



The Cape Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the Cape Higher Education Consortium

# WESTERN CAPE ECONOMY INNOVATION AWARDS NOMINATION FORM 2026

Please complete this nomination form accurately, completely, but succinctly.

## 1. Contact details

Nominator (Person)	Nominating Organisation	Signature	Date	e-mail address
Ron Mukanya	Western Cape Government: GEES/R			<a href="mailto:Ronald.Mukanya@westerncape.gov.za">Ronald.Mukanya@westerncape.gov.za</a>

Nominated Person	Nominated Organisation	Sub-sector one of the following: Private Sector or Academia or Public Sector or Non-Profit	Cell phone number	e-mail address
Amandla Mali	Western Cape Government: GEES/R	Public Sector	0730607574	<a href="mailto:Amandla.Mali@westerncape.gov.za">Amandla.Mali@westerncape.gov.za</a>

## 2. Short description

**±100-word description of what the innovation / solution is and who needs to be recognised for which parts of the solution.**

*(e.g. new service /product /solution /regulation /infrastructure /institutional capacity)*

The Western Cape Green Economy Ecosystem Resilience (GEER) intervention popularly known as the Green Economy Ecosystem Support (GEES) is designed to foster innovation by accelerating the growth of green technology businesses, particularly in the energy and water sectors. With a R14.4 million investment, GEER provides targeted support and growth to at least 400 businesses annually, creating an integrated "whole of society" innovative ecosystem approach to boost sustainability and green economic growth in the Western Cape. It operates as an ecosystem-builder, providing the necessary support for businesses to innovate and grow within the green economy, positioning the region as a leader in sustainable technologies and innovation.

### Key Aspects of the Innovative Approach are:

- **Targeted Support & Growth:** The initiative specifically supports SMMEs and entrepreneurs within the green economy value chain, fostering a culture of risk-taking and innovation.
- **Focus on Key Sectors:** GEER/GEES prioritizes the adoption of green technologies, specifically in the energy and water resilience sectors.
- **Enabling Infrastructure:** The initiative works to make the Western Cape a leading green economic hub by connecting businesses with technical, financial, and regulatory information.

### 3. Detailed description

Please answer all the questions (a) to (j) below, and **place answers** in the **prescribed place** as indicated in the **table below** (to construct a results chain).

For instance, the answer to question (a) should be written in the third column next to (a).

- a. What is the target business group/s that this innovation serves and improves?
- b. How many of these target businesses have already utilised this new solution?
- c. How did these businesses access and receive the new solution?
- d. What did this new solution help these businesses become better at?
- e. How did this help to improve their business performance? *Increased sales, lower costs, increased investment, increased employment, increased exports?*
- f. What exactly is this new innovative solution?
- g. What makes it new, compared to what existed before? (Novelty in WC economy)
- h. What makes it better than what existed before?
- i. How is/was the new solution made available to the target market / business group?
- j. What will ensure that the financial viability / sustainability of providing the innovative solution and the beneficial consequences remain intact over this period? *E.g. profitable business with an enduring competitive advantage in the market.* What is the expected longevity of this solution? *E.g. 5yrs, 10 yrs, 10+ years*

<b>Output:</b> A new catalytic innovation established, serves the WC economy	<b>Outcome:</b> Improved business environment (for the target business group)	<b>Impact:</b> Which target group of businesses benefitted & what improved for them	<b>Longevity:</b> Duration of benefits
<p>f. the Green Economy Ecosystem Resilience (GEER) project seeks to facilitate the growth of the green economy ecosystem businesses and facilitate the uptake of green economy-related technologies, goods and services through various ways like direct support, roadshows, provide case studies, promotion and awareness campaigns, publish industry briefs &amp; market intelligent reports, support municipalities, etc.</p> <p>g. Conceptually GEER is similar to previous green economy support projects funded by the Western Cape Government but this time the focus was mainly on how to unlock barriers in the municipal environment with regards to reliable renewable energy adoption and generation to lower costs, increase investment and enable some business that are vulnerable to the EU's Carbon Border</p>	<p>i. the solution was made possible through virtual and hands on in-person technical assistance engagements, as well as through the publication of Market Intelligence Reports, industry briefs and case studies.</p> <p>c. businesses and municipalities easily stay abreast of green economy market share/size, technologies and investment opportunities through receiving direct support to the economy through <b>help desks &amp; the provision of information (technical, financial, regulatory etc.) on energy-related &amp; water-related matters.</b> Green economy support was provided through virtual engagements (emails, calls, webinars etc.) as well as hands on in-person engagements (workshops, events, site visits, meetings etc.)</p>	<p>a. green economy solution providers (supply-side businesses) and <b>businesses</b> and <b>municipalities</b> looking to go green (demand-side)</p> <p>b. at least 400 businesses and 24 municipalities have used this solution</p> <p>d. the project assisted with resource resilience as it is a necessary condition for business competitiveness. This green economy support broke down barriers to growth or expansion opportunities, created awareness of new opportunities and market developments, connected businesses with funders and relevant stakeholders, and clustered green economy businesses to create synergies and new networks.</p> <p>e. one of the project outcomes enabled and improved energy</p>	<p>j. the focus has been on providing municipalities and businesses with solutions that are economically viable and that will be to their benefit to continue in the long run i.e. we expecting profitable business with an enduring competitive advantage in the green economy market for the foreseeable future, 10+ years.</p>

<p>Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) to start baby steps towards their CBAM mitigation transition mechanisms in order to stay competitive on the global market.</p> <p>h. the focus on supporting every municipality in the WC on their energy constraints, and some municipalities on water challenges, as well as running road shows across the province where help desks were set up to support local businesses</p>		<p>and water resilience. The supported businesses can benefit in a number of ways, in terms of reducing costs, increasing profits and exports. However, the key impact that this project aims to realise is increased jobs and investment, as well as business resilience to energy and water shocks.</p>	
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*After completing the table, read from left to right. Check for coherence and improve if needed.*

#### 4. Declaration of Evidence to verify the results chain

What supporting evidence can you provide to verify that the results stated above are as stated?

