



Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Climate Action,
Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety



IDZ International
Design Center Berlin

Press release of the International Design Center Berlin (IDZ)

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15 years of the German Ecodesign Award: Apply now

Apply for the German government's highest award for ecological design by 2 April!

Now in its 15th year, the competition can look back on a long history of success: since 2012, the huge interest in the German Ecodesign Award has been reflected in over 4,000 submissions. These resulted in around 430 nominations, of which 151 projects ultimately received awards.

The thematic focus has also evolved significantly: while the early years concentrated primarily on resource-efficient products and energy-efficient solutions, subsequent years increasingly shifted attention to the circular economy, reparability, and new usage and service concepts. Today, systemic approaches, innovative bio-based materials, as well as digital and AI-driven solutions shape the field. Ecodesign is therefore increasingly understood as a holistic lever for sustainable transformation.

Why Participation Is Worthwhile

As the highest award of the German Federal Government for ecological design, the prize stands for credibility and quality. A special highlight is the ceremonial award presentation held in the atriums of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, which welcomes around 200 invited guests from politics, business, and design each year. This year's award ceremony will take place on **30 November**.

The recognition extends far beyond this moment: the winners benefit from significant media exposure as well as participation in a year-long roadshow. All awarded and nominated projects are presented across Europe at trade fairs, in museums, and at design and environmental festivals. Accompanying events, keynote talks, and workshops further enhance visibility while offering opportunities for professional exchange and networking.

Overview of the Competition Procedure

The award is presented in the categories Product, Service, Concept, and Emerging Talent. Submissions may be made until 2 April 2026 for projects that combine ecological responsibility with high design quality. Eligible entries range from market-ready products to visionary model projects and include products or prototypes, services and system solutions, innovative ideas in the development or planning phase, as well as student work. In addition to technical solutions, social approaches also play a central role.

The competition is open to companies and start-ups of all industries and sizes, design agencies, architecture and engineering firms, research institutions, non-profit organizations, and students from across Europe.

Practical guidance is provided through the German Ecodesign Award's [criteria matrix](#) and the [Ecodesign Kit](#) developed by the German Environment Agency. Evaluation takes place in several

stages by expert panels of the German Environment Agency and the [advisory board](#), as well as by an interdisciplinary [jury](#). The assessment focuses on environmental performance, design quality, and degree of innovation.

Since 2012, the Federal Ministry for the Environment (BMUKN) and the German Environment Agency (UBA) have awarded the German Ecodesign Award annually in cooperation with the International Design Center Berlin (IDZ).

Further information

[Application form](#)

[Criteria matrix](#)

[Competition factsheet](#)

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