

WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY



LAUNCH PAD
Technology Business Incubator

ACCELERATING TO NET ZERO

INNOVATION CHALLENGE

VENTURE MAKERS
ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

01 CHALLENGE OVERVIEW

Delivered by Western Sydney University's Launch Pad Technology business Incubator, the upcoming Venture Makers Innovation Challenge "Accelerating to Net Zero" will be held on 15 September 2022. During the challenge, interdisciplinary teams will explore how the world can shorten the timeframe to reach Net Zero to mitigate against the effects of dangerous climate change.

Teams will explore acceleration in areas including; the uptake of clean energy through innovations such as micro-grids, optimising electrification of mobility, and driving increased energy efficiency to reduce carbon emissions.

Through the Innovation Challenge process, students will develop key skills in areas including:

- communication
- team-building
- problem-solving
- analysis
- influencing
- pitching

At the end of the event teams will present their ideas competing for high-value prizes at a final pitching competition. The most promising ideas will be offered support through Western Sydney University's Launch Pad.



UNI IN THE WORLD
FOR COMMITMENT TO UNITED NATIONS'
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2022



02 PARTICIPANT BENEFITS

The innovation challenge is suitable for all students across STEM, humanities, social sciences, business, education and health areas. All participants who complete the Challenge will receive a digital badge and certificate while building their job readiness through:

- **DIGITAL BADGE** - receive a digital badge and certificate while building job readiness
- **NEW THINKING** – work closely with students and industry leaders to find and engage with new innovative ideas
- **LEADERSHIP & TEAMWORK** – build skills to lead and collaborate with a team
- **INDUSTRY CONNECTIONS** – Network with industry mentors and influential people from industry, the university, and government.
- **LEARN NEW SKILLS** - Work with a range of specialist mentors to develop transferrable skills that build your job readiness
- **MAKE FRIENDS** - Engage with students, staff, and entrepreneurs and enjoy a fun experience.

03 PRIZES & RECOGNITION

There will be up to 3 winning teams with high-value prizes (vouchers) for each individual from the winning teams (max. 5 members per team)

2nd Prize \$200* per team member	1st Prize \$300* per team member	3rd Prize \$100* per team member
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CHALLENGE THEMES

CHALLENGE QUESTION:

"How do we stop the climate crisis by accelerating to a net carbon zero economy?"

Working in interdisciplinary teams, participants will propose new ideas and solutions for Accelerating to Net Zero. Ideas and solutions could include; technologies, a start-up company, campaigns, policies and regulations, education programs or other ideas to address identified industry sector areas, including;

- Electrifying Mobility
- Active Transportation
- Clean Energy
- Energy Efficiency
- Community Transition
- Carbon Offset
- Reducing Meat-Based Diets
- Emissions Reduction
- Reforestation
- Green Supply Chain
- Circular Economy
- Green Finance



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KEY DATES

Information Session (online): 1st Sep. 12:00-1:00pm AEST

Hackathon Challenge/ Pitch Competition:

Australian Participants (in-person, Parramatta)
15 September, 10:30am - 8pm AEST

International Participants (online)
15 September, 10:30am - 8pm AEST

Scan the QR code to register now!



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PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Partnering with Venture Makers Innovation Challenges provides your organisation a key role in the event including:

- Theme Shaping - provide input on the challenge problem statement and themes areas
- Briefing event – provide a speaker to join a panel as part of an online briefing event for the challenge
- Mentoring – provide a representative to work as a mentor during the challenge to give advice and feedback to teams on their solutions
- Pitch event judging - provide a representative as a judge at the pitch event where local and international teams will compete
- Prizes - contribute to the winning teams with provision of prizes (cash, goods, product/service discounts or prof. development opportunities (not mandatory for partners)

Partnering Benefits

- Access New Thinking – work with students researchers and start-up companies to find and engage with new ideas and thinking
- Industry Leadership – demonstrate how your organisation is engaging as a leader to help solve global challenges
- Network and Connections – Network with other business leaders, senior executives and specialists from industry, university, government
- Brand Association – Leverage your involvement with the university and other partners through promotion of your involvement online, at the event and through social media
- Access Training - access entrepreneurship training for your employees available through Launch Pad and the venture Makers program

Partners from industry, community organisations and government are welcome to express their interest. Contact the Launch Pad team to discuss how your organisation can partner with the Innovation Challenge.

E: launchpad@westernsydney.edu.au



VENTURE MAKERS

'ACCELERATING TO NET ZERO' INNOVATION CHALLENGE



LEARN MORE ABOUT VENTURE MAKERS