



Call for Entries Guidebook

2026 CREST Awards

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE SUSTAINABILITY TRAILBLAZERS

Entry Deadline: July 17, 2026 at 11:59 pm PT

[Learn more here](#)



A BOMA Toronto Initiative



race2
REDUCE
A BOMA Toronto Initiative



Inspired **leadership** since 1917

It's Your Time To Shine

The 2026 race2reduce continues to celebrate achievements in the era of decarbonization. By focusing on greenhouse gas emission (GHG) reduction, we aim to support the commercial real estate sector's transition towards a sustainable and carbon-neutral future. We applaud all participants for their dedication and hard work, and we look forward to recognizing their achievements at the 2026 CREST awards ceremony. Together, we will create a lasting impact on our environment and pave the way for a greener, more sustainable future.

The CREST Awards honour building owners and managers who have demonstrated commitment to continuously improve the management and operation of their buildings and drive down emissions.

Properties will be recognized across five categories:

Emission Reduction Leadership, Innovative Excellence, Collaborative Excellence, Climate Champion and Building Electrification.



Recipients who have either initiated building performance improvement programs or emission reduction programs in 2025, or have taken steps to enhance existing programs and initiatives and can measure results in 2025 should apply for the awards.

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: JULY 17, 2026 AT 11:59 PM PT

**Winners will be recognized
at the CREST Awards**

Date: September 17, 2026

We look forward to celebrating with you at this year's R2R CREST Awards Reception.

Thank you for your commitment to sustainability and good luck!

FOR ASSISTANCE & ENTRY PROCESS INQUIRIES, CONTACT

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CREST Awards

Award Categories

1. Emission Reduction Leadership
2. Innovative Excellence
3. Collaborative Excellence
4. Climate Champion
5. Toronto Hydro Electrification Award

Important Eligibility Deadlines and Details

The CREST Awards are designed to provide an arena to showcase industry leaders, and ultimately provide the platform to share successes and best practices in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and addressing climate action.

To be eligible for the 2026 CREST Awards you must meet the following criteria:

- Buildings must submit their applications by July 17, 2026 at 11:59 pm PT
- Participants' Energy Star Portfolio Manager account for registered buildings must be linked to the corresponding BOMA Toronto account before July 17, 2026 at 11:59 pm PT
- Candidates entering the **Innovative Excellence, Collaborative Excellence, Climate Champion, and Toronto Hydro Electrification Award** categories must submit their entry/entries via online forms available at <https://www.bomatoronto.org/awards/crest-awards>

General Consideration

The Judging Panel and program management team reserves the right to re-classify, re-categorize or disqualify entries, and remove any ineligible materials.

Assessment of entries under the **EMISSION REDUCTION LEADERSHIP** category is based solely on relevant metrics obtained from Energy Star Portfolio Manager linked accounts.

Entries in the **INNOVATIVE EXCELLENCE, COLLABORATIVE EXCELLENCE, CLIMATE CHAMPION and TORONTO HYDRO ELECTRIFICATION AWARD** Categories will be judged by the Awards Committee and must submit all information on the appropriate [digital forms](#).

Judges will score submissions based on pre-approved criteria that align with the CREST awards objectives. Entry requirements and assessment criteria for each category are detailed in the full entry package below.

Award Category Descriptions

1. EMISSION REDUCTION LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Emission Reduction Leadership Award recognizes those that have demonstrated a commitment to implementing measures to enhance building performance to achieve a reduction in GHG emissions.

Participants in this category will be assessed solely on performance data entered into Energy Star Portfolio Manager. **Read entry requirements and building categories on pages 7-8 of this document. No other documentation is required to enter this category.**

Building categories: **Office, Retail – Open Air/Strip, Retail – Enclosed, Light Industrial, Mixed-Use and Universal Facility.**

Important: Participants must link the Energy Star Portfolio Manager account for the building to the corresponding BOMA Toronto account or through the BOMA Enspire platform for participants to submit their entries. **Applicants are requested to double check their building classification in ESPM - i.e. Office vs Mixed-Use.**

Success is measured by percentage GHG emission reduction from the 2025 calendar year compared to the 2024 calendar baseline year. GHG intensity reduction is the metric used for this award.

