

GBA Award for Impact and Leadership in Bioeconomy 2025

Guidelines on the nomination, submission and selection process

Preamble

The Global Bioeconomy Alliance (**GBA**) e. V. is a network of institutions from all over the world, which play a leading role in the field of bioeconomy with the mission to strengthen the cooperation in research and development, innovation transfer as well as teaching to accelerate the turnaround to a more sustainable society and planetary health.

The GBA Award for Impact and Leadership in Bioeconomy, funded by the Novo Nordisk Foundation (grant number: NNF24SA0098034) has the aim to boost global bioeconomy and to raise awareness about its significance by recognizing achievements which enhance a rapid transition towards a sustainable bioeconomy.

The Award

1. The GBA Award for Impact and Leadership in Bioeconomy recognizes individuals or teams whose work, either on a local or global level, has a significant impact on the turnaround to a more sustainable society and planetary health.
2. Topics for the GBA Award for Impact and Leadership in Bioeconomy 2025 include, but are not limited to:
 - Development of novel technologies enabling the decarbonisation of industrial processes or advancing existing decarbonisation technologies from low TRL to pilot scale;
 - Development of completely novel bio-solutions with large potential for sustainability impact through replacement of unsustainable current practices;
 - Initiating policy changes or societal acceptance and implementation at local, regional or larger scale, which may set a trend for knock-on effects;
 - Development of solutions that demonstrate immediate societal impact of innovative processes or practices, especially in the emerging economies.
3. The award consists of three components:
 - A personal prize of €15.000 for discretionary use;
 - A one-year grant of €100.000 to support and progress research and/or activities related to the work recognized by the award;
 - A one-year complimentary membership of the GBA of the awardee or their institution.

Eligibility

1. Eligible for the award are individuals and teams of individuals.
2. Candidates can be nominated by individuals from the public or private sector with proven expertise in bioeconomy-related topics.
3. Self-nominations are possible.
4. Nominators are allowed to submit more than one nomination.
5. Nominations for the recognition of lifetime achievements, posthumous nominations, and project proposals for funding not dealing with the awarded work will not be accepted.
6. Nominators should avoid situations leading to any conflicts of interest and, therefore, take into consideration the circumstances listed under “Final general aspects”.
7. The following persons cannot be nominated:
 - Affiliates / employees of the GBA member institutions (TUM, UQ, UNESP, DTU, Tec de Monterrey);
 - Members of the Board of Directors of the Novo Nordisk Foundation;
 - Active members of any Novo Nordisk Foundation Committee;
 - Board Members, directors or employees of companies within the Novo Group;
 - Members of the Award Committees.

However, nominations made by these persons are permitted with the exception of Members of the Award Committees.

4. Nominations that would, from the perspective of the GBA and the Novo Nordisk Foundation, compromise the GBA Award for Impact and Leadership in Bioeconomy and the reputation of both institutions, will not be considered in the selection process. This condition will not be misused.

The nomination process

1. Nominations must be submitted to the submission email award@bioeconomy.world using the forms provided in Annex 2. Nominations sent to a different email address and/or without using the template will not be accepted.
2. All nominators must consider the selection criteria and quality parameters that are summarized in Annex 1 and the nominations should reflect them.
3. The Award Committees should be able to recognize from the front page that the nomination is coming from qualified individual experts. The nominator must indicate his or her affiliation and sign the nomination. Digital signatures are accepted. Details regarding the front page etc. are given in Annex 2.
4. For the pre-selection phase nominators have to provide the following (details are given in Annex 2):
 - An abstract describing the nominee`s achievements;
 - CV of the nominee.
5. For the final selection phase nominators have to provide the following (details are given in Annex 2):
 - Detailed description of the nominee`s research focusing on the main characteristics and merits of the nominee`s bioeconomy work. It should summarize the most important ideas, achievements, inventions, or outcomes and impact of the nominee`s work;
 - If applicable: Up to ten relevant key publications and/or patents;
 - If applicable: Up to three relevant prizes.

