

## Universities for Goal 13 Competition and Award (4th Edition) Rules and Submission Guidelines

Sponsored by Siemens Energy and in collaboration with the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), “Universities for Goal 13” (UxG13) is an annual competition for undergraduate and graduate students of the SDSN global network of universities. It aims to mobilize university talent in a team competition to create practical solutions for achieving SDG 13, climate action, from multi-disciplinary perspectives. For more information about this year’s challenge, please read the Competition Brief 2024-2025.

### Contact Points

SDSN will host the Secretariat of the competition and each University will appoint a focal point that will be in charge of liaising with SDSN and Siemens Energy during the process. All communication between students and supervising professors will be done through the corresponding focal point.

### Team Eligibility Requirements

- A. The UG13 Competition is open to all undergraduate and graduate students currently enrolled in the universities that are participating in the contest. Previous participants in the contest are welcome to participate again.
- B. Those students who graduate during the competition process will still be eligible to participate. Participants have to be a student at the time the proposal is submitted.
- C. The teams must be composed of at least 3 students, preferably from different disciplines, as the development of the solutions will require a multidisciplinary approach.
- D. The competition structure is progressive based on the scores assigned by the judges. Teams and team members that progress through each of these competition levels must remain consistent.
- E. Those students who leave the team at some stage will only be allowed to rejoin the team if the other members agree unanimously. All team members must comply with the Competition Code of Conduct.
- F. In addition to the student members, the students or the university’s focal point must identify a professor or university staff who will serve as the team’s tutor.
- G. We champion the creation of diverse teams, which can foster a wide range of viewpoints that enhance creativity and innovation in competitive settings. In line with this, we encourage every team to embody this dedication to diversity. Specifically, we aim for women to constitute at least 30% of the team members, promoting an inclusive atmosphere that appreciates a variety of voices, perspectives, and experiences.

### Solutions Eligibility Requirements

- A. Solutions must have disruptive potential, be aligned with the SDGs and be technically feasible.
- B. The proposals can be at any development stage, they can be an idea, a pilot project or an existing project that needs further development. They do not necessarily have to be unpublished.
- C. The potential outcomes of students’ work should include analyses of needs, potentials, barriers and opportunities to utilize the capabilities of business and industry offerings. They should enhance understanding of technical, legal, economical or sociological aspects of how the solutions can support the development of the region. They can also design, analyze and suggest concrete solutions for narrowing, slowing, and/or closing resource loops, minimizing energy demand and use, regenerating resources and materials, and creating, supplying and using data.

### Submission Requirements

- A. All entries must be submitted to the University focal point via the official Application Form. No project documents of any form will be considered after the submission deadlines.
- B. Estimated dates of submission can be found in the timeline below.
- C. Works must be in English or have English subtitles.
- D. All projects must complete SDSN’s [SDG Impact Assessment Tool](#) and attach the resulting report stating the impacted SDG-targets.

### Judging Process

- A. Evaluation Criteria: Proposals are evaluated according to the following criteria: level of novelty (innovation), feasibility, disruptive potential, alignment with the SDGs and quality of the presentation.
- B. Judging: A panel of SDSN and Siemens Energy staff and/or industry professionals with expertise in the field will judge each entry. Short-form entries (less than 15 minutes) will be viewed in their entirety. Judges will not be assigned to review an entry where there is an obvious conflict of interest or in cases where the judge is institutionally affiliated with an entrant.

### Timeline and Award

The competition will start in September 2024 and end in September 2025. Please see the calendar with milestones and deadlines in the Competition Brief 2024-2025.

- A. Only one team will be awarded.
- B. The decision of the judges is final.
- C. The prize money is USD 10,000 for the further development of the solution.
- D. The winning solution will be announced during an award ceremony in New York (United States of America) in September 2024 during the UN General Assembly week. Depending on the public health situation, this event will be held in-person or online.
- E. All finalist teams will be issued a Certificate of Participation by request.

### Use and reproduction rights

- A. The property rights over the proposal do not belong to SDSN nor the university, only to the authors.
- B. The audiovisual materials (pitch videos) submitted during the competition will be used for communication purposes. Written proposals shall remain private unless permitted otherwise by authors.
- C. The entrant agrees to clear all licenses, copyrights, and permissions to ensure that the submission can legally and ethically be presented. If an entity other than the entrant owns the rights to all or part of the submitted solution, the entrant must attach written consent from the owner or an authorized representative of the owner to the entry form.
- D. All technology, design, invention, process, method, formula, specification, industrial secret, know-how, patent, trademark, authorship, and, in general, information that incorporates intellectual property related to the proposals shall remain the exclusive property of the authors. Under no circumstances shall be understood that there is a cession or transmission of any intellectual or industrial property rights owned by the authors. The authors shall hold all industrial and/or intellectual property rights to developments, designs, drawings and any other information resulting from the proposals submitted.

### Code of Conduct

Participants undertake to uphold and promote SDSN values and principles. This undertaking includes:

- A. Supporting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in all professional matters and being conscious of the implications of the work and choices on the environment, social inclusion, and economic development;
- B. Upholding, demonstrating, and promoting the values of the United Nations, including impartiality in professional settings, and fairness, honesty and truthfulness, in daily activities and behaviors;
- C. Treating all colleagues with respect, dignity, honesty and fairness;
- D. Committing to generating a team work environment where the dignity, safety and comfort of each individual is upheld and which is free from violence, harassment, exploitation, discrimination and intimidation against individuals.

Questions or concerns? Please email your Focal Point at your university!