

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Student Innovation Showcase: Integrative Design Solutions for Advancing SDG 12

About the Showcase

Stanford University's [Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center](#) (APARC) and the [Ban Ki-moon Foundation for a Better Future](#) invite teams of Stanford students across disciplines to pitch groundbreaking ideas that address **Sustainable Development Goal 12 (SDG 12)**. We seek innovative, interdisciplinary, [integrative design solutions](#) that bridge technology, policy, and community engagement to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns. Representatives of the selected team will be invited to present their pitch to a panel of judges at the Student Innovation Showcase in Singapore on October 25, 2026, during the 5th annual [Trans-Pacific Sustainability Dialogue](#).

Why Participate?

- Present your ideas to a panel of industry leaders, policymakers, and sustainability experts.
- Network with peers and professionals passionate about innovation.
- Contribute to global efforts for a resource-efficient, sustainable future.
- Win the award and receive prizes, mentorship, and incubation opportunities.

Themes & Focus Areas

Submissions should align with [SDG 12](#) and address one or more of the following:

1. **Circular Economy Innovations:** Redesigning production/consumption systems to minimize waste.
2. **Energy-Efficient Technologies:** Solutions for renewable energy integration, smart grids, or reducing energy footprints in industry.
3. **Responsible Resource Stewardship:** Tools for monitoring, conserving, and safely managing minerals, water, forests, marine resources, and/or hazardous materials.
4. **Resource Transparency & Accountability Frameworks:** Digital tools to track, standardize, democratize, and streamline resource use and reporting across sectors
5. **Sustainable Supply Chains & Ethical Consumption:** Integrative systems for traceability, reducing ecological footprints, and promoting fair labor practices.
6. **Regenerative Food Systems:** Reducing food waste, promoting plant-based alternatives, and advancing climate-smart agriculture.
7. **Integrative Urban Systems:** Smart city designs that embed circularity and resource efficiency.
8. **Behavioral & Policy Interventions:** Strategies to incentivize sustainable practices, including subsidy reforms and resource equity, in households, communities, businesses, and/or governments.
9. **Education & Community Change:** Integrative campaigns, curricula, or platforms to foster sustainable lifestyles.
10. **Sustainable Tourism Models:** Low-impact travel solutions, community-led ecotourism, and cultural preservation through restorative tourism.

Eligibility

- This Call for Applications is open to teams of up to 5 undergraduate and graduate students currently enrolled at Stanford University. The showcase will also feature invited student teams from leading universities across the Asia-Pacific region.
- Interdisciplinary teams are strongly encouraged from disciplines in the social sciences, business, environmental science, engineering, energy research, biomedical sciences, food research, computer science, and urban studies.
- Solutions must be original, feasible, and scalable.

Submission Guidelines

The application package of your pitch must include a **3-page concept note** (PDF), **3-minute video** (MP4 or MOV), and **3 slides** (PPT), submitted to the Selection Committee at tpsd-aparc@stanford.edu.

The package must detail the following information:

- Problem statement and relevance to SDG 12.
- Description of the integrative design solution or innovation.
- Expected environmental, economic, and social impact.
- Implementation plan, including timeline and resources needed.

Deadlines

The internal deadline for Stanford students to submit application packages for review and selection is **September 25, 2026**. The selected team must submit the names, short bios (up to 100 words), and headshot photos of up to two representatives by October 1, 2026.

Evaluation Criteria

Applicants will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Innovation:** Creativity and originality of the solution.
- **Feasibility:** Practicality and scalability.
- **Impact:** Contribution to resource efficiency and SDG 12.
- **Interdisciplinary Approach:** Integration of technical, social, and policy dimensions.
- **Presentation:** Clarity and persuasiveness of the pitch.

Participant Announcement

APARC will notify the selected team by September 29, 2026. Up to two representatives of the selected team will be invited to present their pitch to a panel of judges at the Student Innovation Showcase in Singapore on October 25, 2026. All travel expenses, except for some meals during the TPSD, will be covered.

Key Dates

- **Internal Stanford University Submission Deadline:** Friday, September 25, 2026
- **Notification of Selected Team:** Tuesday, September 29, 2026
- **Deadline for Selected Team to Submit Participant Information:** Thursday, October 1, 2026
- **Student Innovation Showcase Event:** Sunday, October 25, 2026

Contact: For inquiries, send an email to tpsd-aparc@stanford.edu.