



2025 ASHDEN AWARDS MEDIA PACK - **Global South version**

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For an ALL WINNERS Media pack [go here](#).

For a UK-ONLY version of this media pack [go here](#)

Below please find brief summaries of the winners of the 2025 Ashden Awards in the Global South

Please use this Media Pack to research the background to the winning clean energy stories in AFRICA AND INDIA. Photo download links in each summary.

EMBARGO details and bios

BEFORE 11 JUNE - These stories can be used at any time in the run-up to the Ashden Awards on 11 Jun but must be referred to as 'Finalists of the 2025 Ashden Awards'.

FROM 19:00hrs BST ON 11 June they can be named as 'Winners'.

The work of the organisations are relevant to stories on clean energy in Africa and India, retrofit of buildings in the UK, and community and local energy in the UK.

Useful bios:

- Global South [Winners CEOs/spokespeople bios here](#).
- [Ashden spokespeople bios](#) - Ashden's CEO Dr Ashok Sinha and other specialists within Ashden are available for interview.

This year's a bit different...

This 25th anniversary of the Ashden Awards is a bit different. We will honour six winners:

- **Four Outstanding Achievement Awards will be given to past champions who've really scaled up and made incredible achievements**
- **Two Breaking Barriers Awards to organisations that have never won an Ashden Award before and are demonstrating exceptional work in their field of climate action.**

Both awards will promote innovation that is inclusive – bringing benefits to low-income and marginalised communities – and holistic, addressing multiple challenges and barriers. The Ashden Awards will boost innovation that is market- or enterprise-led, with the potential to be quickly replicated or scaled up.

Common elements

- The founder stories of all the organisations are all incredibly powerful.
- All are examples of businesses demonstrating low carbon innovation, often against great financial, personal and political odds.
- All are focused on clean energy – which is the theme that the Ashden Awards started with 25 years ago.
- Insights from these inspiring, tried-and-tested solutions that have scaled up significantly, will be shared with funders, investors, policymakers and other innovators to reveal the steps they can take to speed the growth of inclusive climate action.

The winning organisations of the 2025 Ashden Awards are:

(click on links to jump to sections)

Global South:

- [BURN Manufacturing, Kenya \(operating Africa-wide\)](#) - bringing clean cookstoves into a modern era with a variety of cookstoves - including electric induction stoves - plus innovative finance and a record of protecting the health of 28 million people
- [SELCO, India](#) - solar technology helping small entrepreneurs, particularly women, launch and run businesses using clean energy. Launched in India for 30 years, now working in other Global South countries and impacting 9 million people
- [Sosai Renewable Energies, Nigeria](#) - breaking gender and cultural barriers in northern Nigeria through solar projects and now also bringing solar to healthcare

To see ALL the Ashden Award winners including in the UK, go to [this complete doc](#)

More details of winners in the Global South....

Outstanding Achievement Award – Global South

Winners of this award are: **BURN Manufacturing (Africa) and SELCO (India)**

They have been chosen because they are:

- increasing access to clean, affordable electricity or cooking services;
- empowering local communities (often the most marginalised) as protectors of natural ecosystems, using livelihoods-based approaches;
- making finance more accessible for SMEs and local organisations working in the areas above.

 **Winner: BURN Manufacturing - Kenya and across Africa – bringing clean cookstoves into a modern era with electric induction stoves, innovative finance and a record of protecting the health of 28 million people**

- Winner of Ashden Award in 2015 and 2025
- Web: [Revolutionize Your home: Eco-Friendly Cookstoves by BURN](#)
- Download photos: [BURN photo gallery](#)

Clean cookstoves have long been basic life-saving interventions. Manufacturing and selling clean cookstoves for communities across 14 markets in Africa - BURN's cookstoves are an affordable, made-in-Africa solution to deadly air pollution.

BURN Manufacturing is at the forefront of technical and financial innovation with an incredible trajectory of expansion saving millions from respiratory illness or death in the process. BURN's new induction stoves designed in Africa by their team of expert engineers and linked to their pay-as-you-cook carbon monitoring app, have moved the cleancook stove into a modern era.

Escalation story

Since launching BURN in 2011, founder Peter Scott has led the company from offering 62,000 sales of one basic clean cookstove in 2015 when it won its first Ashden Award, to selling over 5 million units including modern low-emissions induction stoves today, and manufacturing in 3 countries with 3500 employees (50% women). They now have an expansive product portfolio – across biomass, LPG, and electric cooking solutions.

BURN is now the largest vertically integrated modern cookstove manufacturer, distributor, and carbon project developer in Sub-Saharan Africa, while lowering fuel costs for families by 40-60% and saving 14.7 million tonnes of wood.

Their technology reduces customer costs, curbs deforestation caused by traditional fuel use and their mission is to help the 600 million people with electricity access to transition to zero-emission electric cooking. They now produce 400,000 stoves a month with factories and assembly lines across Africa.

It has also transformed the market, with pay-as-you-cook apps and an innovative carbon finance initiative which reduces bills for customers by up to 60%. Carbon finance will be key to reaching their goal of producing 20 million units per year.

