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# ABOUT

## Background

Climate change leads to results and consequences that severely affect the lives of people around the world. The 2023 Tzu Chi Youth Innovation Prize Challenge is a chance for youth to earn funding for innovative solutions and participate in networking and mentorship opportunities. Join us in working towards a more sustainable future for our planet.

## Rewards

Climate change is a growing issue that affects everyone, especially the youth. While many are still pondering climate change solutions, the earth's climate is changing at a rapid rate - therefore, we would like to source ideas from you all!

Although participating in this challenge includes monetary rewards, the crux is more about learning about the process of converting an idea into action, fostering and creating new relationships instead of financial gain. A summary of benefits can be found below:

### ***Phase 1 Winning Teams***

Up to \$5,000 grant per Phase 1 winning team to implement your proposed solution  
(See grant usage section)

Sponsored Bootcamp (Details about the bootcamp will to be announced in early 2023)

### ***Final Winning Team***

\$10,000 scholarship in total for the final winning team  
Potential additional funding for long term implementation

### ***Everyone***

Networking - Meet and share with like-minded peers from across the US!

Mentorship and guidance from experts

Get feedback and collaborative opportunities to design your own project





## Participate

### ***Who can participate?***

*If you are between the ages of 15 and 25, have a passion for climate change, and want to create innovative solutions, please apply!*

*You are encouraged to participate in teams of 2-5 people. If you don't have a team yet, you can still register individually and look for teammates during our networking session.*

### ***Important dates***

*Registration starts on January 1st, 2023, and ends on February 28th, 2023*

*The complete proposal submission package should be sent to [young\\_leaders@tzuchi.us](mailto:young_leaders@tzuchi.us) by the submission deadline of April 15th 2023.*

## Timeline

This is a multiphase challenge with a total of three subsections. Please see the details and important dates of each phase below.

### ***Registration***

Apply to enter the challenge now if you are passionate about making a difference and leading the changes towards a better world!

- **Jan 1st:** Application start
- **Feb 28th, 11:59 PM ET:** Application close

### ***Phase 1 - Ideation***

We will focus on ideating and developing project proposals. Virtual networking sessions, resources, and mentors will be given to facilitate teaming, and help teams improve their proposals' impact, feasibility, etc. Depending on the total number of proposal submissions, At the end of this phase, all or selected teams will be invited to present their project proposals for a chance to receive \$5,000 in seed funding to implement their projects.

- **March - April:** Working Sessions (Power Days and office hours)
- **April 15th:** Proposal submission deadline
- **Mid-April:** Virtual Pitches (exact dates are to be announced)
- **April 30th:** Announcement of up to 5 teams who will receive \$5,000 seed funding and a sponsored in-person bootcamp in summer 2023. (Bootcamp program details to be announced soon.)





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### ***Phase 2 - Implementation***

We will focus on the implementation of Phase 1 winning project proposals. Teams will utilize seed funding to turn their ideas into reality and be invited to present their progress, achievements and impacts in late Summer or early Fall 2023. One final winning team will be selected for a chance to win scholarship and additional fundings!

- **May - Aug:** Teams will create and implement their solutions.
- **August 18th:** Project Final Report submission deadline
- **August 20th:** Virtual Final Presentation
- **August 27th:** Announcement of final winning team; The team will receive a \$10,000 scholarship and potential additional funding for long-term implementation of their project.





