

Official Rules and Regulations of the Spellman High Voltage Electronics Clean Tech Competition

2021 Student Challenge “Preserving Planet Earth”

1. Introduction

These are the Official Rules and Regulations for participation in the Spellman High Voltage Electronics Clean Tech Competition 2021 Challenge. The Center for Science Teaching and Learning (CSTL) is the Administrator of the competition. The competition begins when registration opens at 12:00 PM EST (Eastern Standard Time) on October 12th, 2020, and ends at the close of the 2021 Finalist Event. These rules should be read in conjunction with the information provided on the competition website located at <https://www.cstl.org/cleantech/> and information provided by the Administrator.

2. Competition Description

The objective of the competition is for Teams of eligible students, supervised by teachers or other adults, to create a competition entry that identifies a real world problem and presents a solution using clean technology.

In Round 1 of the competition, each Team will enter a Paper Submissions which details the cause and scope of the “Preserving Planet Earth” problem and proposes a clean technology solution. In Round 2 of the competition, Teams selected as Finalists will create a Prototype of their solution and participate in a live round of judging at the Finalist Event.

3. Teams and Student Eligibility

Each Team may be made up of one, two, or three student Team Members. All participating Team Members must be 15 to 18 years old on August 31st, 2021. Students older than 18 years old, or who have already graduated from high school (or the local equivalent), **AND** are enrolled in a university are **not** eligible to participate. In other words, if a student is still 18 at the time of the finals and has graduated high school, but is not attending university, they are eligible to compete. If the student will be attending university in the Fall, they are eligible.

Eligibility may be verified at any time by the Administrator; decisions concerning eligibility made by the Administrator are final. A student may participate on only one Team. Teams may edit their Member information through their account on the competition website up until the Paper Submission Deadline.

The official language of the competition is English. All competition business including registration, correspondence, and project submission, must be completed in English. At least one student Team Member

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must speak English fluently, and that Member must be present at the Finalist Event in order to conduct their Team's presentation if they are selected as a Finalist Team.

4. Team Leaders

Each Team shall be supervised by one Team Leader who is age 19 or older. While student Team Members are required to do the work involved in undertaking their projects, the role of the Team Leader is to help students manage their project. An individual may serve as Team Leader for more than one Team. **Team Leaders are to act as guides through the process, not as participating members involved in the details of the research project.**

The Team Leader is responsible for registering the Team, obtaining any additional information about Team Members as required by the Administrator, providing overall guidance to the Team, submitting the Team's entry by uploading the properly formatted document to their Team's account, and facilitating distribution of prizes. If his/her Team is selected as a Finalist, the Team Leader will assist in Team travel arrangements and oversee presentation of the Team's entry at the Finalist Event. If the registered Team Leader is unable to attend the Finals in person, a replacement Leader/Chaperone must be put in place and their information shared to the Administrator.

5. Registration

The registration form is found on the "Log In/Register" page of the competition website. Each Team Leader must create an account and fill out registration information for each Team they are supervising. A unique email address must be used to create each account. There is one account per Team which the Team Leader and Members should all share access to. **The Registration Deadline is 4:00 PM EST on Friday, April 23rd, 2021. No exceptions will be made.** All Teams must be registered by this deadline in order to participate. After this point, new accounts cannot be created, but registration information may still be modified for existing accounts. **The Round 1 Paper Submission Deadline is 4:00 PM EST on Wednesday, April 28th, 2021, at which point all Round 1 Paper Submissions must have been uploaded and accounts may no longer be modified. No exceptions will be made.**

6. Personal Data and Parental Consent

Each student Team Member of a Finalist Team must provide a completed parental consent form, signed by the student's parent or legal guardian, to be eligible to participate in the Finalist Event. Finalist Teams will have one week from the date of announcement to complete and submit all required consent forms. All forms must be submitted before the prototype stipend will be released to that Team. If a Team

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fails to submit all consent forms by the assigned date, they may be disqualified at the sole discretion of the Administrator, and one of the Semi-Finalist Teams may be invited to take their place. If a Team qualifying for the Finalist Round informs the Administrator that they must withdraw prior to submitting their consent forms, they will be named a Semi-Finalist Team instead, and receive a Semi-Finalist certificate. However, if a Team chooses to withdraw from the Finalist Round after submitting required forms and/or confirming participation, the Team risks disqualification and forfeiture of any awards, at the sole discretion of the Administrator. By participating in the competition, Team Leaders, Team Members, Mentors, Judges, and Speakers agree to the collection and use of their photographs and personal information.