Energy Star Portfolio Manager information can be found [HERE](#). Full instructions to share your data, can be found [HERE](#).

2. INNOVATIVE EXCELLENCE

The Innovative Excellence Award recognizes those who have deployed creative and effective approaches, strategies, technologies, etc. to achieve their emission reduction and sustainability objectives. Recipients will have demonstrated how they approached existing or new problems in creative and novel ways, and report a measured level of success, creating new best practices and paving the way for others in the industry to follow. **Read entry requirements on page 9 of this document.**

3. COLLABORATIVE EXCELLENCE

The Collaborative Excellence Award honours the spirit of the race, fostering collaboration between landlords and tenants to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes. By working together both landlords and tenants can achieve more than if either group worked alone. Winners in this category will have demonstrated collaborative efforts that bring together and engage one or more stakeholders to improve sustainability/reduce emissions. Leaders will prove to the industry that engaging and collaborating with stakeholders and creating new conversations can drive genuine improvements in building performance. **Read entry requirements on page 10 of this document.**

4. CLIMATE CHAMPION AWARD

The Climate Champion Award recognizes a building or a tenant that has demonstrated exemplary effort to reduce emissions or maintain low emission buildings through business operations. Eligible candidates are assessed on emission intensity, commitment to climate action (policies, programs, and business practices), tenant & employee engagement, and community action as they relate to sustainability. **Read entry requirements on pages 11-13 of this document.**

5. TORONTO HYDRO ELECTRIFICATION AWARD

The *Toronto Hydro Electrification Award* recognizes leadership in building electrification efforts between the 2024 and 2025 calendar years. This award celebrates buildings that have demonstrated meaningful transition away from fossil fuel-based systems toward electric-based technologies, contributing directly to emissions reduction and net-zero objectives.

Read entry requirements on pages 14-16 of this document.



Call for Entries Guidebook

Categories Submission & Scoring Criteria

- EMISSION REDUCTION LEADERSHIP
- INNOVATIVE EXCELLENCE
- COLLABORATIVE EXCELLENCE
- CLIMATE CHAMPION
- TORONTO HYDRO ELECTRIFICATION AWARD



1. Emission Reduction Leadership

The emission reduction leadership awards are categorized as shown in the table below. Participant buildings/spaces will be automatically categorized based on information gathered from Energy Star Portfolio Manager. The table below provides a concise overview of the categories and their corresponding square footages. Following the table, you will find a detailed description of each category, outlining its specific characteristics and criteria. This comprehensive breakdown aims to provide a clear understanding of the different categories and assist in selecting the most suitable option.

Square Footage	Office	Enclosed Retail	Open Air Retail	Light Industrial	MURB	Mixed Use	Universal Facility	K-12 School
<100K	✓							
>100K - <500K	✓							
>500K	✓							
Single Award - Any Size			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Two Awards - <500K & >500K		✓✓				✓✓		

Landlords possessing occupancy data that can contribute to normalizing annual consumption patterns are encouraged to submit this information in ESPM. The data will be instrumental in the assessment process, employing established Measurement & Verification (M&V) principles to ensure accuracy and reliability.

To submit your entry, you must link the Energy Star Portfolio Manager account for the building to the corresponding BOMA Toronto account, or through the BOMA Enspire platform. Instructions available [here](#)

OFFICE BUILDING

All office buildings must have at least 50% office area to be eligible.

RETAIL - ENCLOSED

A group of enclosed retail commercial establishments under 1 million square feet, managed by one company. The entry must be managed as a single property and may be one or multiple levels in height with a minimum of 50% occupancy.

RETAIL - OPEN AIR

Shopping centers with store entrances facing outdoors, managed as a single property with minimum 50% occupancy.

LIGHT INDUSTRIAL

All buildings, comprising a total project, to include any single building industrial properties, one to two stories in height, with more than 5% and less than 50% office area. Building(s) must have a loading dock, roll-up or sliding rear door(s) for loading, with no common lobby or corridors except for restroom vestibules and utility or fire equipment access.

MULTI-UNIT RESIDENTIAL BUILDING (MURB)

Buildings comprised of a common entrance and separate units that are also known as apartments constructed for dwelling purposes. Must have one primary exterior door access, with each of the apartments connected by an interior door. All of the units must connect to each other (or a central corridor) by some interior door.