# PROJECT SUBMISSION, JUDGING CRITERIA AND SCORING RUBRICS

## Phase 1

### What to submit

We are looking for the following items as part of your submission package for Phase 1:

<p><b>One-pager Project Summary</b></p>	<p>Basic information of your team and project in one page including the following element.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposal name</li> <li>• Key problem(s) that the proposed solution is trying to address</li> <li>• Short description of proposed solution</li> <li>• Project team (names, contacts, and backgrounds, city and state)</li> <li>• Estimated timeline</li> <li>• Estimated cost</li> </ul>
<p><b>Project Proposal</b></p>	<p>Competitors' presentations should focus on how their project's impact in combating climate change. The team should be able to explain their proposal's expected output (e.g., activities, impacted individuals, etc.) and what the expected ecological value of the output is. The following elements should be addressed at minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Problem Statement</u>: State the specific problem that the team aims to tackle</li> <li>• <u>Proposed Solution</u>: Explain the solution proposed to tackle the problem stated</li> <li>• <u>Expected Benefits</u>: Outline the outcomes and impacts expected from the project, the specific group(s) of people who will benefit from this proposed solution, and how the benefits are being measured</li> <li>• <u>Implementation Roadmap</u>: A detailed plan to explain how the project will be implemented in the next 1-3 months, including timeline, stakeholders, and responsible parties.</li> <li>• <u>Budget Breakdown</u>: Specify the itemized cost plan and the overall budget estimation for the proposed project implementation</li> </ul> <p>There is no required template, so competitors are free to present the information in any format. The summary document must be submitted as an image (.jfif, .jpeg, .png, etc.), or a document (.pdf, .docx, .pptx, etc.)</p>





The complete proposal submission package including the one-pager project summary and the project proposal should be sent to [young\\_leaders@tzuchi.us](mailto:young_leaders@tzuchi.us) before the submission deadline of April 15th, 2023. After that, teams will be invited to a Virtual Pitch Day in mid-April to present their proposals. However, in case of overwhelming submissions received, only selected teams will be invited to present based on descending order of total points team received.

Judging criteria

The project submissions and the presentations will be evaluated against the following criteria:

1. **Impact:** Projects should drive tangible, real world impact for both the climate and people. The proposal should explain how it will tackle climate change and/or the extent to which it will support others to do so as well. Successful applications will be grounded in data and research. The submissions should provide a proposed impact of the project’s impact in combating climate change.
2. **Feasibility:** Successful proposals will have well-developed and realistic execution plans supported with the resources and expertise needed for implementation. Proposals should also include an adequately detailed time-bound budget plan and estimates. We look for proposals that have high feasibility with the team’s available resources and environment.
3. **Innovation:** Ideas should strive to create or enable new solutions and approaches. Teams can also propose innovative approaches to previous projects such as adapting a solution for a new audience.
4. **Engagement:** Consistent participation of the challenge activities (active participation in power days, engagement with mentors, presentation and interaction during Virtual Pitch Day etc.) and demonstrated commitment to good teamwork, quality project proposals as well as personal growth.

Scoring rubric (0-5 scale)

Criteria	Number of questions	Percentage of total score	Total possible points
Impact	5	25%	25
Feasibility	6	30%	30
Innovation	5	25%	25
Engagement	4	20%	20
Total	20	100%	100





## Phase 2

### What to submit

Only Phase 1 winning teams can participate in Phase 2. We are looking for the following items as part of your solution's submission package for Phase 2:

<p><b>First Draft Report</b></p>	<p>The first draft report should focus on providing an update on the progress of project implementation. The report should include the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem Statement (minor changes to the problem statement are allowed, please include why the changes are necessary)</li> <li>• Solution (minor changes to the problem statement are allowed, please include why the changes are necessary)</li> <li>• Progress (What has been done so far)</li> <li>• Budget report (current and expected expenses)</li> <li>• Next steps</li> </ul> <p>There is no required template, so competitors are free to present the information in any format. The summary document must be submitted as an image (.jfif, .jpeg, .png, etc.), or a document (.pdf, .docx, .pptx, etc.)</p>
<p><b>Midterm Progress Report</b></p>	<p>The midterm progress report should focus on providing an update on the project implementation. This report should include the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem Statement (minor changes to the problem statement are allowed, please include why the changes are necessary)</li> <li>• Solution (minor changes to the problem statement are allowed, please include why the changes are necessary)</li> <li>• Progress (What has been done so far)</li> <li>• Outcomes (What outcome and benefit have been achieved)</li> <li>• Challenges (What challenges have been encountered and what have been done to address the challenges)</li> <li>• Next steps</li> </ul> <p>There is no required template, so competitors are free to present the information in any format. The summary document must be submitted as an image (.jfif, .jpeg, .png, etc.), or a document (.pdf, .docx, .pptx, etc.)</p>





