



ESD Okayama Award 2026

— Application Guide —

To solve the various problems we face, such as climate change, biodiversity loss and poverty, and to realize a society in which current and future generations can live in peace, Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), which promotes learning and practice to change conventional values, thinking and behavior, has been introduced in many parts of the world. In order to facilitate action to build sustainable societies around the world, the 17 global goals of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were created in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, which was adopted at the UN Summit in 2015. Since education is the key to achieving the SDGs, the new international framework of ESD, “ESD for 2030”, started in 2020. ESD is expected to be further promoted to create a sustainable society.

In Okayama, Japan, the Okayama ESD Promotion Commission, the network of the diverse stakeholders promoting ESD in the area, with its secretariat hosted at Okayama City Office, was established in 2005 to align with the launch of the UN Decade of ESD. *The Okayama ESD Project* was created alongside this, with its long-term goals and collaborative activities. One of the notable events was cohosting the stakeholder meetings in conjunction with the UNESCO World Conference on ESD and related meetings including the 9th Global RCE (Regional Centres of Expertise for ESD) Conference in 2014. More recently, the 14th Global RCE Conference took place in Okayama City in 2025, commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Global RCE Network and the Okayama ESD Promotion Commission.

As one of the key initiatives of *the Okayama ESD Project*, the ESD Okayama Award has been held annually since its inception in 2015. Organized by the ESD Okayama Award Steering Board[※] and the City of Okayama, the Award recognizes outstanding examples of ESD from around the world. The primary aims of the ESD Okayama Award are to empower organizations implementing ESD projects to further enhance their activities, and to promote the dissemination of ESD practices, ultimately contributing to the achievement of the SDGs.

【Important Information】

1. Application

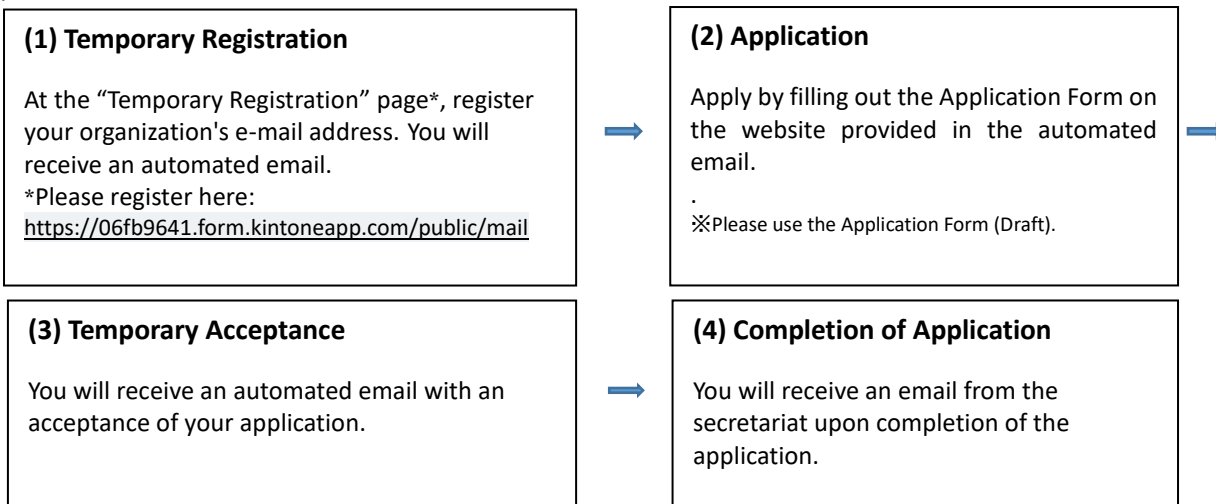
(1) Deadline for application

The Application deadline is **14 May 2026 (Thursday), 17:00 (Japan Standard Time)**

***Applications will not be accepted after the application deadline.**

(2) Submission of Application

Please submit your application online after reading the "Application Guide" and "Application Form (Draft)" at the Okayama City's website and preparing any additional materials or photos you wish to submit.



2. Organizers

The ESD Okayama Award Steering Board[※] and the City of Okayama

※The ESD Okayama Award Steering Board is composed of the following organizations:

- United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS)
- UNESCO Bangkok
- Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU)
- Japan Council on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD-J)
- The Goi Peace Foundation
- Okayama ESD Promotion Commission

3. Contact

ESD Okayama Award Secretariat

(within SDGs & ESD Promotion Division of Okayama City Office)

Address: 1-1-1 Daiku, Kita-ku, Okayama City, Japan 700-8544

Tel : +81-(0)86-803-1351 Fax : +81-(0)86-803-1777

E-mail : esdokayamaaward@city.okayama.jp

Contact Persons: Sachie Kumano (Ms.); and Yukie Hiruda (Ms.)