MIXED USE

All properties will have minimum of 10% office in a planned integration of at least three components that are a mix of retail, entertainment, residential, hotel, recreation or other functions. Each component will be at a minimum of 10% of the total property. The property can be one or more buildings managed by the same company. It is pedestrian-oriented and contains elements of a live-work-play environment. It maximizes space usage, has amenities and architectural features that tends to mitigate traffic and sprawl.

K-12 SCHOOL

K-12 School refers to buildings or campuses used as a school for Kindergarten through 12th grade students.

UNIVERSAL FACILITY (any facility that does not fit into the other categories)

There are no use restrictions or size restrictions applicable to the selection of the Universal Module.

A Universal Building may be any one (or a combination of) the following building types: Adult Education, Aquarium, Automobile Dealership, Bank Branch, Bar/Nightclub, Barracks, Bowling Alley, Casino, College/University, Convenience Store with (or without) Gas Station, Convention Center, Courthouse, Data Center, Drinking Water Treatment & Distribution, Energy/Power Station, Fast Food Restaurant, Fire Station, Fitness Center/Health Club/Gym, Food Sales, Food Service, Hotel, Ice/Curling Rink, Indoor Arena, Laboratory, Library, Lifestyle Center, Mailing Center/Post Office, Mixed Use Property, Movie Theater, Museum, Utility, Other Stadium, Other - Education, Other - Entertainment/Public Assembly, Other - Lodging/ Residential, Other - Mall, Other - Public Services, Other - Recreation, Other - Restaurant/Bar, Other - Services, Other - Technology/Science, Other - Utility, Parking, Performing Arts, Personal Services (Health/ Beauty, Dry Cleaning, etc.), Police Station, Pre-school/Daycare, Prison/Incarceration, Race Track, Repair Services (Vehicle, Shoe, Locksmith, etc., Residence Hall/Dormitory, Restaurant, Retail Store, Roller Rink, Self-Storage Facility, Senior Care Community, Single Family Home, Social/Meeting Hall, Stadium (Closed), Stadium (Open), Supermarket/Grocery Store, Swimming Pool, Transportation Terminal/Station, Veterinary Office, Vocational School, Wastewater Treatment Plant, Wholesale Club/Supercenter, Worship Facility.

Additional recognition from BOMA Enspire:

Winners of the Emission Reduction Leadership categories can compete nationally at the BOMA Canada Enspire Awards showcasing efforts to reduce GHGs in buildings across Canada. To enter the BOMA Canada awards you must register your property at <https://bomaenspire.ca> prior to the July 19, 11:59 pm PT deadline.

2. Innovative Excellence Award

Innovative Excellence application form can be accessed [here](#)

POSSIBLE SCORE: 40 POINTS

Entrants will answer questions related to four criteria sections: CREATIVITY & INNOVATION, ENGAGEMENT, SCALABILITY & SUCCESS and POSITIVE IMPACT

Specific, quantifiable results that can be measured should be reported here to substantiate your application (i.e. reduction in emissions, reduced operations costs, reduction in tenant complaints etc.).

A) CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION (UP TO 10 POINTS)

Further to technological solutions, innovate approaches can include unique communication approaches, inventive management systems, operational restructuring or workflow optimization and collaborative approaches to driving best practices and reduce emissions.

Provide responses to the following:

1. What makes your initiative/program new, innovative or unique? *150 words*
2. What innovative tactics or solutions did you use to solve a problem or enhance an opportunity *100 words*

B) BUILDING PERFORMANCE: (UP TO 10 POINTS)

This measures the degree to which the program supported its original objectives and improve building performance by reducing emissions.

