

Sustainable Business Awards (SBA) Frequently Asked Questions

What are the Sustainable Business Awards (SBA)?

Since being established in 2017, the European Chamber SBA have been continuously improving, growing, and promoting awareness. In collaboration with our knowledge partner, SYNTAO, the objective of the European Chamber SBA is to:

- highlight innovative leadership achievement,
- advance sustainability awareness, and
- promote responsible business models.

What is different about this year's SBA?

A new award category, **Sustainability Due Diligence Leader** has been created. In 2022, the European Commission published a proposal for a Directive on corporate sustainability due diligence. This Directive aims to foster sustainable and responsible corporate behaviour and anchor human rights and environmental concerns in companies' operations and value chain partners. Due diligence encourages companies to effectively identify, prevent, terminate and mitigate the actual and potential adverse impacts on human rights and the environment. Therefore, due diligence for corporate sustainability is receiving more and more attention. This award recognises companies with well-established well-structured due diligence mechanisms and well-implemented projects to support corporate sustainability.

What are the Awards Categories?

Each category will require a detailed strategy and policy; stakeholder engagement; practice and measures, organisational structure and other factors implemented by the company or organisation.

- Advanced Performer in Decarbonisation
- Navigating Diversity and Inclusion
- Outstanding Environmental Performance
- Pioneer in Advancing Rural Revitalisation
- Resilient Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure Leader
- Sustainability Due Diligence Leader

Application Process

Where can I find the application forms, and which category should I apply for?

You can download all application forms at the bottom of this [link](#). The applicant can choose whichever category(ies) their strategy and practice best demonstrate their effort in promoting sustainable business.

When can I apply, and how do I submit my application?

Applications are open now until COB of 4th July 2022. Once you have completed your application form(s), please email it to sba_submission@european-chamber.com.cn, naming the email subject as: SBA Application_ [Award Category]_[Your Company Name].

Is it free to apply for the awards? If not, how and when do we pay?

Members of the European Chamber of Commerce in China apply for free. Non-members have a 2,500RMB application fee, a one-time fee, even if the company applies for more than one award.

After submitting the application forms to sba_submission@european-chamber.com.cn, a notification will be received via email to process the payment. Please note that the application is considered eligible for evaluation and fully submitted only after the application fee is paid.

If you are interested in joining the membership, don't hesitate to contact Mr Thorsten Moeller at tmoeller@european-chamber.com.cn.

Can I apply for/win more than one award category?

A company can apply to more than one award category. But a company cannot apply for multiple categories using the same case/program.

A company can submit different application forms with different cases/programs to apply to one category. But we are expecting one thorough and detailed case in one application form.

One company may win more than one award if the case ranks first in judges' evaluation.

Is my company a small and mid-size enterprise (SME) or a multinational corporation (MNC)?

The application follows the European Chamber's definition of SME and MNC for eligibility: a SME has fewer than 1,000 employees worldwide, and a MNC has more than 1,000 employees worldwide. Local entities follow the same category as their parent company. The European Chamber will review all applications and will categorise them accordingly.

Is there a time limit for the case presented in an application?

There is no definite answer, as every project is very different. For example, some projects may be in their initial stages (i.e. Pioneer in Advancing Rural Revitalisation), some may be at the second phase of a long-term plan, and others may have already ended but have a lasting impact. As a result, project duration or time limit is not a deciding factor, as long as the case best illustrates the project model, project scale, project impact, etc.

Must be a global/HQ case or a case in China?

The party who rolls out and executes the program and the program's location are not the decisive factors. The beneficiary of the program shall be in China.

How to define the “Carbon Risks”, “Carbon Opportunities” and “Carbon Resilience”? - quoted from the application form of **Advanced Performer in Decarbonisation Award**.

“Carbon Risks & Opportunities (300-word maximum) Please introduces whether the company has assessed how Green House Gases (GHG) emission is linked with its core business and the potential risks and opportunities of carbon emission with the company’s financial returns. Please introduce the carbon resilience with business operation and what carbon-factors are taken into consideration.”

