

Awards for Green Technology Innovation



Many IP Offices have award programs for domestic innovators, and some offices are targeting green innovators in particular (whether by design or coincidence, when the awards are granted).

For example, Chile's INAPI has an award program called "INAPI Running", launched in 2020, that offers IP and business mentorship alongside the visibility and recognition that comes with the award to national innovators and entrepreneurs in certain technical areas. This program provides IP mentorship to three semi-finalists. The winner benefits from expanded IP and business mentorship, including advice about commercialization, developing an IP strategy, going global, and more. The jury consists of domestic as well as international experts. The 2021 version called for national innovations associated with solving climate change problems and those linked to the COVID pandemic. The winning technology was software that monitors and minimizes the energy consumption of Sewage Treatment Plants (WWTP) by up to 25%.

Peru works with a regional association for the promotion of intellectual property (the Inter-American Association of IP, or ASIPI) to recognize an outstanding green inventor every year as part of that country's annual National Invention Contest.

Intended impact

Encourage green innovation, by supporting green technology innovators to secure crucial visibility and guidance from IP and business experts.

Beneficiaries

Green innovators, especially SMEs, can benefit from the visibility and services from green award programs.

Considerations for implementation

- This program requires resources to organize the competition, form the jury, review applications, and execute other necessary steps. The mentors must be identified and compensated.
- Adding a green component to an existing award program can be relatively straightforward. For instance, one year, an existing award could be dedicated to green technology. Or if two winners are selected, one could be drawn from a green technology field.