Innovating for the Future Competition Guidelines

Project Green Schools invites high school students throughout Massachusetts to sign up for the Innovating for the Future Competition. In this competition, students will utilize their STEM skills to develop sustainable solutions to our planet's challenges to help secure a greener, cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable future for all!

Innovating for the Future provides students with an excellent opportunity to showcase their STEM skills, creativity, and innovation abilities while competing for prize money for their school projects. The competition will take place on April 30th, 2024, at the Massachusetts State House.

Overview:

Innovating for the Future is a high school E-STEM (environment + STEM) competition that challenges students to use their critical thinking and problem-solving skills to tackle real-world topics such as climate change, environmental justice, food insecurity, and ecological conservation and preservation.

In this "Shark Tank"-style competition, students will work in teams to showcase their STEM skills, ingenuity, and innovation in creating sustainable solutions to our planet's environmental challenges. Students will design a business or product proposal or a sustainable solution that combats their chosen environmental issue and aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs).

Participants will explore current local or global environmental issues afflicting various ecosystems and/or populations, assess currently available solutions, and envision alternative and innovative solutions. Teams are tasked with preparing and presenting a

detailed proposal for implementing their solutions through the real-world application of E-STEM concepts and the 21st-century learning skills of critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and communication.

The top three teams will be awarded a prize.

1st Place = $5,000
2nd Place = $2,500
3rd Place = $1,000

Format:

The Innovating for the Future competition is a statewide competition and will consist of two rounds at the Massachusetts State House on April 30th, 2024.

Teams will pitch their proposal to the competition judges to compete for prize money for their school projects.

Each team will have five minutes to present their proposal to the judges. Following each team's pitch, the team will participate in a Q&A session with the judges.

Requirements:

All project proposals must be student-driven and reflect the students' unique perspectives, interests, skills, knowledge, and passions in the fields of E-STEM. There is no maximum team size, but teams should have **at least** two students.

Student proposals must address an issue related to **ONE** of the following categories aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals:

- **Energy Efficiency & Conservation**
  - **SDG 7:** Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.
- **Waste Reduction & Recycling**
  - **SDG 12:** Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
- **Green Building**
  - **SDG 6:** Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
  - **SDG 9:** Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation.
- **Individual & Community Action**

    - **SDG 13:** Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
- **Efficient Transportation**
    - **SDG 11:** Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.
- **Green Business Solutions (packaging, footprint, sustainable practices, and policies)**
    - **SDG 8:** Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.

Proposals/presentations must be in PowerPoint, Prezi, Google Slides, or another similar format and contain the following content:

- Slide 1: Cover Sheet
    - Name of School/Environmental Club
    - Name of team members
    - Project proposal title and a brief abstract
- Slide 2: Assessment of need
- Slide 3: Cost/Benefit and/or Environmental Impact Statement
- Slide 4: Fundraising needs & ideas
- Slide 5: Implementation plan & timeframe
- Slide 6: Contact information

Students will be judged on the following criteria:

- Well-researched and clearly defined goals
- Organized and thoughtfully presented content
- Impactful, insightful, and imaginative