The Administrator may require additional personal information from Teams as a condition of distributing prizes to the Team. Failure to submit completed consent forms and/or to provide required information may result in disqualification from the competition and forfeiture of any prizes or awards for which they were previously eligible.

7. Originality of Work

The Team's entry must be an original work created by the Team Members, and the Team must have all necessary rights to submit the entry. The entry may be an improvement on another party's existing design; however, it must contain substantial new, original elements and only these original elements will be considered when being judged. Any existing ideas must be clearly denoted. All Team Members are responsible for contributing work towards the creation of the entry.

Participation in the competition may require disclosure of products, processes, improvements or other works that are the intellectual property of the Teams, which also may be made available to the public. If Teams have any concern about protection of their intellectual property, they are urged to consult with an appropriate advisor.

8. Submitting an Entry

All Paper Submission entries for Round 1 must be submitted by the Team Leader by uploading a Portable Document Format (PDF) file through the Team's account on the competition website. Other file formats or submission methods will not be accepted. Entries must be completed in English. Limit one entry per Team. The Administrator is under no obligation to correspond about entries. Entries become the property of the Administrator and may not be acknowledged or returned.

9. Entry Deadline

Paper Submission entries for Round 1 must be received by the Administrator's server by Wednesday, April 28th, 2021 at 4:00 PM EST. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE. Administrator reserves the right in its sole

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discretion to modify the entry deadline and if this occurs, all Teams will be notified of such deadline and modification will be posted on the competition website or provided email address. LATE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

10. Warranty and IP Rights and Considerations

By submitting a Team's entry, the Team Leader affirms that the entry is the original work of the Team and the entry does not violate any law or regulation or any right of any third party. Teams shall hold harmless the Administrator and their respective officers against any claims or costs relating to breach of these conditions. Teams agree that the Administrator has the right to verify the ownership and originality of all entries. If this cannot be done to the satisfaction of the Administrator or is in any other way ineligible, the Administrator may disqualify the Team and/or select an alternate winner.

11. Ethics and Unacceptable Entries

Entries may not involve use of or experimentation on animal or human subjects. Entries may not defame or invade the rights of publicity or privacy of any person, living or deceased, or otherwise infringe upon or violate a person's personal or proprietary rights. The Administrator reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to reject any submission they believe may not be in keeping with the Administrator's respective image or defames, invades, infringes or violates a third party's rights. The Administrator also reserves the right in its sole discretion to disqualify any entry at any time which, in the Administrator's opinion, may endanger the safety or wellbeing of any person or in the event it is determined that the participant has not complied with these rules.

12. Judging

The chance of winning any prize will depend upon the total number of eligible entries received and the scores of the Judges, based on entry content. The decisions of the Judges, with the approval of the Administrator, will be final. **Judging scores will not be released to Teams.** Teams are responsible for all travel expenses and other costs they incur in connection with the competition, including attendance at the Finalist Event.

CRITERIA: For judging criteria, visit the "Judging Criteria" tab of the website.

ROUND 1: Entries for Round 1 will consist of a Paper Submission, in which Teams present their findings and ideas in a written report for review by a panel of educators, scientists, engineers, and/or technology experts selected by the Administrator. Round 1 of the judging shall occur following the Round 1 Paper Submission Deadline.

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All Paper Submissions must be in English. Submissions must be a minimum of 5 pages and a maximum of 15 pages, not including title page and reference page(s). Papers longer than 15 pages may be submitted, but judges will not be required to read beyond the 15th page. Paper Submissions must be in size 12 font, double spaced, with 1 inch (2.54cm) margins. All entries must be uploaded to the competition website as a single Portable Document Format (PDF) file.

From the Round 1 Paper Submissions, the Judges will determine 20 Semi-Finalist Teams per category, which include the top 10 Finalist Teams per category. The Finalist Teams will then develop a Prototype of their solution and participate in a live Round 2 Finalist Event. Finalist Teams will be required to submit consent forms and are responsible for their own transportation and lodging for the Finalist Event. If a Finalist Team is unable to meet requirements or attend the Finalist Event, one of the Semi-Finalist Teams may be selected to take their place, at the sole discretion of the Administrator.

ROUND 2: Each Finalist Team's entry will be evaluated by a panel of Judges selected by the Administrator, at a live (or virtual if public health concerns/extenuating circumstances exist) Finalist Event. **The Competition may choose to live-stream this event for the general public on the internet.** At least one Team Member, accompanied by the Team Leader, is required to present at the Finalist Event, however all Team Members are encouraged to attend and participate. All presentations must be conducted in English. The Judges will score each entry and determine each Team's ranking. The Finalist Teams will be notified of the Judges' decision at the conclusion of the Finalist Event.

