



2012 Engineering Excellence Awards

ACEC
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Washington

Call for Entries



ACEC *Washington*

Engineering Excellence is an annual design competition that recognizes engineering achievements that demonstrate the highest degree of merit and ingenuity. For more than thirty years, ACEC Washington member firms have competed in the state competition and the finalists have gone on to compete against the finest examples of engineering excellence in the world.

Engineering Excellence 2012 offers all competition entrants an opportunity to be recognized regardless of the size of the firm or the size of the project. ACEC Washington's highly successful "best in state" local-only competition track will once again parallel the traditional ACEC Engineering Excellence Program, or "national track." The "local track" competition is less costly and less time consuming to enter, with the panel and notebook requirements significantly reduced. A description of the submittal requirements for both programs is contained in this booklet.

The two competition tracks will be judged separately, by different criteria. However, the same panel of five judges will review submittals for each competition. The judging will take place at the ACEC Washington offices on December 12 & 13, 2011. Awards will be announced at the ACEC Washington Winter Meeting Awards Banquet, to be held on January 20, 2012 at The Westin Bellevue. National track finalists from ACEC Washington will move on to the national competition, which is judged in Washington, D.C. Each year, one project receives the "Grand Conceptor" Award. A potential twenty-three other projects receive either Grand Awards or Honor Awards. All finalists will receive national recognition at the Washington, D.C. gala event on April 17, 2012.

A distinguished panel of judges is convened to critique the national finalist's projects. Some 25-30 professionals with backgrounds in engineering, architecture, state and federal government, media, academia and the military spend three days evaluating the projects before selecting the top winner and runners up.

Entries in both tracks and ACEC finalists are rated on the basis of uniqueness and innovative applications, future value to the engineering profession and perception by the public, social, economic, and sustainable development considerations, complexity, and successful fulfillment of client/owner's needs, including schedule and budget. National Track designs are entered into one of 12 project categories: studies, research, and consulting; building/ technology systems; structural systems; surveying and mapping technology; environmental; water and wastewater; water resources; transportation; special projects; small projects; energy; and industrial and manufacturing processes and facilities.



ELIGIBILITY

Any firm engaged in the private practice of consulting engineering or surveying is eligible to enter the awards program whether or not the firm is an ACEC or ACEC Washington member.

GENERAL CRITERIA – NATIONAL TRACK

Both member and non-member engineering firm entries must be submitted to the ACEC Washington Engineering Excellence Awards Competition in order to be submitted to the ACEC national competition. All ACEC entries must pass through the state organization's competitions.

An initial entry form declaring entry in the ACEC Washington/ACEC Engineering Excellence Competition national track must be completed and received in the ACEC Washington office by October 1, 2011. A final confirmation in the form of a \$400 entry fee for members and \$1400 for non-members must be received in the ACEC Washington office by November 7, 2011.

1 Each entry should be submitted to the ACEC Washington Member Organization in accordance with ACEC Washington's entry rules for judging in its own competition. Contact the ACEC Washington office for further details. Entries to the ACEC national competition must be submitted in accordance with the rules and requirements in the official EEA brochure.

2 ACEC Washington will submit five entries from its own membership, plus one member entry for every five above ten entered on the state level. In addition, a Member Organization may submit any non-member entries judged to be legitimate candidates for entry in the national competition. Such non-member submittals will not be counted against the member submittal limitations outlined above.

3 Engineering or surveying projects that have won awards in state or national organizations' programs are encouraged to be entered.

4 Projects entered in the competition may have been executed anywhere in the world. Research and Studies (Category A) or Surveying and Mapping projects (Category D) must have been publicly disclosed by the client between November 1, 2009 and October 31, 2011. Construction of projects (Categories B through L - with the exception of D) must have been substantially completed and ready for use between November 1, 2009 and October 31, 2011.

5 Entries in the national competition may be placed in any one of the 12 categories. The entering firm must select the one category that is most appropriate. A project may be entered only once in any category. However, after a project entered in Category A has been constructed, it may be entered in a different category - B through L - in the year when eligible.

6 Each entry must consist of three components: I) Official Entry Notebook; II) Envelope Containing Submission Materials, and III) Photographic Display Panel (see Preparing Your Entry for the 2012 Engineering Excellence Awards.) Non-compliance with the rules may disqualify an entry. Please read the requirements thoroughly.



7 ACEC will not be responsible for any damages to or loss of an entrant's Official Entry Notebook, Envelope, electronic media, Supplementary Report, or Photographic Display Panel.

8 The ACEC Engineering Excellence Awards Committee reserves the right to determine the eligibility and category classification of all entries.

