ACEC

American Council of Engineering Companies
of Ohio

2027 Engineering Excellence Awards Call for Entries

Submission Deadline: November 5, 2026 | www.acecohio.org

ABOUT THE AWARDS

The American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) of Ohio's annual Engineering Excellence Awards (EEA) recognizes engineering firms for projects that demonstrate an exceptional degree of innovation, complexity, achievement and value.

The awards program showcases the best in engineering achievements to a statewide audience of clients, industry leaders, legislators, and additional stakeholders.

Each year, engineering firms across the country enter their most innovative design projects and studies in their state competition. Top entries will have the opportunity to advance on to the national competition at the ACEC National spring conference in Washington D.C.

The Engineering Excellence Awards Program:

- Recognizes engineering achievements demonstrating a high degree of client satisfaction through innovative quality and cost-effective solutions.
- Increases public knowledge and enhances the image of consulting engineers.
- Highlights the value and importance of professional engineers to our state's legislators.
- Gives you an opportunity to recognize clients and partners with awards and publicity.

PARTICIPATION IN THE ACEC NATIONAL COMPETITION

As many as 10 of the top entries in the Ohio competition will be eligible to submit their entries in the ACEC National competition. Firms advancing to the ACEC National competition will be required to do so under ACEC National's instructions and rules, which require the preparation of additional materials and payment of an additional entry fee.

Entry rules and guidelines for the ACEC National competition can be downloaded **here**.

Magee Marsh Shoreline Protection Barrier, KS Associates, Inc.

ELIGIBILITY & CRITERIA

All materials except the foam board will be submitted electronically through the online portal this year. Entries into the EEA program must meet the following criteria:

1. The deadline for submitting complete entries to the ACEC Ohio online portal is 4:00 pm on Thursday, **November 5, 2026**. Click **here** to visit the portal.

Delivered foam boards must be sent to:
ACEC Ohio
1650 Lake Shore Drive, Suite 200
Columbus, OH 43204

2. Each entry must be submitted on our online portal, accompanied by an entry fee of **$550** for member firms, and **$1,350** for non-member firms. Checks made payable to the American Council of Engineering Companies of Ohio (ACEC Ohio).

A 3 percent processing fee will be charged for any credit card payments.

3. Entries must be submitted in 1 of 12 categories. Entrant must select one category that fits the majority of work performed on the project.

No company may submit more than two entries in one single category.

4. Projects entered in categories A (Studies, Research & Consulting Services) or D (Surveying & Mapping) must have been publicly disclosed by the client between November 1, 2024, and October 31, 2026.

Construction of projects entered in categories B through L (except those in category D) must have been substantially completed and ready for use between November 1, 2024, and October 31, 2026.

5. Projects located outside of the State of Ohio are not eligible for entry unless a principal of the entering firm certifies by letter that more than 50 percent of the work on the project was performed at the firm's Ohio office(s).

6. Each entry must include 2 components:
   a. Official electronic entry
   b. A photographic panel display

7. Awards must be claimed at the 2026 awards luncheon. ACEC Ohio has the right to recycle the boards if they are not claimed at the luncheon.
AWARDS WILL NOT BE SHIPPED.

8. The EEA program is intended to recognize engineering firms that design projects entered in the competition, not the clients who sponsor the projects. While duplicate crystal awards can be ordered for presentation to clients, wording on duplicate awards will not be modified to state that the client is the recipient of the award.

9. Photographic display panels must be reclaimed at the conclusion of the EEA Luncheon. Those not claimed will be discarded. All other entry materials will be retained by ACEC Ohio.

10. Non-compliance with the competition rules may result in disqualification of the entry.

Reference to any other awards earned by the project in any materials submitted as part of the EEA entry is not permitted.

AVAILABLE AWARDS & PUBLICITY

Available Awards

There are four awards that your project may win: Honor Award, Outstanding Achievement Award, Outstanding Small Project Award, and Grand Award.

As many as 10 of the highest scoring entries will be recognized with an Outstanding Achievement Award and will be eligible to voluntarily submit to the ACEC National competition. All other entries will be recognized with Honor Awards, with the two following exceptions:

1. The top award, the Grand Award, will be selected from among the Outstanding Achievement Award recipients. The winner of the Grand Award will be announced at the EEA Luncheon in Columbus.

2. An award for the Outstanding Small Project will be presented to the highest scoring project with a total project construction budget not exceeding $2.5 million, regardless of whether the project was entered in the Small Projects Category (J).