Provide responses to the following:

1. What were the energy savings and greenhouse gas reduction results of the project? *100 words*

C) SCALABILITY & SUCCESS (UP TO 10 POINTS)

Innovative and leading organizations raise the bar for everyone when they pioneer environmentally and socially beneficial ideas can be replicated by the industry as a whole

Provide responses to the following:

1. How can you demonstrate results against your investment (i.e. operational savings, time savings, engagement outcome and effectiveness etc.) *100 words*
2. How can your ideas be adopted by others in the industry to replicate positive impacts? *100 words*

D) OTHER POSITIVE IMPACTS (UP TO 10 POINTS)

This section explores other positive impacts that resulted from your efforts. Provide metrics used to gauge success and supporting background detailing quantifiable results to support your case. Explain how your innovation can have a broader positive societal impact. Examples can reach beyond the scope of the commercial real estate industry and can impact other sectors as well.

Provide responses to the following:

1. What other benefits were accrued through the project? *150 words*
2. How were occupants of the building impacted, is there evidence of positive impact (i.e. provide results of tenant survey)? *100 words*

Entrants will also be required to name the project, provide a short summary, describe the overall problem/new opportunity and key results.

3. Collaborative Excellence Award

Collaborative Excellence application form can be accessed [here](#)

POSSIBLE SCORE: 40 POINTS

Entrants will answer questions related to four criteria sections: COLLABORATIVE PRACTICES, ENGAGEMENT, SCALABILITY & SUCCESS and POSITIVE IMPACT. **Specific, quantifiable results that can be measured should be reported here to substantiate your application and will increase your chance to shine!**

A) DEMONSTRATION OF COLLABORATIVE PRACTICES (UP TO 10 POINTS)

Collaboration between landlords and tenants is central to advancing sustainability. The demonstration of collaborative practices will be a key aspect when scoring these entries. Judges will look for efforts that embody this collaborative spirit, not only with landlords and tenants, but with other potential stakeholders, vendors, non-profit, or government organizations.

Provide responses to the following:

1. What different groups were engaged (list)? *100 words*
2. How did your collaborative efforts go beyond typical landlord – tenant relations? *150 words*

B) ENGAGEMENT (UP TO 10 POINTS)

Provide a description of engagement programs/initiatives used.

Provide responses to the following:

1. What incentives or tactics were used to drive participation and enhance engagement efforts? *100 words*

C) SCALABILITY & SUCCESS (UP TO 10 POINTS)

Initiating a collaborative effort can be a big investment both in time and resources. One of the underlying goals for race2reduce is to see sustained results and commitment. In this section you will demonstrate your success and how your approach can have a broader impact.

Provide responses to the following:

1. What was the direct impact of your efforts? *100 words*
2. What lessons have been learned through your efforts? Does your organization plan to roll out efforts identified in this entry to other properties? *100 words*

D) OTHER POSITIVE IMPACTS (UP TO 10 POINTS)

This section explores other positive impacts that were realized as a result of your efforts. Provide metrics used to gauge success and supporting background detailing quantifiable results to support your case. Explain how your method to foster collaboration can have a broader positive societal impact. Examples can reach beyond the scope of the commercial real estate industry and can impact other sectors as well.

Provide responses to the following:

1. What are other specific positive impacts achieved as a result of your efforts. *100 words*
2. Explain how your method for collaboration can have a broader positive societal/industry impact? *100 words*

Entrants will also be required to name the project, provide a short summary, describe the overall problem/new opportunity and key results.

4. Climate Champion Award

Climate Champion application form can be accessed [here](#)

POSSIBLE SCORE: 100 POINTS

The Climate Champion Award recognizes a building or a tenant that has demonstrated exemplary efforts to reduce emissions from the building or business operation. Entrants will answer questions related to five criteria sections: EMISSION REDUCTION, COMMITMENT TO CLIMATE ACTION, TENANT & EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT, COMMUNITY ACTION, and SCALABILITY. **Specific, quantifiable results that can be measured should be reported here to substantiate your application and will increase your chance to shine!**

A) EMISSION REDUCTION OR LOWEST EMISSIONS (UP TO 40 POINTS)

The primary determinant for this category is the percentage (%) Emission Intensity (EI) reduction during the assessment year or the Emission Intensity amongst peers competing for the same award. Emission intensity is the measure of total GHG equivalent per square feet. The % EI reduction is the percentage improvements of EI in the assessment year compared to the emission intensity of the baseline year. The total GHG equivalent is obtained from the Energy Star Portfolio Manager (ESPM). **It is a requirement that any building being considered for this award must link their ESPM account to the corresponding BOMA Toronto account. You must also identify your Building ID # from Energy Star Portfolio Manager.**

Points for this section are determined in one of two ways. The higher of the two will be used for scoring each facility entering this category.

