Xylem Global Student Innovation Challenge 2022
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
March 1 - April 22, 2022

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What is an innovation challenge?

An innovation challenge is a hackathon (Hack + Marathon = Hackathon). It is an intense and fun collaborative marathon where "hack" means to create something entirely new from things that already exist – think "MacGyver." Participants are joined by industry partners for a period of time – in this case, 8 weeks – to develop amazing new products or services in response to challenges posed by the innovation challenge sponsor.

What are the venue details?

This is a global, virtual innovation challenge.

Does participation cost anything?

No, the event is free to all participants!

Are there prizes?

Absolutely! The competition is endowed with a **$20,000 Prize Pool!** The prize pool will be divided up into two groups, Secondary (High School) Students and Tertiary (University) Students, with $9,500 alloted to each group. All prizes will be divided equally amongst the winning team members. The prize breakdown for each group is as follows:

Secondary Track:
- Grand Prize: $5,000
- Challenge Prize: $1,000 x 4
- People's choice: $500

Tertiary Track:
- Grand Prize: $5,000
- Challenge Prize: $1,000 x 4
- People's choice: $500

Will there be other prizes?

$1,000 Incentive Drawing (20 ppl win $50)

There will be a chance to win 1 of 20 $50 gift cards by completing activities, including sharing a team video, attending webinars, and submitting a project early. More details will be shared when the innovation challenge launches on March 1!

What is the event platform?

https://xyleminnovationchallenge-platform.bemyapp.com

This is a virtual platform for all attendees to watch webinars, engage with Xylem mentors in 1:1 sessions and Q&A, and to access resources available for the event. You will also create and submit your projects through the platform, and can use the team formation and chat features at any time.

What are the challenge statements?

Your innovation challenge project will address one of the following challenge statements - read the full challenge statement on the website.

- **Challenge Statement #1 - Solving Water with Alternative Sensing Technologies**
- **Challenge Statement #2 - Smart Floating City Master Plan**
- **Challenge Statement #3 - Raising Awareness for Water Equity**
- **Challenge Statement #4 - Kickstarting Water's Race to Net Zero**

Who is Xylem?

Xylem (XYL) is a leading global water technology company committed to solving critical water and infrastructure challenges with innovation. Our more than 16,000 diverse employees delivered revenue of $4.88 billion in 2020. We are creating a more sustainable world by enabling our customers

to optimize water and resource management, and helping communities in more than 150 countries become water-secure.

[Xylem Ignite](#) is a global youth initiative that seeks to build a strong network of passionate student leaders and empower them to drive real changes in the water industry.

[Xylem Watermark](#) is Xylem's corporate social responsibility program. Our mission is to provide education and equitable access to safe water and sanitation to support healthy lives and help build resilient communities.

Who is allowed to participate?

The Secondary Track is open to students enrolled in high school, secondary school, pre-university and equivalent, including those graduating in the spring or summer of 2022. The Tertiary Track is open to students enrolled in college/university bachelors programs, community college, vocational schools, coding bootcamps, polytechnics and other post-secondary schools or equivalent. Participants must be at least 13 years of age and no older than 25 years of age when the Challenge begins to participate.

If a participant is under 18 years of age, a Parent/Guardian Consent & Release form, which can be obtained at https://bma-events.typeform.com/to/DGUdKIV2, must be submitted. Failure to do so will end in disqualification of participation at the Xylem Global Student Innovation Challenge 2022.

Do I have to know how to code to join?

You do not need to know how to code! Not all projects need to be technology-related. Projects may explore the development of a product, business strategy, software, financial analysis, or communications tool to address the challenge statements. Participants do not need to be developers unless they want to develop a coding-based project. The only requirement is that you submit a project that addresses the challenge

statement and meets our [deliverable requirements](#).

Do I need to have a teacher/professor involved to participate?

No, students sign up for the challenge individually and can participate outside of their regular school curriculum! The innovation challenge does not formally align with any school curriculum, but teachers and organizations can encourage their students to sign up together!

How do I find a team?

Teams can be formed ahead of time if you are joining the innovation challenge with people you know, or virtually using the Slack channel and team formation webinar on TBD on Zoom.

Forming a team with multiple members that can serve the roles of design, user experience, business development and technology development is a great way to go, depending on the project you choose.

What is the allowable team size?

Teams may have 1-5 members. You are encouraged to build a team with diverse skill sets, including solution development, design and user experience (UX), presentation and pitch. One person can fill multiple of these roles!

Can there be multiple students/teams signed up from any school?

Yes! There is no limit on the number of registrants. Students can sign up individually, find teams through the event platform, or sign up with a team of students from their own school.

How can my friends/teammates join?
They should **[sign up here](#)** individually to participate! You can form teams after you have all individually registered.

Can I have both high school and college students on my team?

Yes, teams can include both high school and college students, or equivalent. If there is at least one team member who qualifies for the tertiary (university) track, then the team will be judged along with the tertiary track, even if other team members are in high school.

Do participants need to know English?

Our event this year will be held in primarily English. Final projects must be submitted in English.

We have Xylem mentors available from around the world with different language backgrounds. If you are worried abour participating due to a language barrier, we will do our best to match you with a mentor who speaks your primary language and can help you translate your submission materials.

Challenge background materials may also be translated by the Xylem team upon request. For general translation, we recommend the use of Google Translate or the Translate plugin on Google Chrome.

How does the event manage participants from different time zones?

Because this event is global, we will have participants and mentors from many different parts of the world and time zones!

If your team members are in different time zones than yours, you can work on parts of your project independently and come together to find meeting and collaboration times that work with your school schedules.