Publicity

Participation in the ACEC Ohio EEA program provides a great public relations opportunity for your firm. Entry into this competition assists your marketing efforts and augments your firm's business development program.

As an added benefit the Engineering Excellence Awards supports your clients public relations and communication goals, which can enhance relationships with the project owner, community, etc.

ACEC Ohio will work with winners to contact local media to announce their awards. The awards will be publicized in our awards program, announced on social media, and promoted in our electronic newsletter and on our website.

Miller Road Interstate 77 Interchange
Euthenics, Inc.

SwiftAir Private Hangar at Wright Brothers Airport
LJB Inc.

JUDGING CRITERIA

A panel of judges with backgrounds in engineering, architecture, construction, academia, industry or government, will evaluate entries using the following criteria.

Entries will be judged on the merit of work performed by the entering firm(s) and according to the following rating guidelines.

1. Uniqueness and/or Innovative Applications of New or Existing Techniques: Include as many measurable results as possible to tell the story of the project. For example, data points related to energy savings, number of people impacted by the project, etc. Does the entrant's contribution to the project demonstrate the use of a new science or a break through in the general knowledge of engineering? Does the entrant's contribution to the project represent a unique application of new or existing technology, techniques, materials, or equipment? **20%**

2. Future Value to the Engineering Profession and Enhanced Public Awareness/Enthusiasm of the role of engineering: Will the entrant's contribution to the project redefine current engineering thinking? Does the entrant's project increase public awareness/enthusiasm about the role of engineering in their everyday lives? **20%**

3. Social, Economic and Sustainable Development 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? Does the entrant's contribution to the project improve the health, safety or welfare of the public or affected environment? **20%**

4. Complexity: Does the entrant's efforts successfully address highly complex criteria or unique problems? Were extraordinary problems of site, location, hazardous conditions, project requirements or similar elements present? Did the entrant's solutions require use of out-of-the-ordinary technology or ingenuity for achievement of the project's goals? **20%**

5. Successful Fulfillment of Client/Owner Needs: Did the entrant successfully engage the client/owner in the overall project development process? Did the entrant introduce an economical and cost-effective solution? How did the final cost compare to the 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? **20%**

Nelson-Kennedy Ledges State Park Falls Edge Glass Walkway
OHM Advisors

Progressive Field Ballpark Improvements Project
Karpinski Engineering

Official Electronic Entry

Each project document must be uploaded separately through ACEC Ohio's awards portal.

Specifications: ALL documents must be in PDF format.

Sycamore Trails Park
The Kleingers Group

Dates to Remember

ACEC Ohio

November 5, 2026
Deadline for submission of ACEC Ohio entries

November 19, 2026
Judging of entries in Columbus, Ohio

December 18, 2026
Notification of Award

February 18, 2027
ACEC Ohio Annual Awards Luncheon
Columbus, Ohio

ACEC National

January 6, 2027
Deadline for submission of ACEC National competition entries

February 19-21, 2027
Judging of entries

April 20, 2027
EEA Dinner and Gala Awards Program
Washington D.C.

PREPARING YOUR ENTRY

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

These documents must be electronically submitted.

1. A COMPLETED ENTRY FORM The entry form is located on the ACEC Ohio portal . Once the entrant has completed the form online it can be printed for signatures from all required parties, the form can then be uploaded as part of the electronic project submission.

2. CLIENT/OWNER LETTER Letter addressed to ACEC Ohio describing the services provided to the client or project owner by the entrant company and authorizing the entry of the project in the competition.

3. SUMMARY Describe in layman's terms why this project is worthy of special recognition (word count between 100-500 words). Explain all factors that exhibit the project's uniqueness and complexity, such as innovative engineering, challenges faced and overall social impact.

NOTE: This summary will provide the basis for all ACEC publicity on the project.

4. A PROJECT DESCRIPTION Written and may not exceed four (4), single-spaced, 8-1/2" x 11" pages, with 1" margins, with text single-spaced in a minimum of 12-point font. This document MUST describe:
a. The role of entrant's firm in the project.
b. The role of other consultants participating in the project.
c. Uniqueness and/or innovative applications of new or existing techniques.
d. Future value to the engineering profession enhanced public awareness/enthusiasm of the role of engineering.
e. Social, economic and sustainable development consideration
f. The complexities of the project
g. Successful fulfilment of client/owner needs
h. Cost savings resulting from the project, and other noteworthy features.

