



WAITRO Climate Solution Initiative

**Accelerating Research-Based Climate
Innovation**

WAITRO | 20
SUMMIT | 26
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26-28
October
2026

www.waitro-summit.org

WAITRO Climate Solutions Initiative

Climate change is one of humanity's greatest challenges. Across the world, researchers and innovators are developing promising technologies, methodologies and solutions, but many never move beyond the laboratory or pilot stage. The WAITRO Climate Solutions Initiative (CSI) was created to change that.

CSI is a global platform that connects researchers and innovators with international partners, industry, policy-makers and funding opportunities to accelerate the implementation of climate solutions.

Rather than focusing solely on scientific excellence, CSI aims to help promising innovations find the partnerships they need to create real-world impact.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE

The Climate Solutions Initiative is open to researchers and innovators affiliated with a WAITRO Member organization.

Eligible applicants include:

- Researchers and scientists
- Research groups and laboratories
- Start-ups and spin-offs originating from member organizations
- Technology developers and applied research teams

Not sure whether your organization is a WAITRO Member? Please contact your organization's WAITRO Contact Person or reach out to WAITRO at info@waitro.org for assistance.



WHY PARTICIPATE

Participating in CSI gives researchers much more than visibility.

It provides opportunities to:

- Showcase your research or innovation to an international audience
- Connect with potential research and implementation partners
- Meet industry representatives
- Explore international funding opportunities
- Position your work within an international climate innovation community

Whether your solution is still under development or already close to market, CSI helps create pathways towards implementation.



CATEGORIES

To recognize innovation at different stages of development, the Climate Solutions Initiative welcomes submissions in two categories:

Category 1 – Proven Solutions

For climate solutions that have been implemented, tested, validated, or commercialized and can demonstrate measurable impact and real-world results.

Category 2 – Emerging Innovations

For innovative concepts, prototypes, and early-stage technologies with strong potential and benefit from international collaboration and further development.

RESEARCH AREAS

The Climate Solutions Initiative (CSI) welcomes innovative climate solutions aligned with the three Transformation Areas that will shape the discussions and collaborations at the WAITRO Summit 2026.



Climate Resilience & Water-Food-Energy Nexus



- Climate adaptation and resilience
- Disaster risk reduction
- Water resource management
- Agriculture & food systems
- Renewable energy
- Resource efficiency
- Nature-based solutions
- Climate-smart infrastructure
- Integrated Water-Food-Energy Nexus approaches
- ...



Decarbonizing Industry & Circular Economy



- Industrial decarbonization
- Circular economy solutions
- Clean manufacturing
- Sustainable materials
- Carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS)
- Green production processes
- Industrial energy efficiency
- Low-carbon technologies
- ...



Climate-Responsive Societies & Just Transitions



- Smart and sustainable cities
- Climate-responsive infrastructure
- Sustainable mobility
- Digital technologies for climate action
- Community resilience
- Social innovation
- Climate governance and policy solutions
- Inclusive and just transition approaches
- ...

WHAT PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE

Researchers whose submissions are selected for the WAITRO Climate Solutions Initiative will benefit from a range of opportunities designed to increase the visibility, recognition, and impact of their work.

Climate Solutions Poster

Solutions will be showcased in the Climate Solutions Gallery at the WAITRO Summit 2026. Each solution will be presented as a poster, allowing researchers to engage directly with an international audience.

Climate Solutions Award

Outstanding submissions will be shortlisted for the Climate Solutions Award, recognizing innovative solutions with exceptional potential to contribute to climate action and sustainable development. Winners will be announced during the WAITRO Summit.



International Visibility

Selected solutions will be promoted through WAITRO's communication channels and featured in the Global Climate Solutions Portfolio, providing long-term visibility among the global innovation community.



From Research to Implementation

Beyond recognition, the Climate Solutions Initiative aims to help researchers transform promising ideas into real-world impact by fostering international partnerships, pilot projects, and future funding opportunities.

Extended Submission Deadline:

14 August 2026



Learn More:

<https://waitro.org/climate-solutions-initiative/>

Submit your solution:

<https://forms.waitro.org/climatesolutioninitiative>

Detailed guidance on the content required for each submission category is provided in the corresponding **Submission Workbook**. The workbooks outline the recommended structure based on guiding principles can also be used to prepare your final online submission.

 **Category 1 – Proven Solutions** (implemented, tested, validated or market-ready solutions) [Download Submission Workbook \(DOCX\)](#).

 **Category 2 – Emerging Solutions** (concepts, prototypes and early-stage innovations) [Download Submission Workbook \(DOCX\)](#).

WAITRO SUMMIT 2026

Date: 26-28 October 2026

Location: Istanbul, Türkiye

Co-Host: Istanbul Technical University (ITU)

While thousands of promising technologies and research-based solutions are developed every year, many never move beyond the pilot stage due to fragmented innovation ecosystems, limited partnerships, insufficient financing, and weak implementation mechanisms.

The WAITRO Summit is designed to change that - by turning dialogue to action.

Summit Theme

Leading the Path of Implementation.

**Strengthening Co-Creation
for Our Common Future.**



WHAT TO EXPECT?



**EXPERT SESSIONS
BY MEMBERS & PARTNERS**



**NETWORKING
OPPORTUNITIES**



**CO-CREATION
WORKSHOPS**

EXPLORE SUMMIT WEBSITE



Scan the QR Code to access WAITRO Summit 2026 website or visit <https://waitro-summit.org/>

SUMMIT REGISTRATION



Register now via the QR Code or visit <https://summit.waitro.org/registration>



ABOUT WAITRO

- The World Association of Industrial and Technological Research Organizations is one of the world's oldest & largest networks of Research and Technology Organizations (RTOs), universities, and innovation agencies, bringing together more than 180 member organizations across over 75 countries. Since its establishment in 1970 under the auspices of UNIDO, WAITRO has been dedicated to strengthening international research and innovation collaboration to address global challenges. Today, WAITRO serves as a global platform that connects researchers, industry, governments, and funding organizations to facilitate consortium building, capacity development, technology transfer, and international collaboration.

Our Focus Areas

Entrepreneurship
and Innovation

Policy and
Advocacy

International Research
Collaboration

Capacity Development
and Knowledge Sharing

Technology Transfer
and Commercialization

Mission

To foster innovation and drive sustainable development by empowering member organizations and facilitating collaboration across borders and boundaries.

Vision

A global innovation ecosystem in which research and technology organizations, including universities, collaborate with the private and public sector to develop, share and disseminate innovative technologies that deliver sustainable impact for societies and economies.

Facts and Figures



190+
Member Organizations

75+
Countries

100.000+
Researchers

1970
Founded by UNIDO

CONTACT DETAILS



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