



Call for Entries

2027 Engineering Excellence Awards

2026
Engineering Excellence
Award Winner

Kimley-Horn | *Charlotte, North Carolina*



The Pearl: Charlotte's Innovation District
Charlotte, North Carolina

2026 Grand Conceptor Winner

Kimley-Horn
The Pearl: Charlotte's Innovation District
Charlotte, North Carolina



2027 Call for Entries

The American Council of Engineering Companies of North Carolina (ACEC/NC) Engineering Excellence Awards (EEA) is an annual competition that honors and recognizes engineering and surveying firms for projects which demonstrate the highest degree of achievement, value and ingenuity.

ELIGIBILITY

An engineering or surveying firm is eligible to enter the awards program as long as they hold current membership in ACEC/NC. Non-member firms are not eligible to submit.

GENERAL CRITERIA

- 1** Member engineering firms' entries must be submitted through ACEC/NC to qualify for the National Competition at ACEC.
- 2** Projects entered in the ACEC/NC competition must have be physically located in North Carolina and executed by a company physically located in North Carolina. The project team should be primarily based in North Carolina.
- 3** Planning & Mapping category must have been publicly disclosed by the clients between November 1, 2024 and October 31, 2026.
- 4** All other categories must have been substantially completed and ready for use between November 1, 2024 and October 31, 2026.
- 5** Engineering projects that have won awards in other state or national organizations' awards programs may be entered.
- 6** Applicants can submit one project per category. A project not receiving an award in one year may be resubmitted the following year in the same category provided all eligibility criteria are met.
- 7** Each entry must be submitted electronically in adherence with the specifications noted on page five of this document. Non-compliance with the rules will automatically disqualify an entry. Please read requirements thoroughly.

DATES TO REMEMBER

ACEC/NC schedule for submittals are as follows:

Deadline for Entries

August 14, 2026

Judging of Entries

August 17- 31, 2026,

Notification of Placement

September 1-2, 2026

Awards Ceremony

October 7, 2026

ACEC/NC grand winners may also re-submit to ACEC National's EEA Competition. (limit 10 entries)

ACEC National's schedule for submittals are as follows:

Deadline for Entries

January 6, 2027

Judging of Submittals

February 19-21, 2027

EEA Gala - Washington, DC

April 20, 2027

JUDGING

Entries are to be judged (by an outside panel of judges) on the basis of overall engineering excellence in each of twelve practice areas, based only on the work performed by the entering firm and scored in accordance with the guidelines listed below. Based on each project's overall score, projects can receive one of the following awards: Honors Award (85 - 90 points), Grand Award (91 - 100 points). One of the Grand Awards will be the Grand Conceptor (highest points awarded by the judges). Once the judging has been completed, entrants will be notified as to whether or not their project will be honored with an award, but the specific level of the award the project will receive will not be announced until the ACEC/NC Engineering Excellence Awards Gala on October 7, 2026 at The Ruth, Charlotte, NC.

25%

Original or Innovative Application of New or Existing Techniques:

- Does the entry demonstrate use of a new science or a breakthrough in the general knowledge of engineering?
- Does the entry represent a unique application of different technology, techniques, materials, or equipment?

20%

Future Value to the Engineering Profession:

- Will the entry redefine current engineering thinking?
- Does the entry advance a positive public image of engineering excellence?

15%

Social, Economic & Sustainable Design Considerations:

- Do the solutions identified produce secondary benefits of value to the community environment?
- Does the entrant's approach provide society with social, economic, or sustainable development benefits?
- Is the public health, safety or welfare significantly improved as a result of entrant's and/or the affected environment's, contribution to the project?

20%

Complexity:

- Did the entry successfully address very complex criteria or unique problems?
- Were extraordinary problems of site, location, hazardous conditions, project requirements or similar elements present?
- Did the entry require out-of-the-ordinary technology and ingenuity for achievement of project goals?

20%

Exceeding Client / Owner Needs:

- Did the engineer or entrant successfully engage the client/owner in the overall project development process?
- Is it an economical and cost-effective solution?
- How did final cost relate to original budget estimate?
- How closely does the entrant's solution meet the total goals of the client/owner?
- Did the entrant meet the client's time schedule?



GRAND CONCEPTOR AWARD

Water & Environment



Grand Award



Honor Awards

Constructed water & environmental projects

Planning & Mapping



Grand Award



Honor Awards

Planning and mapping projects not associated with a constructed project

Vertical



Grand Award



Honor Awards

Constructed building or building systems projects

Energy & Utility



Grand Award



Honor Awards

Constructed energy & utility projects

Transportation



Grand Award



Honor Awards

Constructed linear projects associated with any transportation mode or element

Site Design



Grand Award



Honor Awards

Constructed site projects from any sector of the built environment

Water & Environment

Constructed water & environmental projects

- Storm Water Management
- Erosion Control
- Hydraulics, Hydrology
- Surface & Groundwater Supply Development
- Water Treatment, Distribution & Storage
- Watershed Management
- Water Use Reduction
- Flood Risk Management
- Climate Adaptation
- Coastal & Eco-system Restoration
- Locks/Dams/Water Control Structures
- Irrigation

