The Inspiring Efficiency Champion Award is presented to the organization or individual who successfully took action to ensure all communities are able to take advantage of the benefits of energy efficiency; or who has worked with a community organization or addressed an issue specific to a community, particularly a historically excluded community, in a unique and purposeful way to enact change.

Organizations or individuals can be nominated in two areas, as a champion of energy equity and as a champion of community engagement. Please ensure to specify below which leadership award you are applying for. All levels of champions, including local team leaders, are welcomed for consideration.

**Application Guidelines**

Applicants will need to display this organization or individual’s commitment to the Midwest energy efficiency industry and how they have created a lasting contribution.

* The application should not exceed 5 pages total. You may attach up to 3 pages of additional materials (for example, endorsements or letters of support from partners or colleagues).
* Your application is typically the only way that reviewers learn about your nominee. Please be clear, honest, and transparent in your answers.

**How to Submit Your Application**

Application forms are due by **COB (5 p.m. CDT) on Friday, August 29, 2025**. Please PDF your application and email it with any supplemental materials to Haley O’Rourke at [awards@mwalliance.org](mailto:awards@mwalliance.org). Write “IEA Champion Award Application” in the subject line.

Questions about the nomination process may also be directed to the email address above or by phone at 312-784-7265.

**Required Nominee Information**

1. Organization or individual being nominated for this award (Please list how you would like it to appear in the awards program):
2. Nominee contact information

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Phone:

Email:

Website:

1. Nominator contact information

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Phone:

Email:

1. Please describe the person or organization that you are nominating for the Inspiring Efficiency Champion Award in 125 words or less. (This will give the reviewers an overview of the application and be used in the Inspiring Efficiency Awards program.)
2. We want to ensure that all the nominees are recognized, so we will be including a synopsis of all nominations and contact information in the Inspiring Efficiency Awards program, which will be posted on the MEEA Conference website. Please check the box if you **do not want** this application to be included.
3. Please consider this nomination for:

Champion of Energy Equity

Champion of Community Engagement

**Application Questions**

1. Please describe the candidate’s role in the organization, community, or region that contributed to furthering equity within the Midwest energy efficiency industry.
2. How has the nominee worked with historically excluded communities to connect and engage with them to enact change?

For those applying for the Champion of Energy Equity:

1. What have been the results of the nominee’s efforts around energy equity?
2. What is the candidate’s vision for building an equitable and inclusive energy efficiency industry or community?

For those applying for the Champion of Community Engagement:

1. What have been the results of the nominee’s efforts around outreach to and inclusion of historically excluded communities?
2. What is the candidate’s vision for building an energy efficiency ecosystem with all communities represented, engaged, and involved?

**Additional Question**

The following question is not being weighted, but reviewers will take the responses into consideration when reviewing the overall application.

1. Is this a replicable/scalable model useable by other organizations or for other topic areas? How has this been accomplished or could be completed? If it is not replicable, please describe the unique aspects, location, or other factors associated with this effort that make it specific to a particular location or service territory.