GENERAL CRITERIA – LOCAL TRACK

1 An initial entry form must be completed and received in the ACEC Washington office by October 1, 2010. The final confirmation entry form and a \$275 entry fee for members (\$1275 for non-members) must be received in the ACEC Washington office by November 7, 2011.

2 Entries in the local track competition must declare so on the initial entry form, but do not select a category.

3 Projects entered in the competition may have been executed anywhere in the world. Entries must have been substantially completed and ready for use between November 1, 2009 and October 31, 2011.

ACEC NATIONAL AWARDS

All submissions are considered National Recognition Award Winners. The panel of judges will select up to 24 awards at their discretion – 8 Grand and 16 Honor Awards. A Grand Conceptor Award will be selected from the 8 Grand Award winners. The Grand Conceptor will be announced at the Gala as the top national winner selected by the judges, whose decisions on all awards are final. Awards will be presented to the clients/owners and entering firms submitting the winning entries. All National Finalists will be recognized along with the top 24 winning projects and the Grand Conceptor winner during the EEA Gala evening.

The public relations and marketing value of participation in the national EEA program is substantial. All national winners will be highlighted in ACEC's public relations program, which benefits all U.S. engineering firms. Working with participating firms and MOs, ACEC staff will contact local media to announce winners and their award. Through national and MO efforts, display panels can be exhibited in city administrative buildings, universities, shopping centers, and office buildings. These activities enhance direct business development benefits for both local and national award winners. Further benefits are gained through feature stories presented in firm brochures, newsletters, and other publications.

JUDGING

1 Entries in the ACEC Washington local track will be judged and awards will be given for engineering excellence in each of the following criteria :

- **Original or Innovative Application of New or Existing Techniques**
- **Future Value to the Engineering Profession and Perception by the Public**
- **Social, Economic, and Sustainable Design Considerations**
- **Complexity**



- **Exceeding Client/Owner Needs**

2 ACEC Washington entries in the national track will be judged on total engineering excellence, using the same criteria, in 12 categories if there are sufficient entries. If there are not enough entries to judge in the following categories, entries will be judged at-large or categories will be combined.

Below is a list of ACEC categories that form ACEC Washington's judging categories:

- **Studies, Research and Consulting**
- **Building/Technology Systems**
- **Structural Systems**
- **Surveying and Mapping Technology**
- **Environmental**
- **Water and Storm Water**
- **Water Resources**
- **Transportation**
- **Special Projects**
- **Small Projects**
- **Energy**
- **Industrial and Manufacturing Processes and Facilities**

3 National finalists are judged on the basis of overall engineering excellence in each of 12 categories. The judges may make at least one award in each of the categories having six or more entries and may, upon their discretion, make an award in a category having less than six entries. The number of winners per category may be based on the number of entries. Entries are judged on the basis of the work performed by the entering firm only and according to the rating guidelines listed.

TWELVE CATEGORIES OF ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE

- A. Studies, Research and Consulting**
- B. Building/Technology Systems**
- C. Structural Systems**
- D. Surveying and Mapping Technology**
- E. Environmental**
- F. Water and Storm Water**
- G. Water Resources**
- H. Transportation**
- I. Special Projects**
- J. Small Projects**
- K. Energy**
- L. Industrial and Manufacturing Processes and Facilities**



DESCRIPTION OF ACEC CATEGORIES

CATEGORY A: STUDIES, RESEARCH AND CONSULTING: NON-DESIGN SERVICES, PROJECTS NOT INVOLVING THE PREPARATION OF CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS.

- 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
- Energy efficiency – new and retrofit
- Secure facilities (military, research, correctional)

CATEGORY C: STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS

- Foundations
- Tunnels
- Buildings
- Seismic design
- Towers
- Bridges
- Stadiums

CATEGORY D: SURVEYING AND 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: WATER AND STORM WATER

- Wastewater collection/treatment and disposal
- Residuals management and reuse
- Graywater systems
- CSOs
- Mine tailings
- Agricultural
- Storm water management
- Erosion control

CATEGORY G: WATER RESOURCES

- Hydraulics, hydrology
- Surface and groundwater supply development
- Treatment
- Transmission, distribution and storage
- Watershed management
- Water use relocation
- 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



- Recreational facilities
- Subsurface engineering

CATEGORY J: SMALL PROJECTS

- Total project construction budget does not exceed \$2.5 million. At the entrant's discretion, except for entries in Category A, projects under \$2.5 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

JUDGING CRITERIA

The ACEC Washington local track will be judged according to these guidelines, but the criteria will not be weighted. The national track will use the weighted scoring system displayed in the chart below.