6. EEA CEREMONY DESCRIPTION
Please write a short description (**maximum of 150 words**) that will be read from the awards script during the luncheon as your firm accepts your award on stage.

PREPARING YOUR ENTRY CONTINUED

An electronic file of the exact copy in PDF format of the following items:

1. PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAY PANEL
2. SUMMARY
3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION
4. SIX (6) DIGITAL COLOR PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE PROJECT:
a. Three (3) taken during the planning, startup and/or construction phases.
b. Three (3) showing the completed project.

Digital photos must have a resolution of at least 300 ppi.

SIX (6) GRAPHS, CHARTS OR OTHER ILLUSTRATIVE GRAPHICS: In lieu of photographs for entries submitted in Category A (Studies, Research & Consulting Services).

PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAY PANEL
Panel should illustrate the challenges, technical solutions, innovative aspects and uniqueness of the project. It should include high-quality photos and graphics and no more than 250 words of descriptive text. Photographic panel specifications:

1. PANEL SIZE
a. Measure 30" x 30" square, mounted on foam core board.
b. Be laminated on the front, and have a matte finish.
c. Have a maximum thickness, including front and back lamination, of 16 millimeters (0.62 inches).

2. PHOTOS/GRAPHICS
Contain a maximum of six photographic images and/or graphics. Each photograph or graphic should be a minimum of 7" x 5" or 35 square inches in area. A background 300ppi photo is not considered as one of the six allowable images.

3. TEXT/FONTS
Plain text not exceeding 250 words total, not including captions. Minimum font sizes: 32-point for text and/or descriptions; 28-point for captions of photos and graphics.

4. REQUIRED ELEMENTS
a. The project title and location of the project.
b. The client/owner's name and location.
c. The entering firm's name and location in a minimum of 32-point type.
d. The ACEC Ohio logo, which can be downloaded from the ACEC Ohio website. Click **here** to download.

5. BACK OF PANEL LABEL
Add a label to the back of the panel with the name and address of the entrant's firm, the project name, and entry category.

ACEC Ohio Foam Board Discount
We are offering members a discounted rate to print their board through **Hopkins Printing**.
1 foamcore board is $145
1 gatorplast board is $191
If you're interested in using this service please reach out to Mitchell Davis at 614-327-1320 or via email at mdavis@hopkinsprinting.com.
Rates include shipping to ACEC Ohio offices.
Deadline to submit artwork to Hopkins Printing is **October 22, 2026 at 5:00 pm.**

ENTRY CATEGORIES

CATEGORY A: Studies, Research & Consulting Engineering Services
Non-design services, projects not involving the preparation of construction documents, such as:
- New products, materials and technologies
- Expert testimony
- Basic research and studies
- Computer/software technology
- Technical papers
- Public outreach/involvement
- Water conservation
- Security plans
- Project feasibility studies/ economic/risk
- Value engineering

CATEGORY B: Building/ Technology Systems
- Mechanical/electrical/plumbing
- Computer/technology
- Communications
- Acoustics
- Software systems
- Sustainability or carbon neutrality
- Efficiency certification standards, e.g., LEED
- Acoustics
- Software systems
- Energy efficiency - new and retrofit
- Secure facilities (military, research, correctional)

CATEGORY C: Structural Systems
- Foundations
- Tunnels
- Buildings
- Seismic design
- Towers
- Bridges
- Stadiums

CATEGORY D: Survey & Mapping Technology
- Geometrics, ALTA, land title and rights surveys
- Control, GPS, monitoring or construction surveying
- Survey mapping, GIS/LIS/ photogrammetry

CATEGORY E: Environmental
- Hazardous waste
- Solid waste
- Restoration/reclamation/ remediation
- Air quality
- Noise
- Recycling
- Waste pond management
- Carbon sequestration and trading
- Mitigation

CATEGORY F: Waste and Storm Water
- Wastewater collection/treatment and disposal
- Residuals management and reuse
- Graywater systems
- CSOs
- Mine tailings
- Agricultural
- Stormwater management
- Erosion control

CATEGORY G: Water Resources
- Hydraulics, hydrology
- Surface and groundwater supply development
- Treatment
- Transmission, distribution and storage
- Watershed management
- Water use reduction
- Flood risk management
- Climate adaptation
- Coastal and eco-system restoration
- Locks/dams/water control structures
- Irrigation

CATEGORY H: Transportation
- Highways
- Rail
- Airports
- Marine/ports
- Public transit
- Intermodal facilities

CATEGORY I: Special Projects
- Safety and security
- Corrosion protection/cathodic protection
- Program and construction management
- Land development
- Trenchless technologies/ directional boring
- Recreational facilities
- Subsurface engineering

CATEGORY J: Small Projects
Total project construction budget does not exceed **$5 million**. At the entrant's discretion, except for entries in Category A. Projects under $5 million are not limited to this category.