<b>Final Project Impact Report</b>	<p>Competitors' presentation should focus on providing a summary of their project's impact in the implementation phase. The team should be able to provide a report on the observed outcomes and impact (including community, ecological output, benefits) of their project implementation, in relation to the proposed expected amount of output. The following elements should be included in the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Problem Statement</li><li>• Implemented Solution</li><li>• Actual implementation timeline and budget</li><li>• Observed outcomes and benefits</li><li>• Future Direction: projected impact and benefits</li><li>• Challenges and Lessons learned</li></ul> <p>There is no required template, so competitors are free to present the information in any format. The summary document must be submitted as an image (.jfif, .jpeg, .png, etc.), or a document (.pdf, .docx, .pptx, etc.)</p>
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Phase 2 participating teams must submit the first draft report by June 14th, the midterm progress report by July 14th, and the final project impact report by August 18th at the end of Phase 2. All submissions should be sent to [young\\_leaders@tzuchi.us](mailto:young_leaders@tzuchi.us). In addition, all Phase 2 teams need to make a final presentation expected in August 2023.





Judging criteria

The project submissions will be evaluated against the following criteria for Phase 2:

**Achieved Impact:** Projects should drive tangible, real world impact for both the climate and people. Project submissions will be evaluated on the impact on combating climate change and on the community during the implementation phase.

**Future Potential:** We are looking for projects that show significant potential for long-term development in the community. We are also looking for projects with wide generalizability and can be applicable across different communities or regions.

**Implementation Effectiveness:** Projects will be evaluated on the effectiveness shown regarding the use of resources available to the team during the implementation phase. We are looking for projects that show good utilization of time, resources, and budget available to the team, as well as showing good teamwork and problem solving.

Scoring rubric (0-5 scale).

Criteria	Number of sub-questions	Percentage of total score	Total possible points
Achieved Impact	3	30%	15
Future Potential	4	40%	20
Implementation effectiveness	3	30%	15
Total	10	100%	50





## **Grant Usage Details**

Up to 5 winning teams from Phase 1 of the Tzu Chi Youth Innovation Prize Challenge will be awarded the grant, the teams will use the awarded grant amount to implement their proposed project in Phase 2.

Payment of the grant will be made in installments. The first half of the awarded grant will be paid to the winning teams at the start of Phase 2; the remaining amount will be distributed in reimbursements according to the reported usage submitted. The second reimbursement will be processed after the midterm report, and the third reimbursement will be processed after the final presentation.

## **RESOURCES FOR PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT**

To help the participants develop ideas and proposals, we will be providing resources including mentorship, focused workshops and panel talks during Phase 1.

### **Mentorship**

Mentors are individuals with extensive professional expertise, such as leadership, climate change, project management, engineering, etc. They will share their experience by hosting panel talks about their experience working on relevant projects and lessons learned, and providing feedback and advice through one-on-one mentor consulting time with the participating teams.

### **Power Days**

Power Days are designed to facilitate networking, teaming and participant development. Two Power Days will be held, one in mid March and another one in early April. The first one will focus on networking for teams and clarifying information about this challenge, while the second one will focus on sharing progress among the teams and seeking feedback from mentors about the ideas. More details on these power days will be released closer to the time of the event.

Overall, we truly hope that joining the challenge will be a fun, enriching and fulfilling experience for all participants!