RATING GUIDELINES DEFINITIONS

1

Original or Innovative Application of New or Existing Techniques:

- Does the entry demonstrate the use of a new science or a breakthrough in the general knowledge of engineering?
- Does the entry represent a unique application of new or existing technology, techniques, materials, or equipment?

2

Future Value to the Engineering Profession and Perception by the Public:

- Will the entry redefine current engineering thinking?
- Does the entry advance a positive public image of engineering excellence?



3 Social, Economic, and Sustainable Design 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?

4 Complexity:

- Did the entry successfully address very complex criteria or unique problems?
- Were extraordinary problems of site, location, hazardous conditions, project requirements or similar elements present?
- Did the entry require the use of out-of-the-ordinary technology or ingenuity for achievement of the project's goals?

5 Exceeding Client/Owner Needs:

- Did the engineer or entrant successfully engage the client/owner in the overall project development process?
- Is it an economical and cost-effective solution?
- How did the final cost relate 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?

RATING GUIDELINES FOR JUDGING

Original or Innovative Application of New or Existing Techniques	20%
Future Value to Engineering the Profession and Perception by the Public	20%
Social, Economic, and Sustainable Design Considerations	20%
Complexity	20%
Exceeding Client/Owner Needs	20%
TOTAL	100%

PREPARING A NATIONAL ENTRY

This section describes all required submission materials for entering the 2012 ACEC Engineering Excellence Awards Competition. All materials must be submitted exactly as designated below. Digital files must be PC compatible and appropriate to the information being submitted (i.e., Microsoft Word for text, JPEGs for photos or other images, Adobe PDFs, etc.)

If the submission does not meet the requirements listed, it may be disqualified. If any part of an entry does not meet the requirements listed, that portion of the entry may not be presented for judging.

Extraneous material will be discarded prior to the judging. Please follow the guidelines; no tabbed dividers, no extra pictures on the front and back covers; and no extra handouts or materials are permitted.

No references to other awards should be included in submitted materials.



Company representative must be available by phone on **January 18, 2012**.

Also included are suggestions for the comprehensive preparation of your entry.

Deliver all materials and panels by the December 5, 2011 deadline to:

ACEC Washington, c/o Paula Knudson
11061 NE 2nd Street, Suite 250
Bellevue, WA 98004-5892

ACEC SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The following **three main components must be submitted** with the national Engineering Excellence Awards competition entry:

- I. Official Entry Notebook
- II. Envelope Containing Submission Materials
- III. Photographic Display Panel

I. OFFICIAL ENTRY NOTEBOOK

Notebooks will be provided and assembled in the ACEC Washington office and must include one copy of the following (*these copies are in addition to those that must be included in the Envelope*).

- Official Entry Form
- Signed Letter from the Client/Owner
- Executive Summary
- Project Description
- Six different Photos or Graphics (*with captions and labeled: Photo 1, Photo 2, etc.*)
- Photographic Display Panel (*small 8" x 11" version*)
- CD-ROM
- Supplemental Report – requirement applies only Category A submissions. (Insert inside back cover or separately if too large.)
- Entry Fee - \$975 for ACEC Members and \$3,000 for non-ACEC members (*This applies only if your submittal has been selected to compete in the national competition. In order to advance to this level, you must apply in the "National Track" and be selected by the judges as a "national finalist."*)

II. ENVELOPE CONTAINING SUBMISSION MATERIALS

The large envelope must have a label affixed to the outside, which indicates the firm name, the project name, and the category in which it shall be judged. The envelope must be large enough to contain originals and copies as indicated below:

1 The original and 10 copies (**three-hole punched**) of the completed Official Entry Form (from the ACEC National Brochure or downloaded from the ACEC website – www.acec.org). The engineer or surveyor and client/owner **must all sign the original Official Entry Form** stating that the submitted project was substantially completed and ready for use between November 1, 2009 and October 31, 2011.

2 Original and 10 copies (**three-hole punched**) of a one-page signed client/owner letter, addressed to ACEC,



describing the relationship the client/owner had with the entrant in the development of the project and how it exceeded the client/owner needs.

3 Original and 10 copies (**three-hole punched**) of an Executive Summary – one-page; 8.5” x 11” with 1” side margins; double-spaced (minimum 12 pt. type) – describing the problem and solution. Project title and entry category must appear at the top of the page.

4 Original and 10 compiled copies (**three-hole punched**) of a Project Description, not to exceed five pages – 8.5” x 11”, 1” side margins – addressing items a, b, c, and d as listed below. Project title, category, and page number must appear at the top of each page. Entrants may use text (minimum 12 pt.), photos, graphs, etc.