Entries for Round 2 will consist of a Prototype of the Team's solution, no more than one slideshow presentation, and no more than two posters or display boards. A projector will not be provided. All materials must be able to fit on a standard 6'x 2.5' table. No easels or stands will be provided, but Teams may supply their own. Finalist presentations will be 15 minutes in total, with 10 minutes for presenting and 5 minutes for Q&A with judges. Further regulations may be put in place, and Finalist teams will be notified.

Finalist Teams will be provided with a \$200 U.S. Dollars (USD) presentation stipend to spend on the creation of their Prototype and presentation materials, and may use no more than this \$200 USD. **Teams are responsible for maintaining itemized receipts of purchases which they must bring to the Finalist Event, or show upon request by the Administrator.** The Administrator reserves the right to audit these receipts at any time. Teams that do not adhere to this rule or fail to produce receipts risk disqualification from the competition and forfeiture of any awards or prizes that may have be received.

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13. Team Prizes

Finalist Teams are eligible to receive monetary prizes, to be shared among Team Members, provided they meet all participation requirements set forth by the Administrator. These prizes apply to both categories, so there will be two 1st prize winners and so forth. Prize money is intended to help Team Members further their work and continue their education. During registration, Teams will submit details regarding award payment information; at the close of the registration period, the information submitted will be considered final. **All prizes will be issued after the Finalist Event.**

PRIZE LEVEL	AWARD AMOUNT
1 st Place Finalist Team	\$10,000 Dollars (USD)
2 nd Place Finalist Team	\$7,000 USD
3 rd Place Finalist Team	\$5,000 USD
4 th -10 th Place Finalist Teams	\$1,000 USD each

The Administrator reserves the right to verify the eligibility information of competition participants as a condition of receiving a prize. If one or more Members of a winning Team are determined to be ineligible or fail to submit the required consent forms, the Administrator may, at its discretion, disqualify the entire Team and select an alternate prize winner or disqualify the ineligible or non-compliant Member(s) of the Team. Only one (1) prize check will be awarded to each winning Team, and is to be divided equally among all eligible student Team Members of the Team. The Administrator will not be involved in any disputes between or among Teams or Team Members.

14. Continued Mentorship

The first place Teams will be eligible to participate in a Continued Mentorship commencing after the **Finalist Event**. The Teams will be matched with a professional who will serve as a Mentor, advise and assist the Team on furthering their work and continuing their education in the sciences. The Mentor and Team will be in contact after the Finalist Event. The Administrator must be kept informed of all contact and progress. Further information will be provided after the Finalist Teams are determined.

15. Taxes and Fees

All applicable taxes and/or fees on prizes, and all expenses related to acceptance and use of prizes, foreign or national, are the sole responsibility of prize recipients. The Administrator reserves the right to withhold payments as required by law.

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16. Prize Restrictions

No prize can be transferred or substituted except with the approval of the Administrator, at its sole discretion. Limit one prize per Team.

17. Disclaimer, Release and Limitation of Liability

By participating in the competition, Team Leaders, Mentors, Team Members, Judges and Speakers: (1) agree to comply with the official rules and decisions of the Administrator, and (2) hold harmless the Administrator against any and all injuries, liability, losses, damages, costs or expense of any kind relating to their participation in the competition. The Administrator is not responsible for any technical or human error which may occur in the administration of the competition or the processing of entries. The Administrator is not responsible for any injury or damage to persons or property which may be related to participation in the competition or receipt or use or misuse of any prize.

18. Right to Cancel & Disqualify

The Administrator reserves the right in its sole discretion to (1) cancel, modify or suspend the competition or any portion at any time, and (2) limit entries to those submitted prior to the action taken, or to proceed in such a manner as may be deemed fair by the Administrator in its sole discretion. Persons who tamper with or abuse any aspect of the competition or website or who are in violation of these rules, as solely determined by the Administrator, will be disqualified and all associated entries will be void.

19. Rights in Entry Materials; Publicity Release

By participating in the competition, Team Leaders, Team Members, Mentors, Judges and Speakers hereby grant the Administrator a no-cost, royalty-free license to publish, reproduce, alter, display and otherwise use the entry and related information in any format. The license granted here includes the right to use the entry, Team Leaders', Mentors' and Team Members' names, photographs, likeness, school, city and state, and any video footage for programming, advertising, publicity and promotional purposes without compensation (unless prohibited by law) and without prior approval or inspection. Team Leaders, Mentors and Team Members agree to execute additional specific consents to such use if asked to do so.

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20. Administrator's Contact Information

ADDRESS: Center for Science Teaching & Learning
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