



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Maine

2026 ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Each year, the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) sponsors a national Engineering Excellence Awards (EEA) program to recognize engineering projects which epitomize quality, innovation, value, and client satisfaction. A requirement for entry into ACEC's national competition is participation in a Member Organization's engineering excellence program. Since 1988, ACEC of Maine has sponsored such a program. The annual ACEC of Maine Engineering Excellence Awards program precedes the national program by several months to afford award winners ample time to prepare their submittals to the ACEC national program. The 2026 ACEC of Maine Engineering Excellence Awards entry requirements have been simplified and are slightly different than the ACEC's national competition requirements. This simplification is intended to encourage member firms to submit to ACEC of Maine's competition. Firms wishing to submit to ACEC's national competition will need to complete some additional requirements and comply with those guidelines that are available online. It is anticipated that most of the effort to enter the Maine competition is transferrable to the national competition.

The ACEC of Maine Awards Committee has made every effort to make the competition fair to all firms, regardless of size or discipline. All firms are urged to submit an entry to showcase a project that they have recently completed. Participation in the program boosts staff morale, improves client relations, and assures state-wide publicity. All entries will be posted on ACEC of Maine's web site (<https://eea.acec.org/maine>) upon completion of the competition. **All participants in the competition will be recognized at ACEC of Maine's 2025 Fall Forum and Engineering Excellence Awards event on November 13, 2025.** All entrants will make a brief presentation on their EEA submittals at that time. Representatives for all projects should be present and available to accept awards.

All applications will be submitted electronically, via the ACEC of Maine EEA portal. Instructions for submittal are below. Please contact ACEC of Maine Executive Director, Tanya Griffeth, at info@acecmaine.com or (207) 557-0939 or Kevin Cooley, P.E. at Kleinschmidt Associates (207-416-1272) with questions.

ELIGIBILITY

Both member and non-member firms are eligible to enter the program. The project location is not limited to Maine, but the project must have been conducted substantially by and under the direction of the firm's Maine office.

GENERAL CRITERIA

ACEC of Maine Categories are identical to the ACEC National Competition Categories.

1. Projects entered in the competition may have been executed anywhere in the world but must have been substantially performed by and under the direction of the firm's Maine office. Studies, Research, and Consulting (Category A) or Surveying and Mapping Technology (Category D) must have been publicly

disclosed by the client between November 1, 2023 and October 31, 2025. Construction of the project (Categories B-L, with the exception of Category D) must have been substantially completed and ready for use between November 1, 2023 and October 31, 2025.

2. A project may be entered into only one of the categories for which it is eligible. A project entered in Category A, however, may be entered in another year in Category B-L when eligible. Firms may enter any number of projects in the ACEC of Maine competition. However, only one project per firm may be submitted to ACEC for the national competition.

3. Entries may be submitted jointly by two or more Maine engineering firms if the project involved significant participation by more than one firm in the aspects to be considered by the judges. The entry fee will increase by \$100 for each additional firm beyond one. A joint entry is one in which more than one firm is listed as the entrant firm. An entry with one entrant firm and one or more acknowledged subconsultant firms does not constitute a joint entry.

4. Each entry must be submitted via ACEC of Maine EEA portal and accompanied by an electronic display

panel and a PowerPoint slide deck, as indicated under the section, "How to Submit an Entry." Non-compliance with the rules will automatically disqualify an entry. Please read the requirements thoroughly.

5. Engineering projects that have won awards in other state or national organizations' design awards programs may be entered.

6. The ACEC of Maine Engineering Excellence Awards Committee reserves the right to determine eligibility of all entries.

7. ACEC of Maine member firms may submit up to 10 entries for consideration in the ACEC National Engineering Excellence Awards competition. If there are greater than 10 entries received, ACEC of Maine has the option to submit one additional entry for every 5 additional submittals received. This is the only mechanism for Maine member firms to be considered for the ACEC National program.

AWARDS

ACEC of Maine's Grand Conceptor Award may come from any of the categories and will be presented to the top state winner. Honor Awards will be presented to the top project in each category. Plaques will be awarded to the Grand Conceptor and the Honor Award winners. At the discretion of the judges, Special Recognition Awards may also be presented to other entries.

IMPORTANT DATES

The deadline for submitting ACEC of Maine entries is Friday, October 10, 2025. Judging will take place the week of October 13, 2025. Awards will be presented at ACEC of Maine's Fall Forum and Engineering Excellence Awards event on November 13, 2025. Representatives for all projects should be in attendance to present their project.

The deadline for submitting entries to the ACEC National competition is January 7, 2026. If an entry is submitted to the ACEC National competition, a Company Representative must be available by phone on January 14, 2026. Judging will take place February 20-22, 2026 and ACEC's awards presentation will be in Washington, D.C. on May 5, 2026.

