MICHIGAN GREEN BUILDING COLLABORATIVE

MiGBC

MiGBC LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Award Descriptions & Eligibility Criteria

MiGBC Leadership Awards

The Michigan Green Building Collaborative (MiGBC) celebrates the year's accomplishments in the green building industry by awarding notable projects, individuals, and organizations. We recognize those who strive for innovation, sustainability, and community vibrancy. MiGBC's mission is to transform the way buildings and communities are designed, built, and operated, in a way that improves the quality of life in Michigan. **Deadline for submission is October 16, 2026.**

The MiGBC Leadership Awards promote outstanding green building initiatives by recognizing projects and individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to achieving healthy, energy-efficient green buildings in the state of Michigan.

Leadership Awards Descriptions

The following award descriptions and eligibility criteria are intended to guide nominations and ensure a clear, consistent, and transparent review process for the 2026 Leadership Awards.

Energy Award

The Energy Award recognizes exceptional performance in energy efficiency, electrification, and renewable energy. Submissions must demonstrate measurable greenhouse gas emissions reductions, innovative clean energy integration (solar, storage, geothermal), or whole-building electrification strategies. Nominations should highlight verified performance metrics, operational optimizations, or third-party certifications (e.g., LEED, ENERGY STAR, Zero Carbon, Passive House).

Water Award

The Water Award honors high-performance achievements in water conservation, reuse, stormwater management, and related operational energy reductions. Submissions should emphasize cutting-edge design and operational strategies, such as blackwater/greywater recycling, net-zero water systems, and advanced green infrastructure. Nominations should highlight verified consumption metrics or relevant sustainability certifications (e.g., LEED Water Efficiency, Living Building Challenge Water Petal).

Transportation Award

The Transportation Award highlights excellence in low-carbon mobility, EV infrastructure deployment, active transit, and smart transportation demand management. Submissions should showcase innovative physical design and operational programs, such as fleet electrification, shared mobility hubs, or transit subsidies, that yield measurable reductions in commuter emissions. Nominations should highlight alignment with or certifications from high-performance standards (e.g., LEED Location & Transportation).

Regenerative Design Award

Moving beyond harm reduction, this award honors projects that actively restore ecosystems, uplift communities, and optimize human health. Eligible projects integrate seamlessly with their environment to deliver net-positive impacts—producing clean energy and water, restoring biodiversity, and enriching indoor environments. Submissions must demonstrate transformative design and operations, featuring strategies like advanced indoor air quality, biophilic design, deep embodied carbon reductions, and non-toxic materials. Projects aligning with holistic frameworks (e.g., Living Building Challenge, WELL, RESET) are strongly encouraged.

Changemaker Award

The Changemaker Award celebrates an exceptional individual whose grassroots advocacy, dedicated leadership, and hands-on efforts have driven meaningful, enduring, and tangible sustainability impacts within local communities.

Leadership Award

The Leadership Award honors an outstanding individual or organization demonstrating broad vision, market transformation, and pioneering influence across Michigan's built environment through policy, advocacy, or high-impact project execution.

Nominee Submission Considerations

When preparing your nomination, please highlight:

- Alignment with MiGBC's mission
- Our mission is to transform the way buildings and communities are designed, built and operated, that improves the quality of life in Michigan.
- Alignment with the applicable award description(s)
- Measurable outcomes, such as energy or water savings, emissions reductions, ROI, utility incentives, etc.
- Innovative or creative strategies that advance sustainability beyond standard practice
- Leadership, collaboration, and influence on teams, projects, or the broader community
- Potential for the project or approach to be replicated or scaled
- Clear and accurate contact information, and any supporting visuals or materials that illustrate impact

Eligibility Criteria

- Eligible nominees: Project teams, individuals, and organizations
- Project teams qualify for: Energy Award, Water Award, Transportation Award, Regenerative Design Award
- Individuals qualify for: Changemaker Award, Leadership Award
- Organizations qualify for: Leadership Award
- Geography: Projects must be located in Michigan. Individuals must work in Michigan.
- Timeline: Projects must demonstrate meaningful progress or measurable impact during calendar year 2026. Projects that started earlier but show significant outcomes in this period are eligible. Ongoing programs with sustained performance improvements are eligible. Timeline requirements do not apply to individual nominees.
- Submission & Award Limits: Nominees may be submitted in multiple years and across multiple categories, but may only receive a Leadership Award once per category.

Michigan Green Building Collaborative - Leadership Awards

Timeline

September 1
Nominations open. The initial nomination form is designed to be quick and low-lift. Use this form to provide high-level information; it will be used to screen for alignment with MiGBC's mission and identify finalists. Please ensure contact information is accurate.

September 1 – October 16
Rolling review of nominations as they are received. Submissions may be disqualified at this stage if they do not meet eligibility or alignment criteria. Initial nominations must be submitted by October 16, 2026.

Finalist notifications begin on a rolling basis. Selected finalists will be invited to provide more detailed project information over the following weeks, including photographs, headshots, and other relevant materials. Final materials are due no later than October 16, 2026.

October 19 – November 6
Final review and winner selection period.

December 10
Winners will be announced live at the MiGBC Leadership Awards Gala!

MiGBC MICHIGAN GREEN BUILDING COLLABORATIVE

Leadership Awards Gala
December 10

5:30 PM - 8:30 PM
McKay Tower Ballroom
Grand Rapids, MI

Review and Voting Process

All nominations and finalist submissions will be evaluated by an independent panel of reviewers to ensure a fair and transparent process. Reviewers will use a standardized scoring rubric to assess alignment with MiGBC's mission, measurable impact, and innovation. Finalists will be selected based on these evaluations, and winners will be determined in advance of the Leadership Awards event, **where they will be announced live.**

Voting Criteria

Impact (5 points)

- Does the nominee demonstrate quantifiable or measurable results? (e.g., environmental, economic, or social)? Does the nominee have quantifiable results or achievements in high performance/green building design, construction, or operations?

Innovation, Vision, and Strategy (5 points)

- Does the nominee demonstrate innovative, new, or unique building or design methods or incorporate new technologies? Does the nominee demonstrate forward-thinking leadership and strategy?

Education & Advocacy (5 points)

- Does the nominee promote further education or advocate for a high-performing built environment?

Community Benefit (5 points)

- Does or will the nominee enrich the surrounding community?

Bonus: Replicable or scalable (Max 1 point)

- Does the project have the potential to be replicated or scaled?
- Is there potential for the individual's contributions to be replicated or scaled?
- Is there potential for the organizational programs or approaches to be replicated or scaled?

If yes, the nominee will receive a bonus point. Max 1 point.