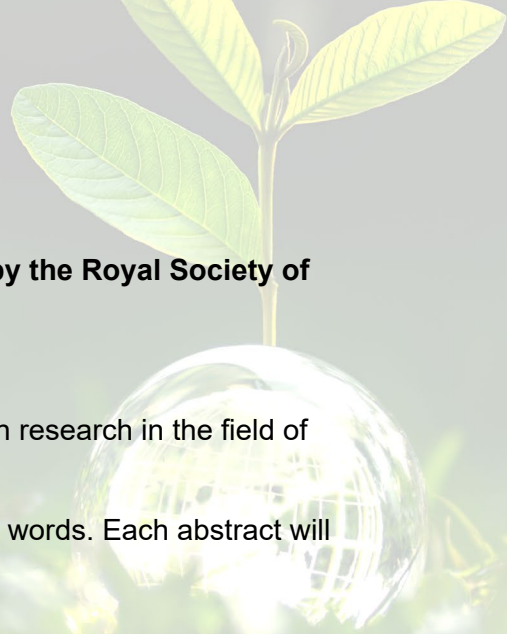




RSC India Sustainability Forum 2026

Chemistry for Sustainability: Emerging Researcher Award by the Royal Society of Chemistry

If you are an early career researcher and have a contribution through research in the field of sustainability?

Please submit your nomination along with a brief abstract within 500 words. Each abstract will be assessed as per the eligibility criteria by our panel of experts.

Eligibility

Researchers with a demonstrated contribution to sustainability in their research

- in their final (fourth/fifth) year of doctoral studies, or
- within 10 years of obtaining their doctorate or equivalent degree (i.e., 2016 or later)

How to Apply

Interested researchers are invited to submit an abstract of their work (max. 500 words), highlighting:

The specific area(s) of sustainability they are working in (e.g. green chemistry, clean energy, circular economy, water/resource efficiency, etc.)

- Which UN Sustainable Development Goal(s) (SDGs) their work targets (e.g. clean water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy, zero hunger, responsible consumption and production, climate action, etc.)
- How their work has impacted the community (pilot, research paper, patent, field trial, policy adoption, etc.) and measurable outcomes (cost savings, waste reduction, or any other)
- All shortlisted candidates would be asked to present their research (15 min presentation) during the India Sustainability Forum (the details for which will be shared in advance to the shortlisted candidates).

All applications will be reviewed and shortlisted based on a set of parameters including the relevant research publications. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to deliver a short talk on the given topic during the forum and will be facilitated.

Criteria for shortlisting candidates

1. Relevance to Sustainability & SDG Alignment

How clearly the research area maps to a specific UN SDG and to Royal Society of Chemistry's sustainability priorities (green chemistry, clean energy, circular economy, materials, water/resource efficiency but not limited to these).

2. Scientific/Technical Merit

Novelty and quality of the research approach, soundness of methodology, and whether the work represents a genuine advancement rather than incremental work.

3. Real-World / Community Impact

Evidence of tangible impact is the key. Has the idea/proposal been implemented (pilot, field trial, industry adoption, policy influence, research paper, patent, etc), and what measurable outcomes resulted (e.g. cost savings, waste reduction, people reached)?

4. Scalability & Translational Potential

Whether the solution can be scaled beyond the current setting to other regions, industries, or communities or can be adopted more widely.

5. Career Stage & Independence

The nominees should be either final year doctoral students or independent researchers within 10 years of obtaining their doctorate or equivalent degree (i.e. 2016 or later).

6. Communication & Presentation Quality

Clarity of the abstract (500 words) on how well the applicant articulates the problem, approach, and impact in a concise, accessible way (a proxy for how well they'll deliver the short talk).

Suggested weightage

Parameter	Weight
SDG Alignment & Sustainability Relevance	25%
Scientific Merit	20%
Community Impact (implemented/to be implemented proposal)	30%
Scalability	15%
Communication Quality	10%

*Please note that the decision of the panel of judges for the awards is final and binding, and no discussion will be entertained in the matter.