CATEGORY K: Energy
- Transmission and distribution
- Power generation
- Renewable energy
- Cogeneration
- Energy storage technologies
- Energy usage reduction programs
- Demand side management

CATEGORY L: Industrial and Manufacturing Processes and Facilities
- Petrochemical
- Biotech
- Manufacturing
- Heavy industry
- Industrial waste
- Materials handling
- Mining, metallurgy, mineralogy

2027 EEA SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

Official Entry Form

- ☐ Does the project ready for use date or disclosure date fall within the range of November 1, 2024 and October 31, 2026?
- ☐ Do I have the signature of the Firm's Principal?
- ☐ Do I have the signature of the Client/Owner?
- ☐ Are the costs shown on the entry form construction costs and not engineering fees?
- ☐ Have I uploaded a 1-page letter from the Owner/Client?
- ☐ Is the Summary limited to 500 words max?
- ☐ Is the Project Description limited to 4 pages and single-spaced, is budget information and summary included?
- ☐ Have I uploaded all documents in PDF format with the exception of the photos and firm logo which should be uploaded in a jpeg or png file?
- ☐ Have I uploaded the 6 photographs? Do they have captions? (No text on photographs)
- ☐ Did I upload three photographs of the completed project?
- ☐ Did I upload three photographs of the planning, start-up, and/or construction phase of the project?
- ☐ If this is a Category A submission, have I uploaded supplemental report documentation?
- ☐ Have I submitted the 30"x 30" photographic panel?
- ☐ Have I uploaded the EEA blurb a short description that will be read from the awards script during the luncheon?
- ☐ Have I paid the $550 entry fee?

Note: The EEA Online submission system **will not** accept credit card payments. Please contact Haley Phillippi if you want to pay by credit card.

For questions, please contact Haley Phillippi at haley.phillippi@acecohio.org.

PREVIOUS ACEC OHIO GRAND AWARD WINNERS

2026	**RETTEW** – Synthica St. Bernard Organics to Energy Project
2025	**Stantec** – King Avenue/Grandin Road Bridge Replacement
2024	**Jacobs** – I-480 Valley View Bridge Design-Build
2023	**Burgess & Niple** – BioCEPT Improvements at the Akron Water Reclamation Facility
2022	**Strand Associates** –Lick Run Valley Conveyance System and Greenway
2021	**Mott MacDonald & Stantec** – Easterly CSO Tunnel System
2020	**Gannett Fleming** – Buckeye Lake Dam Removal
2019	**Jacobs Engineering** – Dublin Road Water Plant Treatment Capacity Increase
2018	**DLZ Ohio** – OARS-OSIS Augmentation & Relief Sewer
2017	**Stantec** – Scioto Greenways
2016	**AECOM** – University Medical Center New Orleans
2015	**HNTB Ohio** – I-90 George V. Voinovich Innerbelt Bridge
2014	**URS Corporation** – Spaceport America Terminal & Hangar Facility
2013	**HP Limited Inc.** – Central Riverfront Garage – Phase 2
2012	**ms consultants, inc.** – I-70/I-71 Columbus South Innerbelt Study
2011	**DLZ Ohio/HNTB Ohio/Spiro Pollalis** – Main Street Bridge Replacement
2010	**Wilbur Smith Associates** – Euclid Corridor Transportation Project
2009	**THP Limited Inc.** – The Ascent at Roebling's Bridge
2008	**FIGG** – Veterans' Glass City Skyway
2007	**HNTB Ohio** – Perry Street Bridge Replacement
	Karpinski Engineering – Cleveland State University Recreation & Wellness Center
2006	**DLZ Ohio** – River Chamber Stabilization & Demolition – Charleroi Locks & Dam
2005	**Lantz Jones Nebraska Inc.** – Knowlton Hall School of Architecture
2004	**Burgess & Niple, Inc.** – West Columbus Flood Protection Project
2003	**W. E. Monks & Co.** – Honda Transmission "Green" Building
2002	**Parsons Brinckerhoff Ohio, Inc.** – Fort Washington Way Reconstruction
2001	**Civil Design Associates, Inc.** – Atwood Lake Sewer System Phase I