



2026 SEGD Global Design Awards

Criteria Guidelines for Sustainability Impact Recognition

Please use the criteria below to complete your sustainability impact description in the entry portal. This information is required for your submission to be evaluated for Sustainability Impact Recognition.

Submitting for Sustainability Impact Recognition is optional and applies only if your project incorporates sustainable design practices. If your project is selected for an Honor or Merit SEGD Global Design Award, the sustainability impact description will then be reviewed by the SEGD Sustainability Committee. Those deemed eligible will receive Sustainability Impact Recognition. The SEGD Life Centered Design Award is presented annually to one project selected from the winning projects that receive Sustainability Impact Recognition.

1. Process (50%) - Select all that apply

- ☐ **Material Sustainability (15%):** Rate the project's intent and plan for materials.:
 - ☐ Are materials sustainably sourced, reclaimed, or recyclable?
 - ☐ Are finishes and adhesives low VOC, non-toxic, or biodegradable?
 - ☐ Is there a plan in place for the end-of-life phase of the project, such as recycling, upcycling, or composting?
- ☐ **Energy Efficiency (10%):** Evaluate energy consumption during the design/build phase and operational energy efficiency.
 - ☐ Does the project incorporate energy-efficient or renewable energy solutions? (e.g., LED lights, motion sensors, solar power, etc)
 - ☐ Has energy consumption been minimized during the design, construction, and operational phases?
 - ☐ Was the travel footprint considered, including the distance materials traveled to the fabricator, the transport of materials or completed work to the installation site, and the miles or flights required for in-person meetings.
- ☐ **Waste Reduction (10%):** Rate how effectively waste is minimized, including during construction and the lifecycle of the project.
 - ☐ Has waste been minimized in the production process (e.g., modular components, digital prototyping)?
 - ☐ Are there strategies in place for reducing waste during maintenance or eventual renovation/dismantling?

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Criteria Guidelines for Sustainability Impact Recognition (cont.)

- ☐ **Community-Centered Design (10%)** Rate how effectively a project involves, reflects, and benefits the local community throughout the design process and final implementation.
 - ☐ Was there a collaborative design process involving local community input to ensure cultural relevance and functionality?
 - ☐ Are local community needs and values reflected in the design, making the space feel welcoming and inclusive?
- ☐ **Circularity (5%):** How well does the design promote a circular economy, i.e., cradle-to-cradle design principles?
 - ☐ Does the exhibit support a circular economy, with parts designed for easy disassembly and reuse?
 - ☐ Are modular or reusable components integrated to allow future exhibits to repurpose elements?
 - ☐ Was a comprehensive education plan provided to the client outlining how to properly dismantle and reuse components?

2. Narrative (25%) - Select all that apply

- ☐ **Storytelling Impact (10%):** Rate the project's ability to tell a compelling story that raises awareness about sustainability, ecological crises, resilience, human health and wellbeing.
 - ☐ Does the exhibit tell a compelling story about sustainability, ecology, or conservation?
 - ☐ Are there clear messages on environmental or social sustainability issues that are relevant to the audience?
 - ☐ Does the narrative connect people to the place, highlighting stories of stewardship and individuals who have championed preservation?
- ☐ **Clarity of Connection (10%):** Rate how clearly the narrative connects people to their environment and supports ecological understanding.
 - ☐ Are environmental themes or sustainable practices clearly communicated through visuals, text, media or interactive elements?
 - ☐ Does the narrative help visitors understand their connection to the natural world or encourage ecological stewardship?
 - ☐ Does the narrative teach or give tangible examples that visitors can implement in their daily lives?
 - ☐ Does the story provide a deeper understanding of cultural heritage and Indigenous histories within the ecological framework?

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Criteria Guidelines for Sustainability Impact Recognition (cont.)

- ☐ **Call to Action (5%):** Does the project inspire actionable steps for visitors to take toward sustainability in their own lives?
 - ☐ Does the project provide actionable steps for visitors to take toward sustainability, resilience and human health and wellbeing in their own lives? Are replicable behaviors modeled that visitors can adopt (e.g., conservation tips, waste reduction practices)?
 - ☐ Are interactive components included to engage visitors in sustainability practices (e.g., digital pledges, eco-friendly challenges)?

3. Place (Nature & Broader Ecosystem Connection) (25%) - Select all that apply

Does the project harmonize with the natural or built environment, enhance ecological awareness and biodiversity, and minimize negative environmental impacts?

- ☐ **Ecosystem Integration (10%):** Score how well the project integrates with the natural ecosystem, enhancing biodiversity or contributing to habitat regeneration.
 - ☐ Is the design integrated with the natural landscape, preserving and complementing local biodiversity? (example: dark night lighting considerations such as down lighting and timer controls for exterior signs)
 - ☐ Are sustainable landscaping practices employed around signage to support habitat regeneration (e.g., using native plants)?
 - ☐ Did the design team work with an ecologist?
- ☐ **Human-Nature Connection (10%):** Rate how effectively the project facilitates reconnection between humans and nature, promoting a sense of place and ecological awareness?
 - ☐ Does the exhibit design include elements that encourage mindfulness and connection with nature (e.g., natural materials, sensory experiences)?
 - ☐ Are there designated areas within the exhibit for reflection or observation of the surrounding environment?
- ☐ **Biodiversity Enhancement (5%):** Rate the tangible impact on local biodiversity or wildlife support.
 - ☐ Has the project been enhanced to support biodiversity, such as through pollinator-friendly plants, birdhouses, or microhabitats?
 - ☐ Does the design include elements that directly or indirectly benefit local ecosystems?