Our mentors will also represent different countries and time zones, and some will have evening and weekend availability, so that you will have options to connect. The mentors' availability will be posted in the event platform.

Our webinars will be recorded and available for replay on the event platform if the live hosting time is inconvenient for your time zone.

What are the deliverables I need to submit for my project?

You are asked to submit the following project deliverables for this innovation challenge:
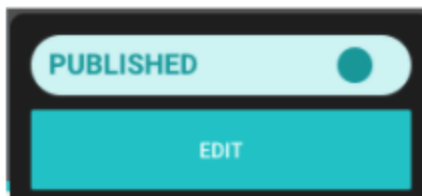
- **Project Page:**
    - Create a project page on the event platform at xyleminnovationchallenge-platform.bemyapp.com/#/projects and fill in all the required fields.
- **Register Your Team:**
    - Register your team by adding **ALL** your team members to the "Our Team" section on the project page. Please note that each team member must be registered individually first in order for you to add them to the project page.
- **Presentation Slides (or other Visual):**
    - Create presentation slides or another visual tool such as a Story Map (GIS), Prezi, or other visual tool, which can also be used during your video presentation. Add them to your project page!
    - If using Google Slides, make sure the link is viewable to the public! Get a friend to test the link for you.
    - If you aren't using Google Slides, a PDF can be attached on the project page.
- **Video Presentation/Demo:**
    - Please create and share a brief **5-7 minute video presentation/demo** about your project.
    - Introduce your team, let the judges know what innovation challenge category you are competing in (high school or university), what challenge you are addressing, what your project is about and share a short demo of your solution.
    - Share a link to your presentation/demo video on the platform

page.

> ■ Make sure we have access and can view your video!

- Lastly, please ensure your project page is published on the event platform by the project deadline of **Friday, April 22 at 1:00pm PT / 4:00pm ET / 8:00pm UTC.** No late submissions will be accepted!

Will I be exposed to the challenge statements and have a chance to ideate?

You have an opportunity to learn about water from the experts! In connection with this challenge, Xylem Ignite has teamed up with industry experts to bring you our inaugural Water Masterclass. The Water Masterclass is a series of engaging video classes that allows you to learn a range of important water topics from water sustainability to design thinking from experts in the field. Collect points by watching lectures, connect with other future water leaders on our Slack channel forum, and earn a

certificate for completing the masterclass. The Water Masterclass will launch in mid-April.

You will also have several opportunities to join webinars during the event.

What tools or technology can I use? Can I use third-party APIs?

Yes, you can use any program or technology to develop your project. Projects can be a technical solution, a business solution, a community or policy solution, or a combination of the three, depending on your skills and interest! If you need help figuring out what tools to use, you are encouraged to work with our [mentors](#).

How can I interact with the mentors?

You can interact with the mentors on the event platform and on Slack.

- **Event Platform:** Participants have the opportunity to schedule a 25 minute 1:1 mentor session with the mentor of their choice. These calls are held through the event platform and allow for interaction between one mentor and one participant. If you are unable to attend the scheduled meeting, please cancel the appointment and reschedule for a different time.
- **Slack**: Mentors will also be available through the official challenge innovation Slack channel. Teams can post messages via the technical-support or mentor-help channel channel and mentors will respond and provide assistance. The Slack channel will be shared soon - stay tuned!

What is the schedule? What are the deadlines?

INNOVATION CHALLENGE KICKOFF
Wednesday | January 19, 2022 - The innovation challenge registration officially begins!

SOCIAL IMPACT & WATERMARK ACTIVITIES

Get involved in Watermark, Xylem's corporate social responsibility program! Complete impactful water-related activities and earn points. The top performers have a chance to win prizes, including donations to charities of their choice.

DEEP LEARNING AND WATER EDUCATION

Water MasterClass:

On Demand

Xylem launches 10-episode Water Masterclass for students to learn about global water challenges and solutions. Guest speakers include Al Cho, SVP, Chief Strategy and Digital Officer for Xylem and George Hawkins, former CEO of DC Water.

Innovation Challenge Kick Off:

Tuesday | March 1 at 6:00am PT / 9:00am ET / 2:00pm UTC

Opening Ceremony and Innovation Challenge Overview. Welcome message from Claudia Toussaint, Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Chief Sustainability Officer at Xylem. Learn about the innovation challenge, how to win a challenge and presentation/demo tips with BeMyApp.

Webinars:

Wednesday | March 2 at 11:00am PT / 2:00pm ET / 7:00pm UTC
 (Challenge Statement #1)

Thursday | March 3 at 7:00am PT / 10:00am ET / 3:00pm UTC
 (Challenge Statement #2)

Monday | March 7 at 3:00pm PT / 6:00pm ET / 11:00pm UTC
 (Challenge Statement #3)

Tuesday | March 8 at 5:00pm PT / 8:00pm ET / 1:00am UTC

(Challenge Statement #4)

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND DEADLINES
Innovation Challenge Begins!
Tuesday | March 1, 2022
Background resources and data are released for the four challenge statements. Have fun innovating!

Team Formation Webinar:
TBD | TBD
Placeholder

Pitch Practice / Crash Test Webinar:
TBD | TBD at PT / ET / UTC
Join us for a live webinar to share your project status, interact directly with mentors and get valuable feedback!

Project Deadline:
Friday | April 22 at 1:00pm PT / 4:00pm ET / 8:00pm UTC
All final presentation videos and projects must be submitted by 1:00pm PT / 4:00pm ET / 8:00pm UTC in order to qualify for the innovation challenge. Late submissions will not be accepted.

POST-EVENT
April 25 - May
Judges will review projects.

Winners Announced:
Beginning of May
The Xylem Global Student Innovation Challenge winners will be announced!