	<b>Output:</b> A new catalytic innovation established, serves the WC economy	<b>Outcome:</b> Improved business environment (for the target business group)	<b>Impact:</b> Which target group of businesses benefitted & what improved for them	<b>Longevity:</b> Duration of benefits
<b>What evidence can be provided?</b> e.g. Records, reports, peer reviews, and so forth	<p>1). A catalytic yet supportive Green Economy Ecosystem innovation established, which serves the Western Cape economy.</p> <p><u>Evidence:</u> provided the meeting registers as well as a record of all the published materials<sup>1</sup>(MIRs, Case studies etc.) and investor declaration.</p>	<p>1). Over 400 SMMEs focusing on Energy &amp; Water Green Economy and 24 Municipalities have immediate access to market-ready provincial led public sector support, and a mobilized supportive pro-private sector ecosystem directly leading to an <b>Estimated 5-year investment value: R7bn and Estimated no. of jobs: 1,500 jobs in construction, 50 Jobs during O&amp;M</b> (including both internal and outsourced, average monthly) in the Cape Winelands District for Renewable Energy.</p> <p>2). Western Cape is actively building<sup>2</sup> a green economy making it one of the most attractive, fastest-growing green economy hubs globally. <sup>3</sup><u>Please note:</u> As of early 2026, the Western Cape continues to dominate the South African green economy, with 90% of all net jobs created in the country over the past five years coming from this province.</p>	<p>1). Creation of a coordinated green economy ecosystem in the WC, aligning municipal opportunities, green technology investment promotion, skills development, and industry collaboration into an operational ecosystem with reliable market intelligence.</p> <p>2). Energy &amp; Water Green Tech SMMEs/businesses across the province have a better understanding of the market size, market opportunities and where to invest in the Western Cape green economy ecosystem.</p> <p>3). Increased private investors' confidence in green economy localisation opportunities, estimated 5-year investment value: R7bn and estimated no. of jobs: 1,500 jobs in construction, 50 Jobs during O&amp;M.</p>	For decades ... i.e. 10+ years

<sup>1</sup> Links to all online evidence and documents:

- Market Intelligent Report in Energy - [2025-Renewable-Energy-MIR-regional-Final.pdf](#)
- Market Intelligent Report in Water - [2025-Water-MIR-Final.pdf](#)
- Case Study: Maximising the value of battery energy storage systems in the Western Cape by leveraging time-of-use tariffs - [Maximising the value of battery energy storage systems in the Western Cape by leveraging time-of-use tariffs - GreenCape](#)
- Executive decision-makers guide to investing in renewable energy - [Executive decision-makers guide to investing in renewable energy - GreenCape](#)
- Invest in water security: Replicable water stewardship projects - [Invest in water security: Replicable water stewardship projects - GreenCape](#)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.wesgro.co.za/invest/sector-brochures/green-economy#:~:text=The%20Western%20Cape%20is%20not,professionals%2C%20researchers%2C%20and%20innovators.>

<sup>3</sup> Key drivers of this status include:

- **Renewable Energy Powerhouse:** The region has some of the world's best solar and wind conditions. It is actively working to add 5,700 MW of renewable power generation by 2035, with significant private sector involvement.
- **Green Manufacturing Hub:** The Atlantis Special Economic Zone (SEZ) is a dedicated hub for green technologies (greentech) in South Africa, focusing on wind turbines, solar panels, and electric vehicle components. The Western Cape captures roughly 70% of the country's renewable energy component manufacturing.
- **Fast-Growing Investment:** The province has seen significant investment in the green economy, with 42% of investment declarations in 2024/25 in this sector. The regional green economy market intelligence reports indicate that the embedded solar PV market for commercial/industrial users alone is projected to grow to R20 billion.
- **Supportive Ecosystem:** The presence of specialized agencies like GreenCape, combined with strong, proactive government policy, has made the province a "safe" and attractive destination for foreign direct investment (FDI).
- **Export-Ready:** The region serves as a strategic gateway into the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

**5. Select the best category of award for this innovation**

Sector	Award	Mark with "X"
<b>Private Sector</b>	6 x Catalytic innovations that contribute to growth	
	1 x Provincial- or National-government systemic innovation most impactful on economic growth	
<b>Public Sector</b>	1 x Local & District Municipal innovation that is impactful on growth of their local economy	
	1 x Public-sector innovation, enhancing good governance	<b>X</b>
<b>Safety &amp; Security</b>	1 x Innovation enhancing safety & security	
<b>Labour Market</b>	1 x Labour market efficacy award Reducing impediments to increased employment	
	1 x Research the most impactful on competitiveness of Industry	
<b>Academia</b>	1 x Tertiary education best aligned to Industry / market needs	
	1 x Most successful start-up / spin-out	
	1 x Entrepreneurship development in higher education	
<b>Industry Sector Bodies</b>	1 x Institution/s strengthening stakeholder cooperation to enhance competitiveness of their Industry	
<b>Organised Business</b>	1 x Institution/s strengthening stakeholder cooperation to enhance competitiveness of their business precincts	

**6. Check that you completed all that is necessary.**

**7. Submit this documented and/or video-recorded to [innovation@capechamber.co.za](mailto:innovation@capechamber.co.za).**

Thank you for helping us discover and celebrate the champions shaping a better WC economy!