1) Based on the highest % reduction among the competing entries within this award category according to the following scale:

Criteria	Points
Greatest % Reduction, A	40
$0.75 A \leq \% < A$	30
$0.5 A \leq \% < 0.75 A$	20
$0.25 A \leq \% < 0.5 A$	10
$\% < 0.25 A$	5

Note: This is a quantitative section and % EI reduction is calculated by BOMA Toronto management using the total GHG equivalent across the gross floor area (GFA) from ESPM. Therefore, no need to provide any qualitative explanation.

2) Based on the lowest GHG Emission Intensity compared to each participant entering for this award.

Criteria	Points
Lowest Emission Intensity A	40
$1.25 A \leq \% < A$	30
$1.5 A \leq \% < 1.25 A$	20
$1.75 A \leq \% < 1.5 A$	10
$\% < 1.75 A$	5

Note: This is a quantitative section and EI is calculated by BOMA Toronto management using the total GHG equivalent across the gross floor area (GFA) from ESPM. Therefore, no need to provide any qualitative explanation.

B) COMMITMENT TO CLIMATE ACTION (UP TO 20 POINTS)

Climate Action speaks broadly to a company's commitment to reduce its corporate greenhouse gas footprint and climate resilience.

Provide responses to the following:

- Does your company track corporate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions?
 - Scope 1 Y or N
 - Scope 2 Y or N
 - Scope 3 (check all that are tracked)
 - Category 1: Purchased goods and services
 - Category 2: Capital goods
 - Category 3: Fuel and energy-related activities
 - Category 4: Upstream transportation and distribution
 - Category 5: Waste generated in operations
 - Category 6: Business travel
 - Category 7: Employee commuting
 - Category 8: Upstream leased assets
 - Category 9: Downstream transportation and distribution
 - Category 10: Processing of sold products
 - Category 11: Use of sold products
 - Category 12: End-of-life treatment of sold products
 - Category 13: Downstream leased assets
 - Category 14: Franchises
 - Category 15: Investments
- What are your greenhouse gas reduction goals/targets? *100 words*
- What specific policies and programs are you implementing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (related to purchasing, transportation, training, HR, etc.)? *200 words*
- Is your company evaluating climate risk and resilience?
 - TCFD *Y or N*
 - ISSB *Y or N*
 - Other? *Explain* _____
- What green/environmental certifications does the building have (i.e. LEED, BOMA BEST etc.) (bullet list)

C) TENANT & EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT (UP TO 15 POINTS)

The success or the overall impact of climate action is dependent on the extent to which employees and tenants are engaged to communicate these policies and called to action. This section explores positive impacts that were realized as a result of your engagement efforts. Provide metrics used to gauge success.

Provide responses to the following:

- **Tenant** Engagement: List specific activities/initiatives/programs that your company has launched to engage tenants, provide metrics/results where possible. *150 words*
- **Employee** engagement: List specific activities/initiatives/programs that your company has launched to engage employees, provide metrics/results where possible. *150 words*

D) COMMUNITY ACTION (UP TO 10 POINTS)

A building is not an island. It exists and functions as part of the community in which it is located. Explain how you support broader climate action in your community.

Provide responses to the following:

- Does your company have a community engagement strategy? *Y or N*
- Describe how your company's community engagements helped advance climate action goals? *100 words*
- List specific activities/initiatives/programs that your company has launched to engage and to benefit the wider community, provide metrics/results where possible? *Bullet list, 150 words*

E) SCALABILITY AND SUCCESS (UP TO 15 POINTS)

Depending on the size of your organization, undertaking efforts to tackle climate action could become a daunting exercise that requires time and resources. One of the underlying goals for race2reduce is to see sustained results and long-term commitment. In this section you will demonstrate how your company's commitment to CSR and its approach to sustainability and climate action can have a broader positive societal impact, including impact/influence on competitors and other stakeholders in the CRE industry.

