

FSC Awards 2025

Award Categories
and Criteria Guide

FSC Awards 2025

WELCOME TO THE FINANCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL AWARDS 2025

This guide outlines each FSC Awards category and the criteria required for entering, along with tips for writing an award-winning submission.

We are delighted to announce that, for the first time, we will be ending the FSC Conference on a celebratory note with the FSC Awards Dinner. This will take place on Thursday 11 September 2025 at Cordis, Auckland, where we will once again recognise the outstanding achievements and contributions of individuals, teams and businesses in the financial services industry and showcase the positive impact made across the sector and New Zealand at large.

We are excited to introduce two new awards this year – the Excellence in ESG Award (combining last year's Excellence in Sustainability Practices and Excellence in Governance Awards) and the Innovation of the Year Award. We look forward to celebrating the achievements in these spaces for the first time.

Submissions close on Sunday 29 June 2025. The finalists will be announced in the week commencing 28 July 2025.

The winners are decided by an independent panel of industry judges who review and assess each nomination individually.

If you have any questions regarding the FSC Awards, please contact the FSC team via events@fsc.org.nz.

Once again, thank you for participating in this wonderful celebration of our industry.

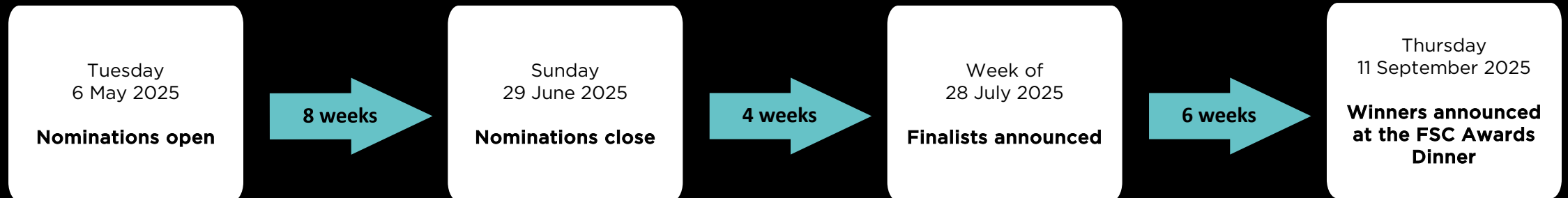
We look forward to receiving your submissions and celebrating with you at the FSC Awards 2025 Dinner.

Best of luck.

The FSC25 Conference Committee
Financial Services Council NZ

FSC Awards 2025

FSC AWARDS 2025 TIMELINE



18 weeks

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES AND TIPS

Entering the annual FSC Awards is a fantastic way to showcase outstanding achievements, gain recognition for successes and promote awareness of excellence within the industry. We appreciate the effort and time required to make a submission – whether self-nominated or nominating another – so we have created these guidelines to help you through the process.

1. Eligibility to enter

- The company in which the product, service or individual works must be a member of the Financial Services Council in order to enter. To find out more about membership, visit www.fsc.org.nz/membership or contact us via fsc@fsc.org.nz.
- Non-member not-for-profits, charities or community groups are also eligible to enter the Contribution to Community Award.
- Organisations sponsoring an award category are not eligible to enter their sponsored category.

2. Judging

- Judges are respected senior professionals selected from across New Zealand who volunteer their time to participate in the judging process.
- Judges are bound by confidentiality and will remove themselves from the process in the event of any potential conflict of interest.
- Each judge will independently read, review and mark every submission and submit these marking sheets and scores to the Financial Services Council. These scores will be collated to establish a list of finalists.
- Judging criteria do not consider the size or market share of the nominating organisation.

3. Addressing the criteria

- Judges base their decisions on the information you provide in your submission, so make sure that you answer each part of each question thoroughly.
- Make sure to check the weighting of different criteria to determine which questions require the most effort.

