# **IWA Climate Smart Utilities Recognition Programme** 2023Edition

The International Water Association (IWA) is calling on utilities from [low- and middle-income](https://iwa-network.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/IWA-country-classification-2023.pdf) countries (L-MIC) to apply to its **Climate Smart Utilities Recognition Programme.** This programme aims to inspire utilities to become increasingly Climate Smart and embrace the cultural shift required for a water-wise future. The recognition programme is built on the IWA Climate Smart Utilities [Vision](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSemis1kCqcmZNjkahVj-KjYEBe_7sKcCMS6EaIiR2_jvllQ9g/viewform) and is articulated around three interconnected pillars:

1. **Adaptation**: Improving resilience to adapt to climate change
2. **Mitigation**: Assessing and aiming to reduce GHG emissions
3. **Leadership:** Leading and inspiring others to take Climate Smart action for a water-wise future

Utilities operating in low and middle-income countries that are taking any kind of climate smart action are invited to apply to the 2023 Climate Smart Utilities Recognition Programme. This year’s edition has a special focus on low- and middle-income countries and seeks to raise awareness of the steps being taken by water and sanitation utilities operating in challenging conditions to respond to climate change. This initiative seeks to recognise ambitious and innovative utilities in low- and middle-income countries that are leading the way towards a low carbon water and sanitation sector, embracing the change needed to adapt to and mitigate climate change while raising awareness among citizens and industries, engaging regulators, and inspiring other utilities to take action. The programme is an excellent way to gain recognition and share best practices towards becoming a Climate Smart player in the water sector.

Selected utilities will be recognised in a formal event during the IWA Water and Development Congress & Exhibition (WDC&E), in Kigali, Rwanda, 10-14 December 2023. These successful utilities will also receive a recognition certificate. The five most inspiring narratives will be selected for a presentation during the WDC&E. The selection will be based on a comprehensive assessment performed by an independent jury. IWA will cover the travel costs (air/ground transportation and accommodation) for one representative for each selected utility to present at the WDC&E.

The recognition programme offers an outstanding opportunity to self-reflect on your Climate Smart journey, present your actions around the three pillars (adaptation, mitigation and leadership) to an international audience, and share your aspirations to achieve a climate smart water sector.

# **HOW TO APPLY**

Utilities can apply by filling the offline application form and sending it to [climate@iwahq.org](mailto:climate@iwahq.org) or by submitting the [online application](https://forms.gle/FrE3sZSyaPyq1j8aA). For more guidance on the application process, please refer to Annex 1 in the [guidance document.](https://iwa-network.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/CSU-Recognition-Programme-Framework_2023.pdf)

# **ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**

An independent jury will assess the applications based on the following criteria:

* The utility shows a commitment to the global climate agenda (Yes / No)
* The application content (narrative, actions, and aspirations) is valuable for the international water community and IWA members (Yes / No)
* The overall approach presented is ambitious – considering the utility’s context and current challenges (1 to 3)
* Some of the components presented can be a model for other utilities facing similar challenges (1 to 3)
* Some of the components presented are innovative (1 to 3)

Incomplete, inaccurate or late applications will not be considered. Selected applicants will be notified by 1 November 2023. Selected utilities will be formally recognised as Climate Smart during a special event to be held during the IWA WDC&E in Kigali, Rwanda on 10-14 December 2023.

# **APPLICATION FORM**

1. **Contact information**

|  |
| --- |
| First name: |
| Last name: |
| Organisation: |
| Role at organisation: |
| Country of residence: |
| Email: |
| IWA membership number (if applicable): |

*Note: we recommend that all applying utilities obtain an IWA membership to facilitate future knowledge exchange. However, you may submit your application even if you have not finalised your membership.*

1. **Specify your utility type**

Tick the most appropriate:

Water utility

Urban drainage

Sanitation utility[[1]](#footnote-2)

1. **Optional submission information**

The application should include the following optional information:

* High-quality, relevant and original pictures
* Contact details of relevant persons to discuss technical content
* Any additional supporting document or resource to share with the jury

1. **Narrative**

The applicant utility should submit a narrative summarising their Climate Smart vision and key actions taken, especially considering how these relate to the three main pillars of adaptation, mitigation and leadership as described in the [guidance framework](https://iwa-network.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/CSU-Recognition-Programme-Framework_2023.pdf). Utilities should provide ***a description of the actions taken, the actions in planning, and the gaps or challenges identified, even those not yet addressed.***

*Notes:*

*If a component under any of the pillars has not been addressed by your utility, please mention “yet to address or implement”.*

*The submission must not exceed 3 pages, excluding any additional material or supporting documentation.*

**Keep in mind the Climate Smart pillars:**

1. **Adaptation**: Improving resilience to adapt to climate change. Essential services are delivered while reducing the risk of failure in view of climate change.
2. **Mitigation**: Assessing and aiming to reduce GHG emissions.
3. **Leadership:** Leading and inspiring others to take climate smart action for a water-wise future, either at the local, national, or international level.

*For more information about the IWA Climate Smart Utilities Recognition Programme, please consult the Guidance document -* *[Guidance Framework for the Application](https://iwa-network.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/CSU-Recognition-Programme-Framework_2023.pdf) or contact Charles Joseph at*[*charles.joseph@iwahq.org*](mailto:carlos.diaz@iwahq.org).

Please type or copy-paste here your Climate Smart application (3 pages maximum).

By submitting this application, you agree to endorsing the IWA Climate Smart Utilities [Vision](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSemis1kCqcmZNjkahVj-KjYEBe_7sKcCMS6EaIiR2_jvllQ9g/viewform). [Click here](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSemis1kCqcmZNjkahVj-KjYEBe_7sKcCMS6EaIiR2_jvllQ9g/viewform) for more information.

I agree to the assessment conditions and to be contacted in relation to the application.

I understand that the information submitted (mandatory 3-page narrative and non-mandatory supporting documents and indicators) is going to be treated as confidential and will only be used for the purpose of the Recognition Programme.

If recognised as an IWA Climate Smart Utility, I consent to develop a Climate Smart story to be published by IWA.

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1. Sanitation utilities are defined as service providers engages in the collection, transport, treatment and disposal or reuse of human excreta, domestic wastewater and solid waste, and associated hygiene promotion (Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council, UN). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)