

Rising Star

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FLOW
Future Leaders
of Waterpower

RISING STAR AWARD 2024

Applicant Guide

Water power industry's early career (3-10 years experience) professional award

Eligible applicants will demonstrate:



Leadership, creativity and innovation



Eye for growth, both within their own careers and the broader industry



Industry achievements

Eligible applicants should submit answers to 4 short answer questions, two letters of recommendation and a resume showing 3-10 years of professional experience.

Rising Star Award winner will receive industry recognition at NHA's Clean Currents Conference in Portland, OR, Oct. 7-10!

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Applications Due June 15, 2024



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Leadership, creativity and innovation

Leadership, creativity, and innovation are essential attributes for early career professionals in the water power industry for several reasons:

- *Driving Change: The water power industry is undergoing significant transformation due to technological advancements, environmental considerations, and shifting energy demands. Effective leadership is needed to navigate these changes, inspire teams, and drive initiatives that propel the industry forward.*
- *Problem Solving: Creativity and innovation are critical for addressing the complex challenges faced by the water power sector, such as optimizing hydropower operations, integrating other renewable energy sources, and mitigating environmental impacts. Creative thinking allows professionals to develop novel solutions and approaches to tackle these challenges effectively.*
- *Adaptability: The water power industry operates within a dynamic and evolving landscape, influenced by regulatory changes, market trends, and technological breakthroughs. Early career professionals must demonstrate the ability to adapt to these changes, think innovatively, and lead teams through periods of transition.*

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Eye for growth, both within their own careers and the broader industry

A promising nominee will possess a forward-thinking mindset, actively seek out opportunities for professional development, and are dedicated to driving innovation and progress within the water power industry.

Forward-thinking individuals often inspire others with their vision, passion, and determination. They have the ability to mobilize teams, foster a culture of innovation, and drive organizational change, making them effective leaders within the water power industry.

Forward-thinking is a key attribute that empowers early career professionals in the water power industry to anticipate future trends, drive innovation, strategically plan for long-term success, navigate uncertainties, and lead their organizations toward a sustainable future.

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Industry achievements

Achievements showcase an early career professional's expertise, initiative, and impact within the water power industry, positioning them as valuable contributors and emerging leaders in their field.

Example achievements include but are not limited to:

- **Successful Project Implementations:** Leading or significantly contributing to the successful planning, development, and execution of water power projects
- **Innovative Technology Implementation:** Introducing or implementing innovative technologies and methodologies to enhance the performance, reliability, and sustainability of hydropower facilities, such as advanced monitoring systems, predictive maintenance techniques, or novel turbine designs
- **Process Improvements:** Identifying inefficiencies or bottlenecks within existing processes and implementing improvements to optimize resource utilization, reduce costs, and streamline operations, resulting in increased productivity and profitability for the organization
- **Regulatory Compliance and Permitting:** Demonstrating expertise in navigating regulatory requirements and environmental permitting processes, ensuring compliance with applicable laws and regulations while facilitating the timely development and licensing of hydropower projects
- **Research and Development Initiatives:** Conducting or contributing to research and development initiatives aimed at advancing the state-of-the-art in water power technology, resource assessment, environmental mitigation, or grid integration, leading to publications, patents, or industry-wide adoption of innovative practices
- **Community Engagement and Stakeholder Relations:** Engaging with local communities, indigenous groups, regulatory agencies, and other stakeholders to foster positive relationships, address concerns, and promote the benefits of hydropower development, resulting in successful project approvals and enhanced public perception
- **Professional Leadership and Advocacy:** Demonstrating leadership within professional organizations, industry associations, or advocacy groups by actively participating in committees, presenting at conferences, and advocating for policies that support the growth and sustainability of the water power industry



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Recommendations

*Part of the application process for the Rising Star Award is submitting **TWO** letters of recommendation. These letters play a crucial role in the selection process as they provide valuable insights into your character, achievements, and contributions within the industry.*

Letters of recommendation serve as endorsements from individuals who have worked closely with you and can attest to your qualifications, skills, and potential as a rising star in the water power industry. Letters of recommendation offer the selection committee a comprehensive understanding of your professional capabilities and personal qualities, helping the committee make informed decisions during the evaluation process.

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Timeline

- *Self-nominations are due by June 15, 2024*
- *Winners will be notified in August*
- *The award ceremony will take place at NHA's 2024 Clean Currents in Portland, Oregon, from October 7 - 10, 2024*

If you have questions about FLOW or the Rising Star Award, please reach out to Kelly Rogers (kelly@hydro.org).

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