4. Providing evidence

- Please avoid making vague or unsupported claims. There is no need to be concerned about the confidentiality of your information when providing evidence, as all judges sign confidentiality agreements and are excluded from reviewing or participating in categories in which they may have a conflict of interest.

5. Right not to award a category

- The FSC Awards celebrate excellence. The judging panel have the right not to award a category if they do not believe the submissions received meet this standard.
- Entrants for a category that will not be awarded will be notified accordingly.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES AND TIPS

6. Right to revoke an award

- The presiding judge has the right to revoke an award made to an individual or organisation should that individual or organisation act in a manner that brings the intention of the award into disrepute.

7. Varying deadline

- In exceptional circumstances, the deadline for submission may be extended by a maximum of three working days.
- A request for an extension must include an explanation as to why it is being sought and must be made in writing to events@fsc.org.nz.
- Please allow one working day for a written response, which will include any conditions associated with the change in deadline.

8. Submitting

- Submissions can only be made via the online forms.
- Each award category page has a button labelled 'Click here to enter this award category' that is linked to the corresponding online submission form.

9. Notification and announcement of finalists

- Finalists will be informed of their placement via email prior to announcing publicly.
- Official announcement of finalists will be made via online communications and media releases in the week commencing 28 July 2025.

10. Help and further information

- If you need any help or have any questions about the criteria or the submission process, feel free to contact the Financial Services Council at 09 985 5762 or via email events@fsc.org.nz.
- No question is a silly question. Asking us may help you to improve your submission, and we're always here to help.

FSC Awards 2025

**CHAIR'S
AWARD FOR
SERVICE
TO THE
INDUSTRY**

**CONTRIBUTION
TO COMMUNITY**

**EMERGING
TRAILBLAZER**

**EXCELLENCE
IN ESG**

**EXCELLENCE
IN WELLBEING
& INCLUSION**

**INNOVATION
OF THE YEAR**

**TEAM
OF THE
YEAR**

**WORKPLACE
SAVINGS**

Find out more at www.fsc.org.nz/events/conference-2025-awards

CHAIR'S AWARD FOR SERVICE TO THE INDUSTRY

This Chair's Award for Service to the Industry recognises an individual who has significantly contributed to the advancement, promotion and improvement of the financial services industry in New Zealand over the course of their career.

Criteria

- This award is open to Financial Services Council NZ member organisations only.
- This award can only be nominated by a third party.
- Nominations must not exceed 1,750 words in total.
- Nominations must be submitted through the online form linked below.

**CLICK HERE TO ENTER
THIS AWARD CATEGORY**

1. Provide a brief career synopsis of the individual you are nominating. (Weighting: 10%)
2. Provide examples of outstanding leadership displayed throughout the individual's career, including major initiatives, improvements and successes in their business and the market. (Weighting: 30%)
3. Describe the individual's contribution to the development, advancement, promotion and improvement of the financial services industry. Examples may include participation in committees and contribution to publications, white papers and conferences. (Weighting: 30%)
4. Describe the legacy the individual has left through their work in the industry. (Weighting: 25%)
5. Evidence of words and actions aligned with the [FSC Code of Conduct](#). (Weighting: 5%)

CONTRIBUTION TO COMMUNITY

The Contribution to Community Award celebrates an initiative, programme or campaign that has an outstanding impact on the financial wellbeing of New Zealanders and the community.

Criteria

- This Award is open to FSC member organisations and to non-FSC member charity groups or not-for-profits that have demonstrated excellence through an outstanding contribution to their community.
- The initiative or programme must have been running for at least 12 months and address any of the below:
 - Industry social issues such as diversity and inclusion
 - Financial capability or education
 - Community or regional issues
 - Retirement and savings adequacy or underinsurance
- This award can be self-nominated or nominated by a third party.
- Nominations must not exceed 1,750 words in total.
- Nominations must be submitted through the online form linked below.

