

Award Program Policy

January 1, 2022, v9

The PLMA Awards Program recognizes those energy industry leaders who create innovative methods to meet peak load needs, mitigate price risks, and manage variable generation. Demand response has grown from simply reducing peak loads to balancing supply and demand for increased efficiency and reliability of a smarter grid. Demand response and other methods for balancing intermittent power loads are becoming even more important as renewable energy becomes a larger part of electricity supply.

Nominations are accepted from all industry professionals, regardless of whether they work for PLMA member organizations.

PLMA presents awards annually at its Spring conference.

Awards Committee

The awards evaluation committee shall be composed of practitioners whose companies or organizations are active members of the PLMA. The PLMA Awards Committee will be formed of volunteers from among the PLMA member practitioners. PLMA's executive director will issue an annual announcement requesting volunteers for this committee. One member of the committee will be appointed as the Awards Committee Chair by PLMA's Executive Committee. The Awards Committee may choose to include parties who are not affiliated with PLMA to evaluate and rank awards; however, the Committee Chair must be employed by a PLMA member.

Guiding Policies

All Awards Committee volunteers shall be aware of and abide by PLMA's Conflict of Interest Policy and its Whistleblower Policy.

PLMA's Award Categories

PLMA's goal is to offer a consistent set of awards from year to year. However, the Awards Committee shall evaluate the award categories annually and propose modifications to them to PLMA's Executive Committee, as needed. Changes to PLMA's award categories shall be completed prior to the "Call for Awards" announcement.

Evaluation Criteria

PLMA's Awards Committee shall review the criteria for winning awards annually and shall propose modifications, as appropriate, to PLMA's Executive Committee. Changes to PLMA's awards evaluation criteria shall be completed prior to the "Call for Awards" announcement.

Nomination Form

PLMA's Awards Committee shall review the nomination form annually, and shall propose modifications and improvements, as appropriate, to PLMA's Executive Committee. Changes to PLMA's nomination form shall be completed prior to the "Call for Awards" announcement.

Process Evaluation

Each year, the Awards Committee shall provide a self-evaluation of the nomination and awards process and forms prior to the Spring conference. This evaluation shall include a summary of what worked well and what needs to be improved. The evaluation shall be presented to the Executive Committee.

Nomination Process

The evaluation shall be done as follows:

1. The PLMA Staff will prepare the nomination announcement and have it reviewed and edited by the Awards Committee Co-Chairs.
2. The awards committee co-chairs will present the nomination announcement to the executive committee for final review and acceptance.
3. The PLMA Staff will publish the nomination announcement to all PLMA members.

Evaluation Process

The evaluation of the submitted nominations shall be done as follows:

1. The PLMA Staff shall place all the nominations into an evaluators' score card and provide this scorecard to the Awards Co-Chairs and all volunteer scorers. Each volunteer scorer will evaluate and score the submissions as follows:
 - a. Scoring shall be on a 1-10 scale with 10 being the best score and 1 being the worst score. It is understood that an individual's definition of 1-10 is subjective and an absolute standard definition is not practical. Because the scoring is intended to result in a relative ranking of submissions for discussion among the volunteer scorers, rather than an absolute threshold for award eligibility, these subjective variances are acceptable and serve the purpose of establishing a relative ranking.
 - b. For guidance, a score of 1 would mean there is no merit or credibility to a nominated program, technology, or thought leadership nominee, while a score of 5 would mean that there is merit to the nomination, but it does not rise above average to be considered exceptional in some way. A score of 10 would indicate that the nomination has exceptional merit in numerous ways.
 - c. Appendix A provides a definition of the basis for recognition in each category which includes "outstanding programs", "technology with demonstrated potential to scale" and "contributions that have the potential to shape the industry's future."
2. If an Awards Co-Chair or a volunteer scorer's company or organization is involved in any substantial manner with a nominated program, they shall not evaluate the nomination, and shall recuse themselves from participating in the discussion and from voting on the nomination. In this case, the scorer's evaluation form shall be noted so that other scorers can see that the reviewer recused himself.