JUDGING

Entries will be judged on the basis of overall engineering excellence. The number of awards to be given will depend on the number of entries and the categories represented. The top winner will receive the Grand Conceptor Award and other entrants may be selected for Honor Awards or Special Recognition Awards. Judges may select more than one project in any one category for an award, but no more than two projects from the same firm may receive awards. If two

projects from the same firm are selected, the firm may only choose one for submission to the ACEC National program. All entries will receive recognition at the awards presentation.

Entries will be judged on the basis of the work performed by the entering firm's Maine office only and in accordance with the rating guidelines listed below.

Winners will be notified in advance of the Fall Forum in order to facilitate attendance planning. Announcement of winners will occur at the awards presentation. Public notices will be made after the awards presentation. A press release will be issued by ACEC of Maine developed based on the submitted

project descriptions. Clients of submitted projects are invited to the awards presentation as guests of the winning firms. ACEC of Maine will not be responsible for clients' meals, beverages or other expenses during that day.

RATING GUIDELINES

All entries will be scored based on the following criteria:

Uniqueness and/or Innovative Applications of New or Existing Techniques

- Does the entrant's contribution to the project demonstrate the use of a new science or a breakthrough 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?

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?

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?

Complexity

- Did the entry 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 the use of out-of-the-ordinary technology or ingenuity for achievement of the project's goals?

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?

PROJECT CATEGORIES

CATEGORY A

Studies, Research, and Consulting Engineering Services

Non-design services, projects not involving the preparation of construction documents consisting of but not limited to the following types of projects:

- 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

Buildings/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

Waste and Storm Water

- Wastewater collection/treatment and disposal;
- Residuals management and reuse
- Graywater systems
- CSO's
- Mine tailings
- Agricultural
- Storm water management
- Erosion control

CATEGORY G

Water Resources

- Hydraulics, hydrology
- Surface and groundwater supply development
- Treatment
- Transmission, distribution & 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 \$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

ACEC of Maine categories are identical to the ACEC National competition categories.

HOW TO SUBMIT AN ENTRY

Requirements are mandatory and must be followed in order to enter the ACEC of Maine competition. These requirements are patterned after, but are not identical to, the requirements for ACEC National Engineering Excellence Awards entries. Submission to the ACEC National competition need to meet those requirements as detailed on the ACEC website. If the submission does not meet requirements, it will not be judged. These are guidelines for preparing your materials. Contact Kevin Cooley, P.E., Kleinschmidt Associates (207-416-1272) or Tanya Griffeth, ACEC of Maine Executive Director (207-557-0939), if you have any questions.

An entry fee of \$250 for ACEC of Maine member firms and \$600 for non-member firms must accompany each submittal. The entry fee is increased by **\$100** for each additional firm on a joint entry. Payment must be made via check payable to ACEC of Maine and mailed to 451 Webbs Mills Road, Raymond, ME 04071.

A. OFFICIAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

All entry material must be submitted electronically through the ACEC of Maine submission portal accessible through the ACEC of Maine Website (mo.acec.org/maine/).

Each entry must include these nine (9) requirements.

1. **Official Entry Form** - The engineer or surveyor and the client/owner all must sign the original *Official Entry Form* stating that the submitted project was substantially completed and ready for use between November 1, 2023 and October 31, 2025. *Specification:* PDF Format.

2. **Client/Owner Letter** - A one-page signed *Client/Owner Letter* addressed to ACEC of Maine, describing the relationship the client/owner had with the entrant in the development of the project, and how it exceeded the client/owner needs. No entry can be accepted without a client release letter. Entrants are urged to obtain the client release letter early in the submittal process. Entries have been withdrawn in the past because clients did not respond in time. Following is suggested wording for the client release letter.

"As client (owner), I (we) am (are) satisfied with the work of the consulting engineer on (name of project) and hereby grant permission to (name of entrant firm) to enter the project in the ACEC of Maine Engineering Excellence Awards competition, and authorize publication of its outstanding features, unique aspects, or innovations. I (we) certify that the project was substantially completed and ready

for use (publicly disclosed) between November 1, 2023 and October 31, 2025."

Specification: One page maximum; PDF Format.

3. **Executive Summary** - An *Executive Summary* providing an overview of the project and describing the problem and solution. The project title and entry category must appear at the top of the page. *Specifications:* One page maximum; PDF Format.

4. **Project Description** – (**Max of 6 pages**) Tell the story of the project, arranged in an outline format. Address all items listed below. Project title, entry category, and page number must appear at the top of each page. Entrants may use text, photos, graphics, or charts as needed to respond directly to the five (5) criteria listed in item 4c. This will make it easier for the judges to determine the entry's merit in accordance with the judging criteria. *Specifications:* PDF Format. Text must include the following:

- a. Role of entrant's firm in the project.
- b. Role of other consultants participating in the project.
- c. A brief description of the entrant's contribution to the project addressing each of the *Rating Guidelines* defined above for detailed rating, judging, and weighting information Describe how your project meets one or all of the following:
 - Uniqueness and/or innovative application of new or existing techniques;
 - Future value to the engineering profession and perception by the public;
 - Social, economic, and sustainable development considerations;

- Complexity;
- Successful fulfillment of client/owner needs; and

d. Summary: Describe in layman's terms why this project is worthy of special recognition. Explain all factors that comprise the project's uniqueness and complexity, such as innovative engineering, challenges faced and overall social impact. This summary will provide the basis for all ACEC publicity on the project. *Specifications (Summary only)*: 100-500 word count limit.