**CLICK HERE TO ENTER
THIS AWARD CATEGORY**

1. Provide an outline of the community initiative, programme or campaign. Include why it was created, the length of time the initiative has been running and any third parties or partners involved. (Weighting: 15%)
2. How do you measure success of the community initiative and how has the initiative impacted success measurements? Provide evidence of actual results from activities, including positive impact on community. (Weighting: 50%)
3. Supply one or more quotes from participants that have benefited from the campaign, programme or initiative. (Weighting: 10%)
4. Describe why winning this award is important to the organisation or group. (Weighting: 10%)
5. Evidence of words and actions aligned with the FSC vision of building the financial wellbeing and confidence of New Zealanders. (Weighting: 15%)

EMERGING TRAILBLAZER

The Emerging Trailblazer Award recognises a promising future leader in the sector who has demonstrated outstanding commitment, achievement, and passion in the New Zealand financial services industry in the last 18 months.

Criteria

- This award is open to Financial Services Council NZ member organisations only.
- The nomination must be supported by the individual's manager.
- This award can be self-nominated or nominated by a third party.
- Nominations must not exceed 1,750 words in total.
- Nominations must be submitted through the online form linked below.

**CLICK HERE TO ENTER
THIS AWARD CATEGORY**

1. Provide a brief career synopsis. Include an overview of any formal qualifications and professional development in the last three years, the age at which the individual first joined the industry, what attracted them to it and the roles they have held. (Weighting: 15%)
2. Describe why you believe the individual is passionate about working in the New Zealand financial services industry. (Weighting: 10%)
3. Provide an overview of the individual's top achievement in the 2024/25 financial year and describe why. Include data or evidence to support this. (Weighting: 20%)
4. Provide evidence of the individual's contribution to the New Zealand financial services industry. Examples may include committee participation, writing industry papers, contribution to publications and speaking at conferences, in community groups or to schools. (Weighting: 25%)
5. Outline the individual's career or industry goals and how they plan to achieve major milestones. (Weighting: 10%)
6. Describe why winning this award is important to the individual. (Weighting: 10%)
7. Provide evidence of tangible growth over the previous 12 months such as internal promotions, external feedback, leadership roles, etc. (Weighting: 5%)
8. Evidence of words and actions aligned with the [FSC Code of Conduct](#). (Weighting: 5%)

EXCELLENCE IN ESG

The Excellence in ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) Award celebrates an organisation that has demonstrated good governance and forward thinking by integrating ESG practices through internal processes or financial services to consumers with the goal to decrease its global footprint or ESG impact.

Criteria

- This award is open to Financial Services Council NZ member organisations only.
- This award can be self-nominated or nominated by a third party.
- Nominations must not exceed 1,750 words in total.
- Nominations must be submitted through the online form linked below.

**CLICK HERE TO ENTER
THIS AWARD CATEGORY**

1. Provide a brief outline of the organisation's goals to decrease its global footprint or ESG impact. (Weighting: 10%)
2. Give examples of things that have been done to achieve the goals you have outlined above. These can include internal processes or products/services to consumers. (Weighting 40%)
3. How is progress measured? (Weighting: 10%)
4. How do the workforce, consumers and stakeholders contribute to efforts of lowering ESG impact, and how does the organisation ensure everyone is working towards the same goals? (Weighting: 10%)
5. List key achievements the organisation has made in the last 18 months and demonstrate how the implemented practices have driven these achievements for the organisation. (Weighting: 25%)
6. Evidence of words and actions aligned with the [FSC Code of Conduct](#). (Weighting: 5%)

EXCELLENCE IN WELLBEING AND INCLUSION

The Excellence in Wellbeing and Inclusion Award recognises an organisation that best promotes wellbeing, diversity and inclusion within its workforce.

Criteria

- This award is open to Financial Services Council NZ member organisations only.
- This award can be self-nominated or nominated by a third party.
- Nominations must not exceed 1,750 words in total.
- Nominations must be submitted through the online form linked below.