Two-phase evaluation and selection process

Preparation phase:

1. At first, the nominations are screened and checked under formal aspects and the above-mentioned criteria (see Annex 1) by the Head of the Office of the GBA.
2. Furthermore, the contact person of the GBA, Professor Dr Volker Sieber, and the contact person of the Novo Nordisk Foundation, Dr Torben Borchert will examine if nominations, from the perspective of the GBA and the Novo Nordisk Foundation, are suitable for the GBA Award for Impact and Leadership in Bioeconomy and aligned with the reputation of both institutions. Nominations which do not fulfill these criteria will be excluded from the further selection process.
3. Only the nominations that fulfil the described criteria are qualified to be reviewed by the members of the Award Committees.
4. The Members of the Award Committees are identified by the GBA in consultation with the Novo Nordisk Foundation. Aspects such as interdisciplinarity, gender balance, diversity in terms of organizational affiliation, and geographical region are considered. Nominators are excluded from the Award Committees.

First evaluation and selection phase:

1. The Award Committee of the first evaluation and selection phase (i. e. the **Pre-Selection Committee**) will consist of up to five representatives from different GBA member institutions. They cannot be part of the Final Selection Committee (see below).
2. The Head of the Office of the GBA will grant the Members of the Award Committee access to the nominations and the evaluation template.
3. The Members of the Pre-Selection Committee will be asked to evaluate the nominations according to the selection criteria and quality parameters defined and rank them according to the terms mentioned in Annex 1. They will establish a shortlist containing the top five nominations (based on the average scores from the Pre-Selection Committee members). The Committee will have to provide a short summary explaining their ranking decisions.
4. The selection process will include at least two virtual meetings and email exchanges. The Head of the Office of the GBA will organize the virtual meetings, which will be led by a member of the Board of the GBA.
5. The first evaluation and selection phase ends when the members of the Pre-Selection Committee agree on a final shortlist by simple majority.
6. The top five nominees on the shortlist will be invited to submit an extended nomination.

Second evaluation and selection phase:

1. The **Final Selection Committee** will consist of:
 - One representative from the Novo Nordisk Foundation;
 - Two representatives from different GBA member institutions;
 - Four external international experts with a broad insight into bioeconomy.
2. The Head of the Office of the GBA will grant the Members of the Award Committee access to the full nominations, the evaluation of the Pre-Selection Committee and the evaluation template.
3. The Members of the Final Selection Committee will be asked to evaluate the nominations according to the selection criteria and quality parameters defined and rank them according to the terms mentioned in Annex 1. The selection process ends when the members of the Final Selection Committee agree on the award winner by simple majority. The Committee

will have to provide a short summary explaining their decision.

4. The selection process will include up to three virtual meetings and email exchanges. The Head of the Office of the GBA will organize the virtual meetings, which will be led by a GBA representative. This representative will not be part of the Final Selection Committee.

Conditions for the awardee

1. The awardee will be expected to present a keynote lecture at the GBA Conference on Key Technologies in the Bioeconomy (KTB 2025), held in October 2025 in Copenhagen, Denmark.
2. The award fund of €100,000 will be transferred to the institution where the awardee conducts his/her work.
3. The awardee is obliged to report to the GBA every four months on the use of the funds (proof of use, reports on work progress, etc.).
4. Equitable Access Commitment:
 - Information sharing and transparency must be ensured for knowledge and data gained from the funded activities
 - If relevant to the funded activities, the awardee should make a plan for how to obtain global access for commercialised research protected by intellectual property rights to ensure availability and accessibility at an affordable price in relevant low and lower-middle income countries.
5. The awardee acknowledges that data and results of the activities funded by this award should, if reasonably relevant and possible, be promptly and broadly disseminated through Open Access Publication. "Open Access Publication" means publication in a peer-reviewed journal or other method of relevant and broad public dissemination in which the research outputs originating from the activities will be distributed online, free of access charges or other barriers. Publication may be delayed for a reasonable period for the purpose of seeking patent protection. Nothing in this section shall be construed as requiring Open Access Publication in contravention of any applicable ethical, legal, or regulatory requirements.