Commented [JK1]: Are we doing this part of the process, or is it obsolete?

Commented [MH2R1]: Someone will need to confirm this as I'm not sure. This would have been done last year already by the time I came aboard.

3. All the individual scores for each nomination shall be assembled into a single form and an aggregated scoring shall be created. This aggregated form shall be provided to the Co-Chairs and volunteer scorers.
4. The Awards Co-Chairs, with assistance from the PLMA Staff, shall conduct a discussion session with the volunteer scorers to review the scoring and select the award winners.
5. The Awards Co-Chairs shall present the award winners to PLMA’s Executive Committee for final review and acceptance.

PLMA Awards Overview and Categories

The PLMA Awards Program recognizes industry leaders who create innovative ideas, methods, programs, and technologies that manage end use loads in order to meet peak load needs, mitigate price risks and support successful grid integration of distributed generation assets. This recognition applies to the previous calendar year, so for example, awards nominated in 2021 pertain to programs that were implemented in 2020.

The goal of PLMA’s Awards Program is to honor those who have made exceptional contributions to the energy industry’s ability to achieve a real-time balance of supply and demand for electricity, resulting in increased efficiency, economy, and a smarter, more reliable electric grid.

Award	Recognition	Recipient Categories
Program Pacesetter	Innovative solutions require excellent program design and delivery. The Program Pacesetter Award seeks to recognize outstanding programs that effectively support and deliver peak load management.	Utility or Regulator
		Independent System Operator or Regional Transmission Operator
		Aggregator or Marketer
Technology Pioneer	Achieving the potential for peak load management can be greatly enhanced by technology. The Technology Pioneer Award seeks to recognize innovative applications of technology with demonstrated potential to scale.	Consumer
		Solutions Provider
		Manufacturer
Thought Leader	Education, research, and outreach are key elements in any market transformation. The Thought Leader Award seeks to recognize the high impact projects, outreach campaigns, and individual contributions that have the potential to shape the industry’s future.	Individual
		Organization
		Project

1. The recipient categories are arranged in this table adjacent to the most likely award category.

2. As appropriate, any of the individual recipient categories can be associated with any of the three award categories.
3. An organization may belong in more than one category.
4. The Awards Program Co-Chairs may make multiple awards or no awards in each category each year.

Award Evaluation Criteria

- Value of demand or energy reductions during peak periods
- Program clarity, flexibility, and ease of participation
- Program management
- Innovative use of technology
- Customer performance/satisfaction/awareness
- Cost effectiveness

Long-term viability	Complete Target	Task	Responsible	Notes	Audience	Artifact
1	Mid Dec	Review Policy	Staff, Co-Chairs	Web call and annual Review and Updates of Policy, Timeline, Categories, Criteria.	Executive Committee	Final Policy Document
2	Early Jan	Update Call for Nominations Materials	Staff, Co-Chairs	Update, circulate to the PLMA Board, and finalize the nomination form.	Awards Co-Chairs, Volunteer Scorers, PLMA Board	Nomination Form
3	Early Jan	Outreach to Potential Volunteer Scorers	Staff	Seek PLMA member practitioners to serve as volunteer scorers.	PLMA Members	List of Volunteer Scorers
4	Mid Jan	Broadcast Call for Nominations	Staff	Prepare PLMA webpage, email blast, social media promotion, and content for PLMA Media Partners.	General Release	E-Blast #1, SM content, Web Page Content
5	Mid Jan	Teams Call with Volunteer Scorers	Staff, Co-Chairs	Brief the scorers on the program schedule of activities and engage them in the process.	Awards Co-Chairs, Volunteer Scorers	Agenda, Minutes
6	Late Jan to Late Feb	Call for Nominations	Staff, Co-	All participants in the Awards Program will encourage nominations as appropriate.	Networks	