**CLICK HERE TO ENTER
THIS AWARD CATEGORY**

1. Provide an overview of the organisation's strategy and the innovative approaches or initiatives that showcase the organisation's commitment to the wellbeing and inclusion of its workforce. (Weighting: 20%)
2. How is success of these initiatives measured and how have the initiatives impacted the success measurements? (Weighting: 15%)
3. How does the wellbeing and inclusion of staff enable business success? (Weighting: 20%)
4. How do the wellbeing and inclusion practices contribute to the organisation's talent development strategy? (Weighting: 20%)
5. What strategies are in place to manage and promote the recruitment and retention of a diverse workforce? (Weighting: 20%)
6. Evidence of words and actions aligned with the [FSC Code of Conduct](#). (Weighting: 5%)

INNOVATION OF THE YEAR

The Innovation of the Year Award recognises a new initiative within the past 12 months that has delivered positive, measurable and sustainable outcomes for customers and the wider financial services industry. This could be (but not limited to) a product, product feature, service, process or system.

Criteria

- This award is open to Financial Services Council NZ member organisations only.
- This award can be self-nominated or nominated by a third party.
- Nominations must not exceed 1,750 words in total.
- Nominations must be submitted through the online form linked below.

**CLICK HERE TO ENTER
THIS AWARD CATEGORY**

1. Provide an overview of the innovation, its purpose and what makes it new/fresh/unique. (Weighting: 35%)
2. Provide evidence of the innovation's success or positive impact so far. (Weighting: 35%)
3. How can/will this innovation have a positive impact in financial services over time? (Weighting: 25%)
4. Evidence of words and actions aligned with the [FSC Code of Conduct](#). (Weighting: 5%)

TEAM OF THE YEAR

The Team of the Year Award recognises a team that works inclusively and collaboratively to deliver success within their organisation and the wider New Zealand financial services industry.

Criteria

- This award is open to Financial Services Council NZ member organisations only.
- This award is open to teams operating in the financial services industry in New Zealand, for example, in claims and underwriting, operation, marketing or communication.
- The team must consist of at least three people.
- This award can be self-nominated or nominated by a third party.
- Nominations must not exceed 1,750 words in total.
- Nominations must be submitted through the online form linked below.

**CLICK HERE TO ENTER
THIS AWARD CATEGORY**

1. Provide an outline of the nominated team, including who they are and a description of the team's role within the organisation. (Weighting: 5%)
2. Describe examples of how teamwork has led to the success and consistent high levels of customer care and service. (Weighting: 25%)
3. How does the team work towards the common goal of their company strategy, policies and performance? (Weighting: 15%)
4. How does the team deliver over and above expectations? Describe targets met or achievements made. (Weighting: 10%)
5. How has the team contributed to improving the lives of New Zealanders? (Weighting: 40%)
6. Evidence of words and actions aligned with the [FSC Code of Conduct](#). (Weighting: 5%)

WORKPLACE SAVINGS


The Workplace Savings Award recognises an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the New Zealand workplace savings community.

Criteria

- This award is open to Financial Services Council NZ member organisations only.
- This award can only be nominated by a third party.
- Nominations must not exceed 1,750 words in total.
- Nominations must be submitted through the online form linked below.

**CLICK HERE TO ENTER
THIS AWARD CATEGORY**

1. Provide an overview of the individual's contribution. (Weighting: 10%)
2. How did the contribution set out to improve the workplace savings community? (Weighting: 20%)
3. Describe how the impact of the contribution has made a positive change to attitudes, behaviours, or customer service. Include success measures and qualitative evidence. (Weighting: 65%)
4. Evidence of words and actions aligned with the [FSC Code of Conduct](#). (Weighting: 5%)



FSC Awards 2025


We look forward to
your submissions.

**Financial Services
Council NZ**



Grow the financial
confidence and wellbeing
of New Zealanders

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