- A. Role of entrant’s firm in the project.
- B. Role of other consultants participating in the project.
- C. Brief description of the entrant’s contribution to the project addressing each of the following rating guidelines:
 - Original or Innovative Application of New or Existing Techniques
 - Future Value to the Engineering Profession and Perception by the Public
 - Social, Economic, and Sustainable Design Considerations
 - Complexity
 - Exceeding Client/Owner Needs. Include total project budgeted cost, total project actual cost, entrant’s portion of the budgeted cost, entrant’s portion of the actual cost, scheduled and actual date of completion information as indicated on the *Official Entry Form*.
- D. Describe in layman’s terms why this project is worthy of special recognition (word count between 100 – 500 words). Explain all factors that comprise the project’s uniqueness such as innovative engineering, challenges faced, and overall social impact. **Note: This description will provide the basis for all ACEC publicity on the project.**

5 Original and 10 compiled copies (three-hole punched) of the key participants on the project. Provide firm name, address, phone number, website, and email address of each participant. Key participants should include contractors, subcontractors, other engineers, architects, and designers involved in the project.

6 Three copies each of six different photos or graphics (18 total) of high quality 8.5” x 11” printed from digital files. All photographs or graphics must have captions (describe what the photo or graph illustrates) on the back and labeled: Photo 1, Photo 2, etc. (include on CD-ROM: the required photos or graphics must be prepared as JPEGs, RGB, 300 dpi, sized to 8.5” x 11”; captions do not need to be included on the CD-Rom).

PHOTOGRAPHIC GUIDELINES:

- A. Photographs will be projected on a large screen during the Engineering Excellence Award Gala. Therefore, it is extremely important to submit high-quality, high-resolution images.
- B. Three of the photographs must be of the completed project and provide the highest level of visual impact for publicity.
- C. Three of the photographs should display the planning, start-up, and/or construction phases of the project.
- D. One enlarged, unmounted glossy photograph will be requested from each of the 24 national winners at a later time for ACEC’s Engineering Excellence Awards display wall in Washington, D. C. The



photograph will be selected from those submitted with the entry.

7 Forty-five copies (**three-hole punched**) of the Photographic Display Panel (*guidelines below*) – sized to **8.5” x 11” color** photographs or to 8.5” x 11” high-quality color laser prints (include on CD-Rom *as Adobe PDF, 600 dpi, sized to 8.5” x 11”*).

8 E-Mail addresses of local newspapers, TV stations, and radio stations in Excel format. If the MO or the entrant intends to handle all local and national publicity for the project, include a statement to this effect.

9 Eleven compiled copies (**three-hole punched**) of a press release (*up to two pages, double-spaced*) clearly and concisely describing the project and the entrant’s participation, reflecting on factors listed in point #4. In addition, indicate the value of the project to the community, identify the number of people served, cost savings, etc. No reference to other awards should be included in the submitted materials.

10 One copy of the CD-ROM must be included in the envelope. CD-ROMs must be properly labeled to indicate the firm name, the project name, and the category. Be sure to test your CDs on different computers to ensure they are not machine dependent. The CD-ROMs must be read-only (CD-R) and should include the following items in order and titled as shown:

- 01 Official entry form**
- 02 Executive Summary**
- 03 Project Description**
- 04 Six photos or graphs**
- 05 Photographic Display Panel** (*small version*)
- 06 Media List in Excel format**
- 07 PowerPoint File** with a total of eight slides including a title slide with the name of the project followed by Photos 1-6 and the small version of the photographic display panel. This PowerPoint file will support the presentation of your project to the judges. No sound or animation is permitted. No preset timing or slide show sequencing should be embedded. A sample PowerPoint presentation is downloadable from the Engineering Excellence Awards website.

11 One copy of the **Supplementary Report** containing the findings portrayed with graphs, drawings, etc. (*requirement applies only to Category A submissions*).

III. PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAY PANEL

Panel text and photos should demonstrate the challenges, solutions, and innovative uniqueness of key project elements. The panel should be prepared with **high-quality photos and graphics, with minimal text** (*250 words maximum*). **The photographic panel should meet the following requirements:**

1 **One photographic panel, 30” x 30” square** display material, which has a matte finish, and laminated over the front and back as follows: a) front lamination is 5 mil; b) back lamination is 5 mil; and c) panel is no more than 5-6 mil for a total of 15-16 mil in thickness. Four, 9-inch long strips of Velcro (**the hook side only**) must be placed on the back of this panel only, near each corner of the panel. **Framed or mounted panels will NOT**



be accepted. And one additional photographic panel, 30" x 30" square unframed, but should be mounted on form core or corex or equivalent. The first 30" x 30" panel will be reserved for the national program, and cannot be returned. The second panel will be returned immediately after the ACEC Washington Awards Banquet on January 20, 2012.

