

Call for Proposals Best Climate Practices 2016 Contest

Expanding access to climate financing

In the context of its Best Climate Practices observatory, the International Center for Climate Governance (ICCG – www.iccgov.org) invites you to submit innovative proposals focusing on **Expanding access to climate financing**.

Founded in 2009, the International Center for Climate Governance (ICCG) is a joint initiative of [Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei \(FEEM\)](#) and [Fondazione Giorgio Cini](#). The main focus of ICCG activities is on the design of climate policy and related governance issues. This call is part of the activities of the **Best Climate Practices** observatory, a project promoting the development of new ideas to address climate change and its main impacts.

The Best Climate Practices observatory

The Best Climate Practices (BCP - www.bestclimatepractices.org) surveys and incentivises **practical projects and initiatives tackling climate change** that deserve attention for their **originality and effectiveness**.

The platform is designed to build a **network among researchers, institutions, businesses and political actors, while providing meaningful information to the general public**. All the best practices collected on the website have been submitted and/or chosen on the basis of their capacity for implementation and potential for replicability.

With the aim of harnessing the brilliance of the public at large and promoting the most valuable proposals, every year the Best Climate Practices observatory organizes an **international contest dedicated to innovative best practices** to tackle climate change or to address a related challenge.

In 2016 the Best Climate Practices contest reaches its fourth edition, after the successful experiences of the 2015 contest on “Climate Change and Water Availability for Food Production”, the 2014 edition on “Energy Poverty Alleviation” and the first edition in 2013 on “Urban Resilience”.

The challenge: expanding access to climate finance from the bottom up

The focus of the 2016 contest is **Expanding access to climate financing**.

Finance is one of the key elements for driving climate action and implementation in 2016 and in the years ahead.

After the **Paris Agreement**, which has set a long-term path towards emission reductions and adaptation measures, the international community, governments and private sectors are called on to transform their climate pledges into meaningful actions and gradually increase the current mitigation and adaptation efforts, also by providing adequate funding.

Billions of dollars were pledged by national governments, multilateral development banks and multilateral climate funds right before and during the COP21 UN climate change conference in December 2015, where the wealthier countries also committed themselves to extending their financial pledge of providing USD 100 billion in 2020 for an additional five years.

However, the key challenge in the next few years will be to **efficiently match on a local scale commitments and contributions with actual needs and plans**.

Even though **on a global level the momentum is building up**, climate finance will require **further steps and developments to trickle down effectively from the top to the base of the pyramid** and reach those micro and small-scale entities, as well as the most vulnerable populations, that are often unable to access proper financial products and services.

According to the World Bank, some 2 billion people worldwide remain without bank accounts, despite a 20% drop in the figure since 2011. The problem of **limited access to finance** is most acute in the emerging and developing economies, but low income populations and small enterprises face similar barriers even in the richest countries.

In recent years **digital technology**, the spreading of **telecommunications** and **non-traditional models** (such as **micro-finance** and **crowdfunding**) have been crucial elements in cutting a new path towards innovative, non-conventional and more inclusive financial services, which involve, for example, **mobile** and **internet** technology, **peer-to-peer lending**, **micro-insurances**, **cloud services**, **social media** and **big data** application.

Advances in technology, increasing global awareness and efforts are driving substantial progress worldwide. Creativity and innovation are essential for helping to develop **alternative ways and best-suited tools to raise funds and bridge the gap** between climate-related financial flows and those potential beneficiaries who need it most: individuals, micro-, small-and medium sized enterprises.

The Best Climate Practices contest 2016 will focus on ideas and projects designed to raise and drive financial support toward local, small-scale mitigation and adaptation actions (including but not limited to: clean energy, land management, sustainable farming, climate risk reduction and resilience building) and/or to increase inclusiveness and simplify access to climate finance (addressing, for example, investors' risks, transparency, predictability, flexibility or accountability issues).

Eligibility criteria

Who can participate

The contest is open to **anyone**, regardless of nationality, age or qualification.

Proposals can be submitted by **individual users, teams or organizations**.

