

ING donates 1 million zlotys in grants for young researchers and start-ups to develop clean-energy solutions

27 June 2022

ING has selected the winners of the first round of a competition for the best clean-energy solutions, targeted at young researchers and start-ups. The winners will get a total of 1 million zlotys to fuel further growth.

The main prize, 400,000 zlotys, went to DAC (Dynamic Air Cooling) for their innovative cooling device that allows nel Wiatrowy, awarded 300,000 zlotys for a system of vertical wind turbines, which not only generate power, but may also serve as a fence. Another idea that met with great applause, winning a grant of 150,000 zlotys, was a solution submitted by SWG (Silesian Wind Generator): a vertical axis wind turbine for household use. The jury also awarded a special prize of 150,000 zlotys to Luminos Zielona Energia for their photovoltaic panels, made up of solid cubes, which increase the efficiency of solar power generation.

The first round allowed to identify the most innovative solutions to the challenge of the call: "How can we ensure access to clean and available energy for all?"

"The first round of the grant program attracted as many as 197 young researchers and startups. The bank was looking for solutions to improve energy efficiency, increase the use of renewable energy, and help us fight air pollution. The massive response and interest in the project attest to the great need for an initiative like ours. Together, with the help of new technologies and innovative solutions, we can take better care of our environment", said Joanna Erdman, Vice-President of the Management Board at ING Bank Śląski. "In the fall, we will launch the second edition of the program. We are already working on yet another challenge designed to support sustainable development projects", she added.

The best solutions were selected by a jury composed of the representatives of ING Bank Śląski, the world of business and science, and various NGOs, during an awards ceremony held on 27 June 2022.

Apart from financial prizes, the winners get a chance to forge contacts with investors and companies from the ING portfolio, as well as take advantage of individual mentorship opportunities, always adapted to the specific requirements of their project.

The grant program follows up on the Environmental Declaration, announced in mid-2021, in which ING Bank Śląski pledged to donate 5.3 billion zlotys in funding for renewable energy and environmental projects and promised to create a grant program for young researchers and start-ups working in the field of sustainable development, with an annual budget of 2 million zlotys.

The bank puts a great emphasis on education. In 2021-2023, together with external partners, it will carry out an educational campaign devoted to climate change in several hundred elementary schools. ING Bank Śląski will also continue to actively support employee volunteerism by creating a dedicated eco-fund, "My Environment", with an annual budget of 300,000 zlotys, which will enable its employees to carry out environmental projects for the benefit of local communities.

ING also offers a wide range of loan products to support environmental solutions. The offer is targeted both at individuals and enterprises.