Provide responses to the following:

- What were the three most impactful measurements of success (KPIs)/outcomes of the project? *Bullet list, 100 words*
- What lessons learned will be integrated into other collaborative programs? *100 words*
- Describe how your approach can have a broader positive societal and industry impact? *100 words*

5. Toronto Hydro Electrification Award

Toronto Hydro Electrification Award application form can be accessed [here](#)

POSSIBLE SCORE: 100 POINTS

Entries for this award will be judged using a data-driven approach, comparing building performance data submitted via Energy Star Portfolio Manager (ESPM) shared with BOMA Toronto or through the BOMA Enspire platform (Building ID # from ESPM is required). Evaluation is based on the scale and type of electrification measures implemented, measured reductions in fossil fuel-based technologies, and the degree of verification and innovation associated with the building's electrification transition. Participants will be benchmarked against others submitting in the same calendar year.

Entrants will answer questions related to four criteria sections: TOTAL ELECTRIFICATION IMPACT, MEASURES IMPLEMENTED, MEASUREMENT & VERIFICATION (M&V), and INNOVATION & COMMITMENT TO ELECTRIFICATION.

A) TOTAL ELECTRIFICATION IMPACT (UP TO 40 POINTS)

This section evaluates the measurable reduction in fossil fuel use as a percentage (e.g., natural gas, district steam, etc. in GJ) between the baseline year (2024) and the performance year (2025), specifically due to electrification of building systems. To qualify for scoring in this section, participants must demonstrate that reductions are the result of system-level electrification projects – such as conversion of gas boilers to electric heat pumps or electrification of domestic hot water or other end uses. Scoring is comparative across all eligible participants based on total fossil fuel reductions as a percentage compared to the baseline.

- Top 25% of participants (greatest reductions) get 40 points
- Next 25% get 30 points
- Next 25% get 20 points
- Lowest 25% get 10 points

Note that this portion of the submission will be calculated by BOMA Toronto through evaluation of data on Energy Star Portfolio Manager. Electricity consumption will be evaluated to determine if submissions align on both data and written components.

The use of purchased carbon credits or offsets will not be considered toward award eligibility or scoring. The award prioritizes physical infrastructure changes over market-based solutions

Provide responses to the following:

- Identify your Building ID # from Energy Star Portfolio Manager
- Briefly list the fossil-fuel building system(s) that were replaced. Format list as: Building System - Date of Decommissioning or Date of Commissioning
- Upload relevant documents supporting commissioning of electrified systems such as clarifying description of the mechanical system changes, images, timetable or schematic to help explain mechanical system changes

B) ELECTRIFICATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTED (30 POINTS)

This section evaluates the depth and scope of electrification measures undertaken between 2024 and 2025. Eligible projects may include the electrification of space heating, domestic hot water (DHW), ventilation, and other major end-uses that were formerly powered by fossil fuels. Scoring will consider both the number of systems electrified and the extent of conversion (e.g., full building-wide implementation vs. partial or pilot-scale). Higher points are awarded for comprehensive retrofits that reflect a strategic, permanent shift away from fossil fuel infrastructure.

Onsite renewable energy generation will also be factored into the score if the project was implemented in the performance year (2025). Participants must clearly describe the systems replaced or retrofitted, and the technologies installed (e.g., air-source or ground-source heat pumps, electric resistance water heaters, variable refrigerant flow systems, etc.).

Scoring: Points awarded based on depth of electrification

- **Full electrification with permanent decommissioning → 30 points**
 - All major systems electrified. No fossil fuel infrastructure remains operational. Electrified systems sized for worst-load days.
- **Full Electrification with Fossil Backup (Emergency-Only) → 25 points**
 - Electrified systems serve all expected loads. Fossil fuel remains only for code/insurance purposes and is not in routine use (maximum use shall not exceed 4% of total operating hours)
- **Major electrification of at least two systems → 18 points**
 - Most major systems are electrified. Fossil systems may still operate during certain conditions or are not fully replaced.
- **Partial electrification of one system → 10 points**
 - One major system is at least partially electrified which can include dual-fuel/hybrid solutions (provided no new gas infrastructure was installed)
- **Minimal measures (pilot projects, planning phase, etc.) → 5 points**
 - Measures are in early stages or limited to feasibility/pilot study.
- **Renewable Energy implementation → 5 points (bonus)**