Planning & Mapping

Planning and mapping projects not associated with a constructed project

- New Products, Materials & Technologies
- Expert Testimony
- Basic Research & Studies
- Computer/Software Technology
- Technical Papers
- Public Outreach/Involvement
- Water Conservation
- Security Plans
- Project Feasibility Studies/ Economic/Risk
- Value Engineering
- Geometrics, ALTA, Land Title & Rights Surveys
- Control, GPS, Monitoring or Construction Surveying
- Survey Mapping, GIS/LIS, Photogrammetry

Vertical

Constructed building or building systems projects

- Building/Technology Systems
- Mechanical/Electrical/Plumbing
- Acoustics
- Sustainability or Carbon Neutrality, Efficiency Certification Standards, e.g, LEED
- New & Retrofit, Secure Facilities (Military, Research, Correctional)
- Structural Systems, Foundations, Buildings, Seismic Design
- Towers
- Stadiums

Energy & Utility

Constructed energy & utility projects

- Transmission & Distribution
- Power Generation, Renewable energy, Cogeneration
- Energy Storage Technologies
- Energy Usage Reduction Programs
- Demand Side Management
- Subsurface Engineering
- Hazardous Waste
- Solid Waste
- Restoration/ Reclamation/ Remediation, Air Quality, Noise
- Recycling, Waste Pond Management, Carbon Sequestration & Trading, Mitigation
- Wastewater Collection/ Treatment & Disposal
- Residuals Management & Reuse
- Graywater Systems
- CSOs
- Mine Tailings
- Agricultural

Transportation

Constructed linear projects associated with any transportation mode or element

- Highways
- Airports
- Rail
- Marine/Ports
- Public Transit
- Intermodal Facilities
- Bridges
- Tunnels

Site Design

Constructed site projects from any sector of the built environment

- Industrial
- Residential
- Commercial
- Parks and Recreation
- Urban Design
- Petrochemical
- Biotech
- Manufacturing
- Heavy industry
- Industrial waste
- Materials handling
- Mining, metallurgy, mineralogy

HOW TO SUBMIT AN ENTRY :

- 1** Upload Entry Form along with items 2 through 5 in the online portal.
- 2** A 100-word summary of the project clearly and concisely describing the project and the entrant's participation in the project on firm's letterhead.
- 3** If you are not the Prime Consultant, you must have an endorsement/approval letter from the Prime Consultant and the client indicating concurrence with your submittal. If you are the Prime Consultant, you must have an endorsement/approval letter from client indicating concurrence with your submittal.
- 4** THREE 8" x 10" HIGH RESOLUTION photographs representing various visual aspects of the project. Each photograph should be followed by a brief description of the photo within the PDF or MS Word document submitted. Photo descriptions should not exceed three sentences (approximately 75 words or less). Please submit the three (3) HIGH RESOLUTION jpegs.
- 5** One compiled copy of the following, not to exceed 1500 words total:
 - Role of the entrant's firm in the project
 - Role of other consultants participating in the project
 - Brief description of the entrant's contribution to the project addressing each of the following:
 - Original or Innovative Application of New or Existing Techniques
 - Future Value to Engineering Profession
 - Social/Economic and sustainable design Considerations
 - Complexity
 - Exceeding Owner/Client Needs
- 6** Please contact Tammy Bromley at tbromley@acecnc.org to receive link to the portal for submitted items.
- 7** An entry fee of \$800 for ACEC/NC members must be paid and received no later than August 14, 2026

Entry Form

2027 Engineering Excellence Awards

This year entries will be submitted electronically. The information listed below will need to be completed online when you submit the entry. Please be prepared to furnish all the information requested below for each entry. Please limit the project name to 45 characters.

Please contact Tammy Bromley at (919) 781-7934 or tbromley@acecnc.org to establish a username to upload your submission(s)

PROJECT PRACTICE AREA (place an X in one box):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water & Environment | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy & Utility |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planning & Mapping | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vertical | <input type="checkbox"/> Site Design |

PROJECT INFORMATION:

Name of Project: _____

Project Location: _____

Owner/Client Address: _____

Entering Firm Name: _____

Firm _____ Contact: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____ Email: _____

Budgeted Project Cost: _____ Actual Project Cost: _____

Scheduled Date of Completion: _____ Actual Date of Completion: _____

If your project entry is a winner please indicate your plans to re-submit to ACEC for national competition:
_____ Will re-submit _____ Will not re-submit

ENTRY FEES:

\$800 per entry for ACEC/NC Members only

Checks in the appropriate amount due (made payable to ACEC/NC) must be received at the ACEC/NC office no later than August 14, 2026.

The ACEC/NC office is located at:
American Council of Engineering Companies of North Carolina
150 Fayetteville Street, Ste. 515
Raleigh, NC 27601

Questions? Please contact [Tammy Bromley](mailto:tbromley@acecnc.org) or the ACEC/NC office at 919-781-7934.