

## The Leigh Ann Conn Prize for Renewable Energy

<http://leighannconnprize.org/>

### Purpose

The purpose of this biennial award is to acknowledge, publicize and disseminate outstanding ideas and achievements in research related to the science, engineering, technology and commercialization of renewable energy. Nominations may address a wide range of topics involving renewable energy and energy efficiency with a demonstrated or clear potential global impact. The award is designed to recognize and reward the impact of specific ideas or achievements, rather than a lifetime of achievements in the field.

### The Prize

The Leigh Ann Conn Prize in Renewable Energy Research consists of the award of a medal and a cash prize of \$50,000. The prize is awarded biennially on odd numbered years.

### Eligibility

Ideas eligible for nomination may have an individual author or multiple authors; however, the total cash prize will be shared in the case of multiple authors. The competition does not limit the format in which the idea or achievement appears. Consideration will be given to documentation appearing in printed books and monographs, articles published in scholarly journals, technological advances, software, research reports, conference presentations, patent documents or other widely and publicly disseminated forms. Consistent with the intent of prize benefactors, Hank and Rebecca Conn, the award will not be given posthumously.

### The Nomination Process

The University of Louisville invites nominations from throughout the world by individuals, professional associations, university administrators, publishers or editors of journals and books, and scientists, entrepreneurs, technologists, and engineers, including those working in national laboratories. **Self-nominations and nominations from or for individuals holding appointed or elected political offices will not be accepted.**

Nominators must submit the following:

- A two-page letter in English identifying the specific idea/accomplishment being nominated, the author(s) of the idea/accomplishment, and why the idea and its impact merits consideration for the award recognition.
- A current mailing address, telephone number, fax number and e-mail address for the nominee(s).

### Deadline for Nominations

Nomination letters will be accepted from January 1 to December 31, 2026 for the 2027 competition. Applications received later will be considered for the 2029 competition.

**For More Information.** Send queries, nominations, and application materials to:

Mr. Andrew Marsh  
Program Officer, Leigh Ann Conn Prize for Renewable Energy  
University of Louisville  
The Phoenix House  
Louisville, KY 40292, USA  
E-Mail: [LeighAnnConnPrize@louisville.edu](mailto:LeighAnnConnPrize@louisville.edu)

### **Supporting Materials for Review**

Additional supporting materials will be requested directly from the nominee(s), and nominees will be sent a nominee agreement explaining the award conditions. Each nominee must then submit the following supporting materials. (All in English; note that items 2-4 must be submitted in electronic format)

1. A signed copy of the nominee agreement
2. A one-page statement describing the candidate's significant achievement and the impact on renewable energy
3. The nominee's curriculum vitae
4. Supporting documents (publications, reviews, etc.)
5. A techno-economic analysis impact statement for the achievement
6. A statement regarding commercialization, or potential commercialization, of the idea for widespread implementation in the world

### **Deadline for Supporting Materials**

All supporting materials for the nomination listed above must be received by **December 31, 2026**.

### **Criteria for Judging Nominations**

Nominations will be subject to administrative review for completeness and responsiveness to the call for submissions, then judged on the basis of overall impact considering various factors: economic impact through renewable energy innovations; the extent of addressing grand challenges; originality; creativity; scientific merit and breadth of global impact on energy consumption and demand reduction; and commercialization.

### **The Review Process**

Applications to the Leigh Ann Conn Prize for Renewable Energy competition are screened by an internal review committee, which consists of distinguished members of the University of Louisville faculty and staff. This committee selects applications for further consideration based on listed criteria. Those selected advance to review by an external review committee comprised of eminent people from industry, academia and national labs. The external review committee assesses all supporting materials using listed criteria, then selects appropriate applicants for final consideration by the Leigh Ann Conn Prize for Renewable Energy Board. This board will recommend one (or no) award winner from the nominee pool to the President of the University of Louisville, who will confer the award.

### **Awardee Requirements**

The winner of the 2027 Leigh Ann Conn Prize for Renewable Energy will be publicly announced in fall 2027. In addition to requirements specified on the nominee agreement, acceptance of the award requires in-person delivery of a public address at the University of Louisville that conveys the importance and impact of the winning idea. Winners must also participate in community and campus events associated with the award ceremonies.