Carbon opportunity refers to the potential positive impacts of climate change on an organisation. Efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change can produce opportunities for organisations, such as through resource efficiency and cost savings, the adoption and utilisation of low-emission energy sources, the development of new products and services, and building resilience along the supply chain.

Carbon risk refers to the potential negative impacts of climate change on an organisation. It includes physical risks related to the chronic and acute physical impacts of climate change (e.g., shifts in climate norms and extreme weather events such as hurricanes and floods) and transition

risks associated with the global transition to a low-carbon economy (e.g., climate-related policy actions and litigation claims, technological innovations, and shifts in supply and demand for certain commodities, products, and services).

Carbon resilience refers to the capacity of social, economic, and environmental systems to cope with a hazardous event or trend or disturbance. Carbon resilient development needs to combine strategies to deal with climate risks (adaptation) with actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation), resulting in improvements for nature's and people's well-being.

Evaluation Process

When will the evaluation start and end?

The judges will evaluate all application forms from July to August 2022.

What are the assessment criteria and values?

We are looking for holistic demonstration on strategy, goals and mechanisms; **One** thorough and detailed case; Data and substantial evidence to show your impact; Leadership and forward-thinking. The specific assessment values are provided to our judges.

How are the winners selected?

Comprehensive award evaluation criteria have been developed with valuable input from CSR experts. Experts from different working backgrounds and nationalities will evaluate each criterion to give well-balanced and fair evaluation results. Per receiving the final score of each judge, an average score of each applicant will be calculated. Winners are the ones with the highest scores.

An information session with all judges will also be organised to discuss and align the results. Should there be an extreme situation, separate meetings will be organised to discuss specific applications before making the final decision.

How many winners are selected?

Ideally, we will have a total of 12 winners. Each category will have a MNC and SME winner. Do keep in mind that based on our criteria, we must at least receive 3 applications per company size to consider a winner for that category. For example, if we only receive 2 SME applications for the Pioneer in Advancing Rural Revitalisation Category, then we will not consider an SME winner for that category.

When can we know if our company will win the awards?

The winners will be announced at the Sustainable Business Awards 2022 Ceremony and the 6th Anniversary Cocktail Reception, which will take place on 15th September 2022.

What companies won the Sustainable Business Awards in previous years?

- **2021 Winners:** Alfa Laval, BASF, Bosch, Ferrero, Inclusion Factory, Novo Nordisk, Rabobank, Société Générale, SUEZ, Walmart, Waste2Wear
- **2020 Winners:** Danone China, BOSCH China, Covestro China, Novo Nordisk, Philips China, SAP, Signify China, StoraEnso China, University of Nottingham Ningbo China, Volvo China, Waste2Wear
- **2019 Winners:** Covestro China, EF Education First, Saint-Gobain China
- **2018 Winners:** Bayer China, Carrefour China, Outotec China, Volvo Construction Equipment China



European Chamber
**SUSTAINABLE
BUSINESS
AWARDS**



European Union
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- **2017 Winners:** L'Oreal China, SAP, Tetra Pak China

Those interested in hearing more about previous winners and their cases, are invited to join our **Sustainable CEO Talk Series**; where winner companies detail their projects. For more information on the next Sustainable CEO Talk Series, please contact Ms Mei Chu at mchu@european-chamber.com.cn.

Sustainable Business Awards 2022 Ceremony

When will the Sustainable Business Awards Ceremony take place?

The Ceremony will take place on 15th September 2022 and will be organised jointly in celebration of the 6th anniversary of these awards.

Can my company sponsor the Sustainable Business Awards? If so, how?

If your company is interested in sponsoring this year's Sustainable Business Awards, please get in touch with Mr Thorsten Moeller at tmoeller@european-chamber.com.cn. He will introduce all sponsorship packages available with different degrees of visibility. Please note that the award nomination process is independent of sponsorship involvement.

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