

Fundación Moeve awards three transformative projects advancing a just energy transition

- **DesaLIFE, Fortalece y Fruta Freia have received the Fundación Moeve Awards for their contribution to advancing a just energy transition. Fundación Moeve has awarded the three winners a total of 120,000 euros and will support them through mentoring to help strengthen and scale their projects.**

Fundación Moeve held the Fundación Moeve Awards ceremony, an initiative that recognizes projects that turn ideas into tangible solutions to accelerate a just energy transition. Now in its third edition, the Awards received 340 applications from startups, SMEs, associations, foundations, cooperatives, and public-sector organizations in Spain and Portugal. This growth over the past three editions reflects the consolidation of the Awards as a benchmark platform for promoting sustainable solutions.

The event brought together ten finalist initiatives at the Moeve Tower auditorium—six from Spain and four from Portugal—where they presented their proposals in a three-minute pitch format. The projects represent some of the most innovative and transformative initiatives in the Iberian ecosystem, addressing key challenges such as access to water, ecosystem regeneration, the circular economy, employability in the green economy, and food waste reduction, always combining environmental and social impact.

Maarten Wetselaar, President of Fundación Moeve, said: “A just and sustainable energy transition is only possible thanks to the talent, creativity, and commitment of people like those represented by this year’s award winners. These initiatives are a source of inspiration and strengthen our confidence in the future.”

Bettina Karsch, Vice President of Fundación Moeve, said: “Today we are celebrating something truly important: putting the people who are making the energy transition possible at the center—not as an abstract concept, but through real projects with tangible impact. Behind every initiative are hours of work, risks, and difficult decisions, but also enthusiasm, courage, and the conviction that another way forward is possible.”

Following the jury’s deliberations, the trophies and a total prize fund of 120,000 euros were awarded to the following winners:

- **FORTALECE**, led by the University of Granada, promotes better water management by recognizing and rewarding the environmental value of traditional irrigation systems. The project strengthens the role of irrigation

communities in the ecological transition and the sustainable development of rural areas through participatory and replicable solutions.

- FRUTA FEIA is a pioneering cooperative that tackles food waste at its source by directly connecting farmers and consumers. Through a scalable local distribution network, it transforms aesthetically discarded produce into conscious, accessible consumption with high environmental and social impact through a scalable, proximity-based logistics network.
- DesaLIFE is an offshore, zero-emission desalination system that harnesses wave energy to produce fresh water sustainably. The project enhances water security in regions facing water stress through an innovative, scalable solution that is fully compatible with the protection of marine ecosystems.

These projects, which are already underway and replicable, and which place local communities at the center of change, will also receive support from Fundación Moeve through mentoring sessions and expert guidance to help them continue scaling their impact.

A day of inspiration and connection

Hosted by journalist and science communicator Luis Quevedo, a well-known voice in science and technology communication in Spain, the event also served as a forum for exchanging ideas among the stakeholders driving the ecological transition from different areas.

One of the highlights was a talk by biologist and communicator Odile Rodríguez de la Fuente, titled "Clima de cambio" (Climate of Change). Her remarks connected the need to preserve ecosystems with society's active role in building solutions.

Fundación Moeve is a non-profit, general interest organization whose goal is to carry out work aimed at serving the needs and priorities of the local communities where its founder, Moeve, conducts its activities. Fundación Moeve's scopes of action are people, biodiversity, and social innovation.

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