5. Key Participants - Provide firm name for each *Key Participant* on the project. *Key Participants* should include contractors, subcontractors, other engineers, architects and other designers significantly involved in the project. *Specification*: PDF Format

6. Photos or Graphics – Three to six different high-quality photos or graphics (one per 8.5"x11" page) with captions describing what the photo or graphic illustrates. Pictures will be used in order submitted for an EEA PowerPoint presentation at the Fall Forum. Photographs will be projected on a large screen during the EEA presentation; therefore, it is extremely important to submit high-quality, high-resolution images. *Specification*: JPG Format.

7. Electronic Display Panel - For use as part of the EEA Awards process at the Fall Forum, entrants shall include a high-quality color electronic display panel.

Specification: PDF Format. One slide with EEA logo, firm name, project name, project location, city and state. (ACEC and EEA logos may be downloaded from the ACEC website at www.acec.org.) Include a minimum of one photo. Photos used must be from those submitted as part of firm's EEA entry. Electronic Display Panels will be used as backdrop for award photos and other EEA displays at the Fall

Forum so additional text should be kept to a minimum.

At entrant's option, and cost, a printed panel may be displayed at the ACEC of Maine Fall Forum. It must comply with requirements of the ACEC National submission requirements available at www.acec.org.

8. Media List (optional) - Email addresses of local newspapers, TV stations and radio stations in Excel format. If the entrant intends to handle all local and national publicity for the project, include a statement to this effect. *Specification*: PDF Format.

9. PowerPoint Presentation - PowerPoint file, containing eight (8) slides including one (1) title slide with EEA new logo, firm name, project name, project location, city and state, followed by: Six (6) slides which include photos 1 through 6 (same photos as Item #6 above), and captions for each photo. Do not include caption/text on the photo. Plus one (1) slide that contains the photographic display panel. Accepted file format is PowerPoint (PPT or PPTX) only. This presentation will be used by the judges as part of their evaluation and during the project presentation at the Fall Forum. Do not include sound, transition effects, animations, present timing, or slide show sequencing. The size of the presentation must be widescreen 16:9.

10. Supplementary Report - Include a supplementary report containing the findings portrayed with text, graphs, or photos, as needed. (Requirement applies only to *Category A* submissions.) *Specification*: PDF Format.

Disclaimer: These requirements are for the ACEC of Maine competition and are a variation of the ACEC National EEA. Please review ACEC National requirements for entry into that competition.

B. PACKAGING ENTRY MATERIALS

Submittals shall be filed online no later than 4:30 PM on Friday, October 10, 2025. Entries shall consist of the items described in Section A. Each item described in Section A shall be submitted as a separate file with the following filename structure:

- Firmname_Projectname_Entryitem.pdf (e.g.: ABCEngineering_SchoolBuilding_ProjectDescription.pdf)

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OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

Please furnish all information requested below for each entry. Firm, project, and owner's name should be typed or printed as they are to appear on the award. Address, if a post office box, should also include a street address. **The applicable fee (see *How to Submit an Entry* to determine amount) must be paid via check payable to ACEC of Maine.**

Name of Project: _____
(Limit to 25 Characters)

This Project is to be judged among the following categories (please check one):

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A. Studies, Research and Consulting | <input type="checkbox"/> G. Water Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> B. Buildings/Technology Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> H. Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> C. Structural Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> I. Special Projects |
| <input type="checkbox"/> D. Surveying and Mapping Technology | <input type="checkbox"/> J. Small Projects |
| <input type="checkbox"/> E. Environmental | <input type="checkbox"/> K. Energy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> F. Waste and Storm Water | <input type="checkbox"/> L. Industrial and Manufacturing Processes and Facilities |

Entering Firm Name(s): _____
(If a joint entry involving two or more engineering firms, list for recognition purposes)

Name of Contact Within Firm: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Tel: _____ Fax: _____

Name and Address of Client:

Name and Address of Owner, if different than Client:

Names of Other Consultants/Architects:

Primary Contractor's Name (categories B-L projects):

Actual Date of Completion/Use: _____

I believe the work of the engineer meets the intended uses and expectations for the project and hereby grant permission to enter this project in the ACEC 2025 Engineering Excellence Awards competition, and authorize publication of its outstanding features, unique aspects, or innovations. I confirm that the project was substantially completed and ready for use between November 1, 2023 and October 31, 2025.

Entrant Signature

Date

Entries must be received no later than 4:30 PM, Friday, October 10, 2025.

Online materials shall be filed online via the ACEC of Maine submission portal accessible through the ACEC of Maine Website (<https://eea.acec.org/ymaine/>)