

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 post-proof-of-concept, where prototypes are ready for piloting and / or field testing 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 (25%)**

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

Technical feasibility and creativity in addressing waste challenges.

- **Value Creation and impact potential (20%)**

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 (20%)**

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.).

- **Feasibility and sustainability (10%)**

Is the solution sustainable over a period of time?

- **Alignment with low carbon goals (5%)**

Is the solution aligned to the circular economy?