***Application Forms will not be accepted by mail or email.**

◆ Eligibility

ESD projects that have been ongoing for **at least three years as of April 2026** and are conducted by an organization, not an individual.

(Projects must have a track record of activities and outcomes. Projects in the planning stages are not eligible.)

※ **Only one application per organization can be accepted.**

※ The organizations that have won the ESD Okayama Award in the past cannot apply with the award-winning projects, but can apply with other projects.

◆ Number of Awards

One or Two

◆ Prize

US \$3,000

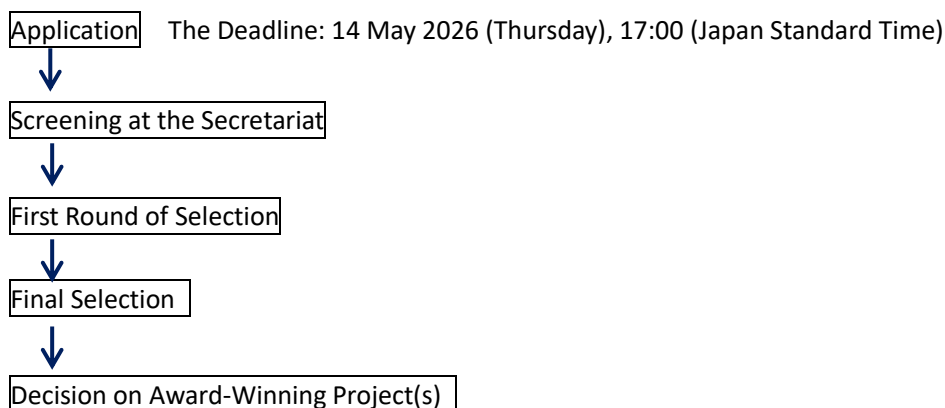
※ The prize money is expected to be used to expand the project.

◆ Selection Criteria

The ESD Okayama Award will be given to outstanding projects that can serve as global models contributing to promotion of ESD in local communities. Submitted projects will be reviewed by ESD experts based on the following criteria:

Vision	The project outlines local issues to realize a sustainable society, and the goals and objectives are clearly stated.
Collaboration	The project has a clear implementation structure with various collaborating stakeholders (individuals and organizations).
Integration	The project integrates economic, environmental, and social dimensions.
Innovation	The project demonstrates innovative approaches and methods to promote ESD.
Status of Implementation	The project has a track record of activities and documentations including feedback and evaluation of audiences and stakeholders.
Empowerment	The project takes educational approaches such as interactive methods for problem-solving and promoting actions to shape a sustainable future. The project also leads to behavior change of individuals, including the transformation of values, attitudes and actions, and to the empowerment of local communities.
Future Strategy	The project is expected to be expanded in the future and bring positive influences to other communities as well.

◆ **Selection Process**



The organizations receiving the award will be informed, and the results will also be published on the website.

- At the first round of selection, finalists will be selected. One or two project(s) out of the finalists will be selected by the judges at the final selection.
- Please understand that we are unable to respond to inquiries regarding the results.

◆ **Award Ceremony**

The City of Okayama will invite one representative from each organization implementing an award-winning project to the City. The invitee will attend the award ceremony (Saturday, November 14, 2026), give a presentation of the award-winning project, and interact with local organizations in Okayama area. Detailed information will be sent to the award winner(s).

◆ **Application**

Please submit the ESD Okayama Award Application Form online.

- ※ If the required sections are not completed, the application will not be accepted.
- ※ The Application Form (Draft) and the information on how to apply online can be downloaded from the URL below or from the 2D barcode on the right:
<https://www.city.okayama.jp/kurashi/0000070653.html>



Check	ESD Okayama Award Application Form (Online)
<input type="checkbox"/> 【Required】	<p>① Section 1, 2 & 3 Please note that applicants should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write in English or Japanese including the names of the organization and project. • <u>Not exceed the maximum word count in each box.</u> • Answer each question on the application form in writing. The responses should include all the necessary information required for evaluation, and simply pasting URLs without providing explanation will not be reviewed during the evaluation process. <p>② Section 4: A Video / Slideshow or Photos as an Alternative to Introduce the Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please make <u>one video or slideshow</u> of the project (<u>5 minutes or less</u>), upload it on YouTube or Facebook, and write the URL. ※ <u>URLs from Google Drive or other compressed files are not accepted.</u> • If you have difficulty to make a video or slideshow, you can instead submit photos (at least 5 and up to 10) in JPG (JPEG), TIFF, or BMP format.
<input type="checkbox"/> 【Optional】	<p>③ Section 5: Other Supporting Documents You can submit relevant supporting documents in a single file of no more than five pages (<u>A4 Size</u>) in Word or PDF format. Any pages exceeding this limit will not be considered in the review process.</p>