

NCIC ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- 1.) **Eligibility:** The target audience is aimed at entrepreneurs, innovators, researchers and the business community who are interested in providing high value solutions to waste-related challenges. The technology / solution must at least be at a proof-of-concept level. However, prototypes that are ready for piloting and / or field testing are desirable ie at a technology readiness level of at least 6 ie an engineering-scale prototype that has been validated in conditions that closely mimic its intended operational environment.
- 2.) **Judging rules and criteria:** Submissions are open to entrepreneurs, innovators, researchers, businesses, cooperatives, and community organisations.

Women and youth-led teams are strongly encouraged to apply. Entries must be the original work of the applicant/team and must not infringe on any third-party rights. IP registrations / patents are desirable, but not necessity. Potential off-take agreements / LOI's that relate to the market potential are highly desirable.

All entries must include:

- A clear description of the waste stream being targeted
- A clear description of the innovation / technology gap / problem being solved
- Reference to the business model / revenue stream/s
- Competitor analysis
- The proposed valorisation process or value-adding technology (innovation)
- Evidence of market potential
- A statement on scalability and replication potential
- Expected job creation and social impact
- Overview of Team
- Submissions done online via PP / PDF / Video

- 3.) **Key criteria must be considered when evaluating the projects:**

- **Innovation (30%)**

Novelty of the product, service and/or business model.

Technical feasibility and creativity in addressing waste challenges.

TRL level – the more advanced the level, the higher the scoring

- **Value Creation and impact potential (25%)**

Extent to which low-value waste is transformed into a high-value product or service.

Potential to generate significant revenue uplift per tonne of waste.

- **Market Potential, scalability and replication (25%)**

Evidence of customer demand and clear route to market.

Potential for adoption in the Eastern Cape and beyond.

- **Job creation, inclusivity and Just Transition alignment (20%)**

Ability to grow beyond a pilot phase and support marginalised communities

Adaptability to different contexts (urban, rural, industrial, agri, etc.).

4.) **Judging process:**

- Qualifying round – this is the 1st round of judging which is an internal process where a panel of judges will consist of representatives from NGIN, TIA and Propella / stakeholders. This process will determine who meets the standards for the NCIC. Qualified entries are shifted into judging round 1
- Round 1 – A panel of up to 8 experts review each PP / PDF / Video application. Selected entries are advanced to Round 2
- Round 2 – A 2nd panel of up to 8 experts reviews. Participants may be required to participate in additional / relevant training to prepare for the final presentations
- Final round – Involves experts who may be asked to participate in a live judging event. Participants do a live pitch to a panel of judges. A scoresheet will be used to determine who the finalists are.
- Judges' decisions are binding and final