Submitters can be the authors of the practice or proponents of a third party's practice.

However, it is strictly forbidden to submit someone else's practice/idea as one's own. Where an intellectual property owner's authorization is needed, it is the responsibility of the submitter(s) to obtain such authorization prior to submitting the final materials.

Projects previously exhibited or published on the Best Climate Practices platform may be resubmitted, as long as they conform to the rules and the entry guidelines of the competition. For practices/ideas that have been exhibited or published elsewhere, we request to be informed through the **Note section** in the *ad hoc* web form.

Eligible practices

The contest is open to practices (projects, initiatives, tools or ideas) designed to **raise and drive financial support toward local, small-scale climate actions** and/or to **increase inclusiveness and simplify access to climate finance**.

Submissions not consistent with the 2016 BCP Contest theme, even if commendable projects in themselves, will not be taken into consideration.

Admitted practices can present:

- a **brand new idea** or
- an **already existing project** (in its preliminary phase, under way or already concluded).

Proposals must refer to **concrete ideas or projects**: generic papers or dissemination initiatives will not be taken into consideration.

Practices must be submitted according to the rules explained in this call for proposals and following the accompanying guidelines published on the Best Climate Practices platform.

To understand what is considered a **best practice**, read the definition on the [About page](#).

Submission procedure and rules

In order to submit a proposal, participants need to be registered on the BCP platform at www.bestclimatepractices.org. Participants are required to complete the entry form on the [Submit a Practice](#) webpage by following the instructions given.

Each registered user may submit one or more practices.

No application fee is required.

Contest Dates

- **Start date for submissions:** March 15, 2016 (12 noon CET)
- **Submission deadline:** May 30, 2016 (5.00 pm CEST)
- **Online polls:** June 13, 2016 – July 18, 2016 (5.00 pm CEST)

Any change in the above deadlines will be communicated in due course to the contest's participants and posted on the Best Climate Practices website.

Submissions and votes received after the deadline will not be taken into consideration.

Evaluation procedure and criteria

Admitted practices are graded with a score equally weighted between the results of the public online poll and the assessment by the international Expert Panel. However, proposals that do not meet the minimum score by the Expert Panel cannot receive the award.

The author¹ of the practice receiving the highest score is awarded the prize.

Stage one: Expert Panel Assessment

The practices/ideas submitted will be evaluated by a Panel composed of five high-profile experts from international universities and organisations, chaired by ICCG Director Carlo Carraro.

The list of members of the Expert Panel for the 2016 Best Climate Practices contest will be published in due course on the Best Climate Practices website.

The Panel performs its assessment according to the following criteria:

- **feasibility** of the practice proposed;
- **replicability** potential of the practice;
- **originality** of the practice;
- **potential or proven impact** of the practice in raising/driving finance toward climate-related actions and/or in increasing inclusiveness and simplifying access to climate finance.

Stage two: public online poll

Registered users on the Best Climate Practices website can rate the contestants' practices and share them on the social networks, increasing their chances to win.

In order to vote for the practices, users need to register and/or log into the BCP website.

Each registered user has a single right of vote for each practice. Users can assign from one to five points for each of the following criteria:

¹ The author is to be understood to mean the physical person, the association or the organization that invented, created, designed the submitted practice.

- **feasibility** of the practice proposed;
- **replicability** potential of the practice;
- **originality** of the practice;
- **potential or proven impact** of the practice in raising/driving finance toward climate actions and/or in increasing inclusiveness and simplifying access to climate finance.

All the practices admitted to the competition will be shown on the **Contest** webpage at the close of the submission stage (see Contest Dates section).

Award

The winner practice of the 2016 BCP contest will be awarded 3000 euros².

Moreover, ICCG will promote the winner and other deserving projects in competition through its communication channels.

The winner will be announced in October 2016.

Contacts

International Center for Climate Governance (ICCG)

Island of San Giorgio Maggiore 8
I-30124 Venice, Italy
Mail: info@bestclimatepractices.org

² Gross amount subject to withholding tax.