			Chairs, Scorers, and Board			
7	Early Feb	OPTIONAL: Distributech Panel	Staff	Organize and present prior year PLMA awards panel within Distributech Demand Response track.	Distributech Attendees	Panel PPT Deck
8	Early Feb	Call for Nominations - Reminder	Staff	Circulate follow-up call for nominations via email blast.	PLMA Members and E-mail List	E-Blast #2
9	Late Feb	Call for Nominations - Last Call	Staff	Circulate last call for nominations via email blast.	PLMA Members and E-mail List	E-Blast #3
10	Early March	Deadline for Nominations				
11	Early March	Prepare Evaluation Materials	Staff	Prepare evaluation spreadsheet and provide access to all nominations to the Co-Chairs and volunteer scorers.	Co-Chairs and Scorers	Evaluation Spreadsheet Tool
12	Early March	Review Nominations	Co-Chairs and Scorers	Review all nominations according to guidelines and score or 'recuse' each nomination. Send results to Staff for compilation.	Staff	Individual Ranking Spreadsheets
13	Mid March	Rank Nominations	Staff, Co-Chairs and Scorers	Convene Co-Chairs and scorers online to review compiled scores, discuss nominations, categories, and rankings.	Staff, Co-Chairs and Scorers	Consolidated Evaluation Spreadsheet Summary
14	Mid March	Select Winners	Staff, Co-Chairs	Consolidate Scorers input and provide to Executive Director.	Executive Director	Transmittal Document
15	Mid March	Present Findings	Staff, Co-Chairs	Present review of winners and evaluation process with Executive Committee.	Executive Committee	Transmittal Document

16	Mid March	Notify Winners	Staff, Co-Chairs	Notify via e-mail and extend invitation to Spring Conference where winners will be recognized for their programs.	Award Winners	E-Mail Notifications
17	Late March	Prepare Public Promotion	Staff	Prepare award announcement for email, social media, and PLMA Member News. Identify a Load Management Dialogue webinar schedule for each winner to present their program.	Exec Committee, Winners	Promo plan and LMD Schedule
18	Late March	Spring Co-Chairs Call	Staff, Co-Chairs	Convene Co-Chairs, Scorers online to review summary of award process, and LMD webinar calendar/hosts. Review final minutes and decisions from this call with Executive Committee.	Co-Chairs and Scorers	Agenda, Award Process Summary and Decisions
19						
20	Early April	Confirm Awards Panelists	Staff, Co-Chairs	Confirm award winner representatives to attend PLMA Board meeting and Spring conference. Co-Chairs to present summary of the Awards process, scorers, and winners to the Board	Co-Chairs, Award Winners	List of Award Winners
26	May to August	Load Management Dialogues	Staff	LMDs featuring award winners, moderated by Awards Co-Chairs	Webinar Attendees	E-Blasts, Recorded Dialogs
27	July	Summer Check In Call	Co-Chairs	Discuss opportunities to support PLMA Strategic Goals by featuring award winners in PR, On-line, Trade Press and Industry Events.	Awards Committee	Agenda, Minutes

28	October	Fall Check In Call	Co-Chairs	Discuss next program cycle, opportunities, objectives, program evolution.	Awards Committee	Agenda, Minutes
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Document Revision History

Date	Version	Person	Change/ Modification Description
30 Jan 13	1.0	Board Chair	Approval of Award Policy
5 Jan 15	5.0	Secretary	Edit of Award Policy based on award committee discussions. Correct typos, Add timeline/milestones, and improve category descriptions.
8 Jan 15	6.1	Committee Co-Chairs	Review and provide final draft of the 12th Annual Program version of the categories and descriptions
15 Jan 15	V6 Final	Executive Committee	Review and approve final update for the 12th Annual Program version of the policy.
6 Jan 16	7.1 Draft	Committee Co-Chairs	Review and provide final draft of the 13th Annual Program version of the categories and descriptions. Improved the description and definition of the evaluation method and recuse. Referenced the whistleblower and conflict of interest policies. Updated the award descriptions. Improved the milestone and task chart
19 Jan 16	V8 Final	Executive Committee	Review and approve final update for the 13th Annual Program version of the policy.
28 Dec 21	V9 Draft	Staff	Review and update the V8 policy to address the awards process that has evolved during COVID (2020 and 2021), and due to the addition of PLMA staff who primarily oversee the process.