, electrical, communications, technology, sustainability, and energy-efficiency projects.

C. Structural Systems – Buildings, bridges, tunnels, towers, stadiums, and seismic design.

D. Surveying & Mapping Technology – GIS, photogrammetry, GPS, construction surveying, and mapping technologies.

E. Environmental – Remediation, air quality, recycling, mitigation, and restoration projects.

F. Waste & Storm Water – Wastewater treatment, stormwater management, erosion control, and related infrastructure.

G. Water Resources – Water treatment, transmission, storage, flood control, and watershed management.

H. Transportation – Roadways, highways, rail, airports, transit, ports, and multimodal facilities.

I. Special Projects – Construction management, trenchless technologies, land development, and specialty infrastructure projects.

J. Energy – Power generation, transmission, distribution, renewable energy, and storage.

K. Industrial & Manufacturing Facilities – Manufacturing, mining, industrial processing, and related facilities.



PROJECT SIZE CLASSIFICATIONS

Projects are judged separately in two divisions:

1. **Small Projects** – Construction value under \$2.5 million
2. **Large Projects** – Construction value over \$2.5 million

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ENTRANTS

In conjunction with an ACEC goal to promote the essentiality of engineering, we strongly encourage that all project entries, no matter the category, also highlight an emphasis on the project's direct benefits to the public.

Examples Include:

- **Water Resources:** The number of gallons of clean water that will result from the project and the potential impact.
- **Resiliency:** Efforts to protect X number of people from the impact of rising sea levels and floods.
- **Climate Change:** Examples of the amount of reduction of carbon released into the atmosphere the project will result in, thus also reducing the project's footprint.
- **Transportation:** Examples of reduced congestion and improved safety; improved previously restricted community access; and reduced commuting time.



ELIGIBILITY & JUDGING

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Projects must:

- Be managed from an Arizona-based office.
- Have been substantially completed between August 1, 2024 and July 31, 2026.
- May be located anywhere in the world.
- Be submitted by an Arizona engineering or surveying firm.
- Be entered in the category most appropriate for the project.
- Only the work performed by the submitting firm will be judged.

ACEC Arizona membership is not required to participate.

JUDGING CRITERIA

A panel of industry professionals evaluates each project based on the rating guidelines listed:

- **Overall Engineering Excellence**
- **Innovation**

Unique or creative applications of engineering principles, technology, or materials.

- **Future Value**

Contribution to the advancement of the engineering profession and public awareness.

- **Community Impact**

Social, economic, environmental, and sustainability benefits.

- **Complexity**

Technical challenges, constraints, and innovative problem solving.

- **Client Success**

Achievement of client objectives, schedule, budget, and performance goals.



AWARDS PRESENTED

- **Honor Awards**

Recognizing projects demonstrating engineering excellence.

- **Grand Awards**

Presented to the highest-scoring projects in each category.

- **Judges Choice Award**

Selected from all Grand Award recipients as the competition's top project.

- **People's Choice Award**

Selected by attendees during the Engineering Excellence Awards Gala.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

PART 1 – OFFICIAL ELECTRONIC ENTRY FORM & FEES

All project information shall be submitted electronically. Each document must be uploaded separately through [ACEC Arizona's Awards Submittal Portal](#). The electronic entry must contain the following items:

- ✓ Official Electronic Entry Form*
- ✓ Consent Form
- ✓ Entry Fee Payment

** Please include the credit for photos or graphics to your photographers or creator, as necessary. Original completed entry form must be signed by both the entrant and the client/owner (senior executive/officials), stating that the submitted project was substantially completed and ready for use between Nov. 1, 2024 and Oct. 31, 2026. Electronic signatures are accepted.*



PART 2 – PROJECT SUBMISSION

Required Documents

1. **Client/Owner Letter:** (one page max.) Letter addressed to ACEC National describing the relationship of the client/owner and entrant in the development of the project, the project is ready to use, and how the entrant's contribution exceeded the client/owner's needs. The letter must be signed by the project's client. Specifications: PDF format. NOTE: If you are unable to provide a client/owner letter, please submit other documentation confirming that the client/owner has approved the project to advance to the National competition (e.g., an email from the client/owner indicating their approval for the project to move forward to the National level).
2. **Executive Summary**
3. **Project Description**
4. **Key Participants List:** List the key participants on the project including firm name, address, phone number, website, and e-mail address of each participant. Include contractors, subcontractors, other engineers, architects and designers significantly involved in the project. Specifications: 8.5" x 11"; Excel file.
5. **Photographs or Graphics:** Six different photos or graphics (one per page) with captions describing the subject matter. Captions shall begin with: Photo 1, Photo 2, etc. Six photos or graphics are required: three showing the completed project and three depicting the project development in progress. Specifications: JPG file; RGB format; High Resolution (300 dpi). Three of the photographs must show the completed project and provide the highest level of visual impact for publicity. Three of the photographs must display the planning, startup, and/or construction phases of the project.
6. **Display Panel Image**

Required documents continued on next page

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- 7. Media List:** E-mail addresses of local newspapers, TV, radio stations, and other media outlets where your project can be highlighted. If the state MO or entrant prefers to handle all local and national publicity for the project, include a statement to that effect. Specifications: Excel file; 8.5" x 11" or 11" x 17".
- 8. Press Release:** (two pages max.) Press release that clearly and concisely describes the project and the entrant's participation, based on information presented in the Project Description. Also describe the value of the project to the community including information such as the number of people served, cost savings, etc. Do not reference other awards the project has won. Specifications: double-spaced; 8.5" x 11"; PDF format.
- 9. PowerPoint Presentation:** PowerPoint file, containing 8 slides including one (1) title slide that must include Firm Name, Client, Project Name, Project Location, and Project Category. Include the Firm, Client, EEA logos, followed by: Six (6) slides which include photos 1 through 6 (same photos as Item #5 above), and captions for each photo. Do not include caption/text on the photo. One (1) additional slide that contains the photographic display panel. Accepted file format is PowerPoint (PPT or PPTX) only. This presentation will be used by the judges as part of their evaluation.
- 10. Supplemental Report (Category A only)**

AWARDS VIDEO MATERIALS

To support Gala production, entrants must provide:

- Minimum 25 high-resolution images
- Photo captions document
- Company logo file
- Display panel image
- Before-and-after project photos



PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAY PANEL REQUIREMENTS

Panel Size – 30" x 30" mounted gatorboard

Maximum Images – 6 photos and/or graphics

Text Limits – Maximum 250 words

Required Information

- ACEC Arizona logo
- Project title
- Project location
- Client name
- Entering firm name



Scan the code or visit the link below to access the awards submission portal:
<http://eea.acec.org/arizona>

QUESTIONS?

ACEC Arizona

3550 N. Central Ave., Ste. 1140

Phoenix, AZ 85012

(602) 995-2187

administration@acecaz.org