Participate in the Global High Schools Category

Bring your project to life with the Zayed Sustainability Prize and win up to US$100,000. Open to high schools worldwide, the Prize recognises youth as a driving force for future sustainable development and empowers them to reach their full potential.

High schools must propose projects that can realise tangible outcomes and be designed to deliver positive educational impact. These student-led projects must demonstrate innovative approaches to address sustainability challenges, and inspire students to take active roles in sustainable development.

The proposed projects should be innovative and impactful in the areas of health, food, energy and/or water. The proposed project could be in one area (e.g. water) or a combination of areas (e.g. energy, water, food, and health).

What to Submit and How to Apply

Submitting your application is done through our dedicated online portal. When we are open for submissions, your school can register on our website www.ZayedSustainabilityPrize.com and follow the steps below:

1. Set up an internal project team. This can be made up of students, teachers and management, parents – if they are interested – and/or members of your community.
2. Collect ideas and talk to experts.
3. Set up a project plan and explain what you want to do, when you want to do it, and how much it will cost.
4. Familiarise yourself with the submission process, online portal, and fill out the form.
5. When you are satisfied with all details on the entry form, click on the submit button.

Why should students care about the Prize?

We believe everyone needs to lend a helping hand if, collectively, we are to make our world more sustainable. We can’t do it without you - the next generation of sustainability champions!

The opportunity to receive up to US$100,000 in funding, to help realise your project proposal, is a once in a lifetime experience. And remember: there are no losers when it comes to doing something to make the world more sustainable - and your participation, alone will look great on your college applications and resumes!

GLOBAL HIGH SCHOOLS

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Background

Our environment is becoming more polluted, sources of clean water are dwindling, and the world’s growing population requires food production to be accelerated - in a sustainable manner - to prevent malnutrition and hunger.

Established in 2008, the Zayed Sustainability Prize was created to honour the legacy of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan’s commitment to sustainable and human development. By recognising and rewarding innovators - across core sustainability sectors - the Prize hopes to help build a more sustainable future for all.

Since 2018, the Prize has recognised sustainability solutions in health, food, energy, and water; as well projects from Global High Schools.

Global High Schools category

The Global High Schools category was added to the Prize in 2012. This category awards up to six high schools, from six world regions, that can demonstrate a project plan that will deliver impact, innovation and inspiration to their school and/or local community. Schools must propose projects to be implemented within 12-24 months of receiving the Prize, with tangible outcomes in the areas of sustainable health, food, energy, and water.

These projects need to be designed to deliver positive impact including: access to quality education, and ensuring students are given key skills and enhanced abilities to achieve their goals. Ideally, projects should demonstrate new and innovative approaches and be inspirational for others.

The Global High Schools category’s six world regions are:

1. The Americas
2. Sub-Saharan Africa
3. Middle East & North Africa
4. Europe & Central Asia
5. South Asia
6. East Asia & Pacific

Making an impact through the Global High Schools category

We know everyone has the power to make a difference. We recognise that many of the world’s best ideas – those that will create a more sustainable future – originate from our youth. The Global High Schools category was created to empower students to take action and make sustainability ideas a reality.

Past winners have demonstrated that the ingenuity of youth can have a profound impact in surrounding communities with the right resources and guidance.

Since the first Global High Schools awards, presented in 2013, Prize winners in this category have positively improved the lives of 425,408 people in communities across the world.

Students from the Global High Schools’ projects have:

- 7.2 million kWh of electricity was generated
- 5,700 tonnes of CO₂ was saved
- 47,215 students were positively impacted

These renewable energy and sustainability projects have positively impacted over 425,000 people connected to participating schools and their surrounding communities.

Discover the successful projects of previous Global High School winners at our website’s impact page.