2 **Maximum of six photos and/or graphics** shall be used on the panel. Each image shall be a minimum of 7" x 5" or 35 sq. in. A background photo is not considered a photograph.

3 **Minimum of 32 pt. type** for text or descriptions and minimum **28 pt. type** for captions and graphics.

4 ACEC Logo (download from the ACEC website) title and location of the study or project, client/owner's name and location, and entering firm's name and location (*minimum 32 pt. type*) shall be indicated on the front of the panel.

5 Leave a 2" x 2" space in the upper right-hand corner of the panel that is free of text or images but carries the panel's background scheme through this space. This blank space should not be left as a white square. This space will be used by the ACEC Engineering Excellence Awards Committee to code the entry so any words or graphics in this area will be hidden once the panel is coded.

6 The firm name, the firm address, the project name, and the category shall be indicated **on the back of panel**.

Official Entry Form Comments: If your firm was responsible for the entire project, then the Entrant's portion of the Total Project Construction Budget should equal the Total Project Construction Budget. If your firm was not responsible for the entire project, then the Entrant's Portion of the Total Project Construction Budget should be the amount of the project construction budget your firm was responsible for.

PREPARING A "LOCAL TRACK" ENTRY

The following material describes the reduced notebook and panel requirements for the ACEC Washington local-only competition.

Deliver all notebooks and panels by the December 5, 2011 deadline to:

ACEC Washington, c/o Paula Knudson

11061 NE 2nd Street, Suite 250

Bellevue, WA 98004-5892

NOTEBOOK REQUIREMENTS

REQUIRED ELEMENTS

1 ACEC Washington Local Competition Entry form (included in this booklet) signed by the engineer and the client/owner.



- 2** One copy of a project description, not to exceed five pages following the details as outlined in the ACEC requirements in I. Official Entry Notebook, item 4, a-d.
- 3** One copy of an executive summary, not to exceed one page
- 4** Up to four images representing the project. They should be digital images, color photos or laser reproductions. Digital images should be .tiff or .jpg format no larger than 2mb.
- 5** CD-Rom containing the project description, executive summary, and up to four images representing the project.

OPTIONAL ELEMENTS

- 1** One-page letter from the owner describing the relationship with the entrant in the development of the project and in meeting/exceeding the client's needs.

PANEL REQUIREMENTS

- 1** One photographic panel, 20 x 20 inches unframed, but should be mounted on foam core or corex or equivalent.
- 2** The panel should contain the Name of the project, name of the firm and the name of the client/owner.
- 3** As few as one image, photographic or otherwise.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Deadline for Initial Entry Form	October 1, 2011
Deadline for Confirmation of Entry and Entry Fee	November 7, 2011
Deadline for delivery of written materials and panels to ACEC Washington office	December 5, 2011
Judging of ACEC Washington entries (both tracks)	December 12 & 13, 2011
A company representative must be available by phone	January 18, 2012
ACEC Washington Awards Banquet	January 20, 2012
National Awards Judging	February 10-12, 2012
Engineering Excellence Awards Gala in Washington, D.C.	April 17, 2012



QUESTIONS?

CONTACT:

Paula Knudson, EEA Program Coordinator
ACEC Washington

11061 NE 2nd Street, Suite 250
Bellevue, WA 98004-5892
P: (425) 453-6655 F: (425) 451-3521
E: paula@acec-wa.org

2011 ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS SUBMISSION CHECKLIST FOR NOTEBOOK

- Official Entry Form
 - Do the dates fall within the range of November 1, 2009 and October 31, 2011
 - Do I have the signature of the Firm's Principal?
 - Do I have the signature of the Client/Owner?
- Have I included a one-page letter from the Owner/Client?
- Is the Executive Summary limited to one-page and double-spaced?
- Is the Project Description limited to five pages?
- Have I included the six photographs?
 - Are they labeled on the back with photo number and caption?
 - Did I include three photographs of the completed project?
 - Did I include three photographs of the planning, start-up, and/or construction phase of the project?
- Have I included the panel (small 8.5" x 11" version)? Are photographs prepared as JPEGs, RGB, 300 dpi, sized to 8.5" x 11"?
- Please be sure the contact listed on the Official Entry Form will be available on Wednesday, January 18, 2012
- If this is a Category A submission, have I included supplemental report documentation?