## APPENDIX

### Scoring Rubric Questions

Each scoring criteria has a certain number of rubric questions; each question will be scored on a scale of 0-5, 0 being poor and 5 being excellent. The score for each team will be taken from adding the points scored for each question, and adding the points scored for each criteria to get the final score.

#### Phase 1

Scoring system: poor 0 -- 1 -- 2 -- 3 -- 4 -- 5 excellent

Scoring Criteria	Rubric Questions	Score
<b>Impact</b>	1. The proposal clearly states the specific problem(s) in tackling climate change that the proposed solution is trying to address, and describes the expected positive outcomes.	0 – 1--2–3--4–5
	2. The proposal clearly identifies the target group of people or communities who will benefit from the proposed solution.	0 – 1--2–3--4–5
	3. The proposal presents specific, measurable, actionable, relevant, and time-bound goals the project aims to meet during implementation	0 – 1--2–3--4–5
	4. The team has considered and discussed the impact of the proposed solution at multiple levels (individual, local and global) and in both short term and long term.	0 – 1--2–3--4–5
	5. The proposal adequately includes relevance to meeting related SDGs.	0 – 1--2–3--4–5
<b>Feasibility</b>	1. The proposal provides adequate statistics and research data to support the proposed ideas.	0 – 1--2–3--4–5
	2. The proposal adequately describes available resources and the plan to utilize said resources.	0 – 1--2–3--4–5



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	3. The proposal adequately outlines the outreach and engagement strategies and platforms that will be used to implement the project.	0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5
	4. The proposal clearly considered the potential risks and discussed the approach of addressing them.	0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5
	5. The proposal clearly considers the potential financial costs of the proposed ideas and makes clear cost estimations.	0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5
	6. The proposal adequately outlines a time-bound budget usage plan for the implementation of the proposed project.	0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5
<b>Innovation</b>	1. The proposed project includes a new/creative solution to climate related issue(s).	0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5
	2. The proposed project includes a new/creative way of thinking in terms of tackling climate related issue(s).	0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5
	3. The proposed solution includes an implementation approach that is creative.	0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5
	4. The proposed solution addresses a climate related issue that is creative or under-addressed currently.	0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5
	5. The proposed project includes a solution that is not among the current services provided by Tzu Chi Foundation.	0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5



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<b>Engagement</b>	1. The members of the project team have actively participated in the Power Day sessions.	0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5
	2. The project team submitted a complete project submission package on time.	0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5
	3. The members of the team have actively engaged with mentors and peer mentors throughout the planning phase.	0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5
	4. The members of the project team have delivered a comprehensive and informative presentation during the Virtual Pitch Day.	0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5

**Phase 2**

Scoring system: poor 0 -- 1 -- 2 -- 3 -- 4 -- 5 excellent

<b>Scoring Criteria</b>	<b>Rubric Questions</b>	<b>Score</b>
<b>Achieved impact</b>	The participating team has demonstrated the achievement of measurable positive impact (i.e. scope) in addressing the stated climate-related issue(s).	0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5
	2. The participating team has demonstrated that their activities engaged and built relationship with involved communities and stakeholders	0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5
	3. The participating team has adequately considered and addressed any potential negative environmental or social impacts associated with the project implementation.	0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5
<b>Future potential</b>	1. The team presented a long-term vision for tackling climate change that is ambitious yet achievable.	0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5
	2. The project shows potential to be applicable in different communities or by different teams	0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5



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	3. The team presented projected future outcomes of the project over the long-term that is impactful and feasible.	0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5
	4. The team provided adequate description of what they will be able to do with ongoing funding towards continued implementation of their project.	0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5
<b>Implementation effectiveness</b>	1. The project report clearly and adequately reports financial costs and budget usage during the implementation phase.	0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5
	2. The project report demonstrated the ability of the team to successfully overcome challenges encountered during the implementation phase in effective, innovative ways	0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5
	3. The project report adequately described any other resources and capabilities they have utilized to execute their project implementation.	0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5