Final general aspects

1. To ensure that there is no actual or potential conflict of interest, nominators should not submit nominations if the following circumstances apply:
 - First-degree relationships, marriage, life partnership, and domestic partnership with the nominator/nominee;
 - Personal (financial) interest in the nomination's success or (financial) interest by persons listed above;
 - Interdependent relationship between nominator/nominee, extending six years beyond the conclusion of the relationship;
 - Any other situation that would compromise the ability to unbiasedly evaluate the proposal.
2. The submitted nominations as well as the evaluation results will not be made public.
3. Members of the Award Committees will be asked to treat information related to the evaluation and selection process, including the nomination documents, with confidentiality and not to disclose the names of the awardee before any official publication from the GBA.
4. Collected personal data regarding the nominators, the nominees, the Members of the Award Committees and other involved persons will only be processed in the frame of the above-described processes. For this purpose, data will be stored by the GBA and

distributed to the Members of the Award Committees and other involved persons dealing with the nomination, evaluation and selection process. This also includes the transfer of data to countries outside the EU/EEA. All persons involved will be informed that documents and information must be kept strictly confidential and that personal data must be handled in accordance with the European Union General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the German Data Protection Regulation (DSGVO) and the Federal Data Protection Act (BDSG). Detailed information can be found on https://www.bioeconomy.world/fileadmin/downloads/gba_privacy_policy.pdf.

Annex 1

Selection criteria and quality parameters:

The following selection criteria and quality parameters should be addressed in the nominations. Both Award Committees will take into consideration these parameters for generating the shortlist and for selecting the awardee.

- Relation of the nomination to the Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations. The relation must shortly be characterized by the nominators.
- Contribution of the nominee to bioeconomy, technology development, and implementation.
- Originality and creativity of the concept compared to international competitors.
- Merits of the nominee in terms of achievements, commitments and leadership experience.
- If applicable: Novelty of the research/innovation method(s) and concept(s).
- If applicable: Quality of the nominee`s best publications/patents.
- If applicable: Quality of the nominee`s important prizes.
- Impact/influence on economic, political stakeholders and/or decision-makers.

Evaluation terms:

The Pre-Selection Committee establishes its shortlist by categorizing the nominations according to the following terms:

- outstanding (A)
- excellent (A/B)
- very good (B)
- average (B/C)
- below average (C)

Annex 2

- Nominations must be submitted to the email award@bioeconomy.world using the forms.
- Nominations sent to a different email address and/or without using the template will not be accepted.
- Handwritten nominations will not be accepted.
- Nominations must be signed by the nominators. Digital signatures are accepted.
- Nominees are encouraged to assist nominators in completing the nomination.
- If needed, the Global Bioeconomy Alliance e.V. will contact the nominators at the beginning of the selection process.
- **Submission deadline for the pre-selection phase: Wednesday, April 30, 2025.**
- **Submission deadline for the final selection phase: Wednesday, June 18, 2025.**

The front page of the nomination must contain the below-mentioned information:

1. Nominator

Title:

Mr./Mrs./Various:

Name (First name/ Last name):

Date of birth:

Institution/ Organisation/ Company:

Position:

Email:

Phone number:

Post address:

City:

Zip code:

Country:

Website:

2. Nominee

Mr./Mrs./Various:

Name (First name/ Last name):

Date of birth:

Institution/ Organisation/ Company:

Position:

Email:

Phone number:

Post address:

City:

Zip code:

Country:

Website:

The nomination document for the pre-selection phase has to be structured as follows:

- An abstract describing the nominee`s achievement (max. 500 words)
- CV of the nominee (max. 1 page)

The extended nomination document for the final selection phase has to be structured as follows (max. 6 pages):

- Detailed description of the nominee`s achievements focusing on the main characteristics and merits of the nominee`s bioeconomy work. It should summarize the most important ideas, achievements, inventions, or outcomes and impact of the nominee`s work;
- If applicable: Up to ten relevant key publications and/or patents;
- If applicable: Up to three relevant prizes.