Provide responses to the following:

- Select your level of electrification and describe the depth of electrification (*200 words*)

C) MEASUREMENT & VERIFICATION (M&V) (15 POINTS)

This section evaluates the robustness of data and documentation submitted to confirm electrification performance. Credible M&V is critical to ensure that reported fossil fuel reductions are tied to electrification measures. Participants must explain how energy performance data was collected and validated. Acceptable forms of verification include utility bills, submetering reports, commissioning reports, or energy modeling outputs with post-installation validation. M&V protocols should align with those of IPMVP, FEMP, ASHRAE 14, or another credible body that is widely recognized in the engineering field.

Submissions should clearly describe the methodology used to isolate the impact of electrification versus other operational or external factors (e.g., weather normalization, occupancy adjustments). Internal M&V is acceptable if it demonstrates methodological transparency and accuracy.

- Scoring:
 - *Third-party M&V report submitted or internal M&V with clear methodology & supporting data* → 15 points
 - *Self-reported without clear verification* → 5 points
 - *No verification provided* → 0 points

Provide responses to the following:

- Describe your M&V methodology (*200 words*)
- Upload M&V report

D) INNOVATION & COMMITMENT TO ELECTRIFICATION (15 POINTS)

This section recognizes organizations that have demonstrated forward-looking, scalable, and high-impact electrification strategies beyond the scope of a single project. Emphasis is placed on leadership, long-term planning, and the use of advanced or replicable approaches that push the boundaries of traditional building decarbonization. Participants must describe how they are going beyond compliance or minimum requirements to lead in electrification. Submissions should include future commitments, pilot programs, and broader portfolio-wide strategies that demonstrate a sustained and innovative approach. Projects that push the envelope and inspire replication across the commercial real estate sector will score highest.

Provide responses to the following:

- **Use of Standard Best Practices:** Effective but common measures like heat pump retrofits, electric DHW, or panel upgrades. These are foundational but not considered “innovative” unless tied to a broader strategy (*3 points - 150 words*)
- **Game-changing Strategies** (e.g., AI-driven optimization, district energy integration, etc.) (*4 points - 150 words*)
- **Scalable Organizational Commitment:** Demonstrated plan or policy to replicate electrification across multiple buildings, commitment to full electrification portfolio-wide (or within the single asset through long-term planning if there is no portfolio), corporate strategy alignment, integration into asset management planning. Participants who own or manage a single building can still earn full points by showing that their project is designed with replication, knowledge-sharing, or industry inspiration in mind. (*4 points - 150 words*)
- **Innovation in Design or Implementation:** Novel design approaches, participation in pilot programs, or unique delivery models (*4 points - 150 words*)

Entry Submission Steps

Emissions Reduction Leadership category:

Eligible candidates must link the Energy Star Portfolio Manager account for the building to the corresponding BOMA Toronto account or through the BOMA Enspire platform for to submit their entries.

Every building or tenant space that links their Energy Star Portfolio Manager account to the BOMA Toronto or BOMA Enspire account will automatically be considered for the Emission Reduction Leadership Award. Instructions are available on the BOMA Toronto CREST awards website [here](#).

Innovative Excellence, Collaborative Excellence, Climate Champion and Toronto Hydro Electrification Award:

Each category (i.e., Innovative Excellence, Collaborative Excellence, Climate Champion and Toronto Hydro Electrification Award) has its own entry form associated with it. You can access each of the forms [here](#).

Responses are to be concise and condensed with a focus on quantitative data. Images can be submitted as part of the application and we request the following:

- ✓ Entrant or Team Photo (.JPG or .PNG)
- ✓ Building Photo (if applicable)
- ✓ Other images

Multiple Entries

Participants are permitted and encouraged to apply under more than one category (i.e., Collaborative Excellence, Innovative Excellence, Climate Champion, and Toronto Hydro Electrification Award). A separate form must be completed for each entry.



Good luck to all participants!



Call for Entries Guidebook

Deadline:

July 17, 2026
at 11:59 pm PT

Winners will be recognized at the CREST Awards Reception September 17, 2026

[Begin your submissions here](#)

For assistance & entry process inquiries, contact:

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