

# Commonwealth Children & Youth Challenge For Sustainable Energy Applicants' Briefing Pack

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Deadline 31 August 2023

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Welcome to the Children & Youth Challenge! (For educators, please refer to Category C)

This is an exciting opportunity for young people like you to work together with other people in your community, to make the world a cleaner and better place through use of cleaner and more sustainable energy.

## What is the challenge?

Everybody needs and uses energy. Did you know that sadly, most of the energy we use today harms our environment and will be used up in the next 50 years? What we need is energy that is good for the environment and also not run out! That's what we call "Sustainable Energy".

By the year 2030, we want to make sure everyone has affordable, reliable, clean and sustainable energy. 2030 is only a few years from now, so this means we need to work together and make big changes in how we make and use energy to achieve this goal.

Most of the time, the words we use to talk about energy and the climate can be confusing...

That's why we want to hear and learn from you! The Children and Youth challenge calls on all children and young people (aged 7 to 17) like you, from across the 56 Commonwealth countries to help us find solutions to our energy needs. We want to move towards a cleaner and more sustainable energy future, but we need your help!

To join the challenge, you can choose one of the two challenge Categories:

- A. Write a story that shows the innovative ways you or persons in your community are increasing the community's awareness of / or the use of sustainable energy.
- B. Come up with your own idea for a clean and renewable energy solution to a problem in your community. Form a team of 3 to test your idea. Document your journey and send it to us!

## Eligibility

There are 3 categories in total. A & B for persons aged 7 - 17 years old, and C for educators of any age who educates their community on sustainable energy.

1. All individuals and team members must be a resident in a Commonwealth Member Country (see full list <https://thecommonwealth.org/our-member-countries>).
2. Category A & C are individual submissions. Category B will require a team (minimum 3 persons) for successful submissions.
3. Submissions for Category A and B must be led by children and youth from the following age groups (inclusive, and as of 31 August 2023):
  - a. 7-10 years old
  - b. 11-14 years old
  - c. 15-17 years old
4. Original content. All applications must be of original creation by the applicant(s).
5. Submissions must all be submitted via the form, before 31 August 2023, 11.59pm GMT.

## Submission Categories

Deadline: 31 August 2023, 11.59pm GMT.

There are 3 categories available in total. Categories A and B for 7 to 17 years old, and category C for educators of all ages.

To join, you will need to make a fun and short video (1 minute) about your project or submission and share any other important information that can help us understand your idea better. Don't forget to fill in the form and answer some questions so our judges can see how amazing your project is!

Entries are open for the following categories:

- A. Short Stories (less than 3000 words) written by children and youth, on the innovative and creative use / teaching of sustainable energy in their communities
  - Identify examples of innovative ways that increase the awareness and/or the use of sustainable energy in your community
  - Be a reporter, take pictures, and notes of your selected example
  - Write the example into a short story
  - Submit your short story via the form by 31 August 2023, 11.59pm GMT
- B. A project log of a prototype of technological solutions / innovations developed by the children and youth with/ for sustainable energy
  - Identify and take a photo of a problem (related to energy) in your community
  - Form a team of at least 3 persons of different age or background
  - Create ideas on how the problem can be solved by using clean / renewable / sustainable energy (e.g. sun, wind, water)
  - As a team, test your solution, and record how your trial and journey (what did you do, what the impact has been, what you have learned)

To join the Category B, you'll need to team up with at least 3 people from different ages and/or backgrounds. It's important to work together and think about how your project can help people and the environment. This challenge is not only about technology, but also about teamwork and making a positive change in the world.

- C. Educators' sample / case studies of best practices and most effective methods / materials used to educate and engage communities on sustainable energy. Category C is open to all (any age) formal and informal educators to share their best practices and thoughts on how best to educate the community on sustainability and energy.
- Identify way and materials (eg. digital content, lesson plans) that successfully engages your community and audience to learn about sustainable energy
  - Collate evidence of your sessions (write about your methodology, take a video, collate the materials you use)

Remember, all submissions will have to be submitted via [the online form](#), and before 31 August 2023, 11.59 pm GMT. Submit early to not miss the deadline. We can't wait to see what creative solutions and projects you come up with! Good luck and have fun!

### How will you be judged?

Your application will be reviewed by a large group of young experts, scholars and youth leaders from all around the world.

They will use the following list of criteria areas to review if your project is a good fit for the challenge:

### Criteria

- Impact on the community (reach, uptake, engagement, replicability)
- Innovation - (creativity, uniqueness)
- Benefit to the environment
- Appropriateness and feasibility for the local context. (cost, tapping on local resource availability, relevance, etc)
- Inclusivity - (accessibility, inclusivity, consultative, use of participatory design practices, fair representation etc)
- Potential to address needs and gaps of the Sustainable Energy Transition
- Team & Project Make-up (expertise, intergenerational, diversity)
- Potential to support audience variability of underserved and minority groups
- Technicality and market potential - Technological Solutions (Cat B & C)

### What could you win?

You will be up against other teams and submissions from your region. If you win, you'll get a special certificate from the Commonwealth Secretariat! The best entries from each region will also get the chance to talk and share your ideas with decision-makers in your community, and have your submission published across our platforms. And if you're in the 15-17 years category, you could even win a big prize: a trip to Dubai to present your work at an important annual event called COP28, where people all around the world come together to discuss about climate issues and solutions.



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**Some helpful words to understand:**

- **Renewable energy:** energy that comes from natural sources that will not run out, like the sun or the wind
- **Energy efficiency:** using less energy to do the same task or activity, like using energy-saving devices
- **Decarbonisation:** reducing the amount of carbon dioxide released into the air, which is a major cause of climate change
- **Net zero:** Using only as much energy as can be produced from renewable resources, so that no extra greenhouse gases are released into the environment.
- **Energy access:** making sure everyone has access to energy to power their homes and businesses
- **Sustainable energy transition:** Moving from using dirty and unsustainable sources of energy, like coal or oil, to clean and sustainable sources of energy, like solar or wind power, in a way that benefits people and the planet.