## Entry Agreements and Release

The undersigned Entrant(s), in submitting the nominated work, including any translations or abstracts ("Work) for the Leigh Ann Conn Prize in Renewable Energy ("Prize"), hereby freely acknowledges the following conditions:

1. Entrant shall abide by the rules and procedures of the Prize as established by the University of Louisville.
2. Entrant shall abide by the decision of the Leigh Ann Conn Prize Award Committees and the University of Louisville, and the decision shall be accepted as final by the Entrant.
3. Entrant shall jointly and severally indemnify and hold harmless the University of Louisville and its trustees, officers, employees or agents, including the Leigh Ann Conn Prize Committee members, from the cost of any legal proceeding, claim, or other loss sustained in connection with any dispute as to authority over ownership or rights of the Entrant(s) in the Work.
4. Entrant shall participate, as appropriate, and cooperate in the production of any documentary film or other public relations or publicity matters related to the Prize, including the execution of any necessary releases and/or authorizations. Entrants will be required to submit a short video statement for use on the Prize website.
5. Entrant hereby grants permanent permission for the University of Louisville to use the title, representations, and excerpts from the Work and any media depicting his/her receipt and acceptance of the Award for library and archival purposes, and for the purpose of promoting the Leigh Ann Conn Prize and their affiliation with the University of Louisville. The term "media" is understood to include, but not be limited to, audio and visual and/or recordings of any format that depict the Entrant's visit to the campus of the University of Louisville, the Prize presentation itself, and any comments made by the Entrant as part of the campus visit and the Prize festivities.
6. Entrant shall grant or cause to be granted, at no cost to the University, by the owner or agent of copyright(s) or patent(s) to the Work, the necessary licenses for use of suitable portions of the Work in media about the Prize to be made by or for the University of Louisville and to be used in promoting the Leigh Ann Conn Prize in Renewable Energy and its affiliation with the University of Louisville. Entrants must obtain permission from such owners or agents of copyright(s) and patent(s) before entering the Work, as needed.
7. Upon request, Entrant agrees that, if the submitted Work wins the Prize, all future manifestations of the Work will be accompanied by the following statement: "Winner of the University of Louisville Leigh Ann Conn Prize for Renewable Energy." Prize winning Entrant will be notified of applicable requirements.
8. All physical materials submitted become the property of the University of Louisville and will be included in the Archives of the Ekstrom Library at the University of Louisville.
9. Entrant agrees to accept responsibility of all shipping and/or customs charges incurred.
10. The winner of the Prize will be announced in fall 2027. The winner will be expected to come to Louisville for four days in spring 2028 to make formal presentations based upon the winning idea and to receive the Prize. This trip to Louisville is mandatory. Failure

to fulfill this requirement will result in forfeiture of the Prize, medal, and associated cash prize. The Leigh Ann Conn Prize Board must approve any exceptions to this requirement. During the week of the formal presentation, the winning Entrant shall be present on the UofL Campus for at least four school days to present the formal public lectures, meet with and tutor students, give classes, seminars, presentations of his or her Work, etc.; and the winning Entrant further agrees to return to the University, at the University's expense but without recompense, for one additional period of five school days during the five academic years following the Prize ceremony to engage in similar activities.

11. Entrant agrees and accepts that, consistent with the intent of Henry and Rebecca Conn, the Prize will not be given posthumously. The Entrant must be living to receive the Prize and must participate in the Prize festivities referenced above to receive the Prize, medal, and associated cash prize. The cash prize will be paid after the Prize festivities.
12. If utilized, any installment payments will cease upon the death of the recipient. Winning the Prize does not create any property rights in the cash prize for the recipient's heirs or estate. If the Prize is given to multiple recipients, there is only one total cash amount associated with the Prize and said cash amount will be divided evenly amongst the winning recipients. If a co-recipient dies before the final installment is paid, payments to that co-recipient will cease and the full amount of the remaining installments will be divided evenly between the still-living co-authors.
13. Required signatures below. Add additional entrant signatures, printed names, and dates as necessary.

Agreed to and Acknowledged by the Entrant(s)

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Entrant signature	Printed name	Date
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Entrant signature	Printed name	Date
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Entrant signature	Printed name	Date
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Nominator signature	Printed name	Date
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