- This is an incredible climate entrepreneurship business expansion story, a pan-African health and life-saving story, a new carbon finance solution story, as well as story of African home-grown success in engineering, green skills and employment with a strong focus on employment of women.

Spokesperson: Peter Scott – Founder. Peter Scott is a globally recognised leader in the clean cookstove industry. In 1990 Peter witnessed the deforestation resulting from charcoal production for household cooking while travelling in the DRC. This experience fuelled his dedication to saving forests and improving lives in Sub-Saharan Africa through the design and manufacture of fuel-efficient cookstoves. [Peter on LinkedIn](#). See [Spokesperson document](#) for more information.

 **Winner: SELCO, India - Solar technology transforming lives and livelihoods of women in India for 30 years, impacting 9 million**

- Winner of Ashden Award in 2005, 2007 and 2025
- Website: [Home - Selco India](#)
- Download photos: [SELCO photogallery](#)

A 30-year journey in rural India and beyond - from simple solar lamps and cookstoves to energising rural micro-businesses providing solar home systems, and now strengthening remote primary healthcare centres and educational institutions.

All of the projects have women at the heart of them - 80% of customers are women from vulnerable sections of society (poor, rural, tribal, users with disabilities, un/under banked etc.)

Escalation story since winning its previous Ashden Award:

When it won its last Ashden Award in 2007, it had sold 71,000 solar systems. Since then SELCO has sold more than 500,000 products, bringing benefits to more than 8 million people, helping entrepreneurs, particularly women, launch and run small local businesses using clean energy. Today SELCO has offices in seven Indian states, with activities in Africa and South East Asia.

The organisation has also collaborated with four state governments to deliver solar energy at health facilities – creating safer births and operations, better vaccine storage, and many other benefits – and strengthening healthcare for more than 6 million people.

Their focus now is to provide reliable climate-resilient solutions for the underserved impacting another 20 million people by 2030 through large scale convergence with government schemes across sectors.


They have a globally unique model having successfully scaled climate-resilient livelihood solutions across more than 24,000 micro-enterprises.


Its work collaborating with state governments to deliver solar energy at health facilities is particularly exciting – already strengthening healthcare for more than 6 million people.

- This is a story of success in community development, solar technology expansion and financial solutions to funding projects empowering the rural poor - now expanding with great impact into healthcare energy solutions.
- SELCO achieved a turnover of 10 million GBP last financial year and has been profitable since 2009, establishing that social enterprises can be sustainable both socially and financially.
- The cultural, technical and financial lessons from SELCO, which is transforming the energy access ecosystem in India, could help scale climate-resilient livelihoods throughout the Global South.

Spokesperson: Mohan Bhaskar Hegde, CEO, SELCO. [LinkedIn](#) . See [Spokesperson document](#) for more information.

GLOBAL SOUTH FINALISTS for Ashden's Outstanding Achievement Award:

 [Alcaldía de Medellín](#), Colombia - Restoring nature and improving air quality, health, and biodiversity

 [AT2ER](#), Togo - Government programme providing rural electrification in Togo

 [d.light](#), Kenya - Solar lanterns, products, and home systems impacting 190 million people

Breaking Barriers Award - Global South

 **Winner: Sosai Renewable Energies - Nigeria** - breaking gender and cultural barriers in northern Nigeria through solar 'Climate Smart Villages' and now also bringing solar to healthcare

Website: sosairen.org

Download photos: [Sosai photo gallery link](#)

Sosai Renewable Energies is transforming the lives of women and their communities in Northern Nigeria. Founded in 2010 by Habiba Ali initially in response to the serious health impacts of indoor fires it has now deployed renewable energy solutions to over 2 million


Nigerians especially in rural communities of Nigeria ranging from solar home systems, mini grids and solar powered productive use of energy technologies.

Its flagship *Climate Smart Village* model is providing clean energy access, training and financial support to rural communities and now expanding to urban settings.

Sosai partners with national and international agencies and its inclusive, locally rooted approach is now shaping national electrification efforts, bringing clean energy to local medical facilities, dramatically improving access to healthcare and saving lives.

- This is a women's empowerment story and rural Nigerian clean energy success story that has gone national – the crucial element of it is the cultural element of working with communities so that it is accepted by the community for women to become solar entrepreneurs.
- Founder Habiba Ali is strong female founder story with immense impact on the empowerment of women and girls in communities that are traditionally very closed to including women in business

Spokesperson: Habiba Ali, Founder – working in the renewable energy industry in Nigeria since 2005 focusing on the strategic implementation of energy efficiency practices and advocating for gender inclusion in the Nigerian energy sector. Country Chairperson of African Women in Energy and Power. [\(23\) Habiba Ali | LinkedIn](#) See [Spokesperson document](#) for more information.

 **GLOBAL SOUTH FINALIST: Breaking Barriers Award: [Quadloop Technologies](#)** - Breaking technological innovation barriers through repurposing e-waste into solar products designed in Africa.