

Efficiency for Access Design Challenge Download: July 2023

Hello! Welcome to the July edition of the Efficiency for Access Design Challenge Download, where Efficiency for Access will take you through all things energy access, solar power and responsible engineering!

If you have content suggestions or would like to get in touch, please email eforachallenge@est.org.uk.

Efficiency for Access Design Challenge Grand Final

We are pleased to announce the successful conclusion of the Efficiency for Access Design Challenge Grand Final took place on Thursday, 15 June. This marked the end of an exciting competition for the 2022-2023 season.

The event featured a remarkable display of inventive design submissions that took home Bronze, Silver, Gold and People's Awards. The coveted Gold Award was claimed by a joint entry from the Independent University, Bangladesh in Bangladesh, and Makerere University in Uganda. [You can view the full list of awards and the winning teams on our website.](#)

The event served as a testament to the dedication, skills, and innovation of the participating students, all of whom share a common goal of enhancing energy access in their countries and across the globe. [Watch the full recording to see the inspiring event.](#)

Exclusive interview with the Efficiency for Access Design Challenge 2022-2023 Gold Winners

We also sat down with the Gold Award winners of the Efficiency for Access Design Challenge Grand Final, who took us through their experiences and challenges in designing their exceptional submission; a solar-powered automated anaerobic digestion system.

"The Efficiency for Access Design Challenge taught me how to design an impactful project that changes the world." - Siam Ibne Masud, student at Independent University, Bangladesh.

This exclusive interview highlights the role of expertise, diversity, and most importantly, friendship during the team's creation of the winning design. [Read the full story for deeper insights.](#)

Final Submission Summaries

In its fourth year, the Challenge saw great growth in participation and support. More than 100 students from 14 universities across Bangladesh, Kenya, Nepal, Nigeria, Senegal, Sweden, Uganda, the UK, and Zimbabwe took part in this year's Challenge, supported by over 20 industry partners.

These dedicated students developed excellent designs for off-grid settings, demonstrating the great possibilities for energy access and sustainability in the sector. [View the full list of designs in our Final Submissions document.](#)

What are educators saying about the Challenge?

"Personally, as an academic, through the Challenge I have learned to bring real-world problems into the classroom and be more open to student-driven solutions. Due to this, other colleagues have begun to show a more than passing interest in the programme. The renewed inquisitiveness of our students has also forced me to reassess my knowledge, learn and grow as well. An added benefit is seeing my students' ideas blossom; this has been very fulfilling."
Kinyua Wachira, Assistant Lecturer, University of Nairobi in Kenya.

The Road to Zero Interest: The Potential Role of Concessional Consumer Financing in Energy Access

We recently published a report exploring the possibilities of concessional consumer financing (CCF) to address affordability in the energy sector. CCF is a public funding mechanism that offers zero or low-interest loans to end-users, often over extended repayment periods, which helps people with low incomes to purchase energy efficient products. It has a long track record in the Global North, but has not been widely deployed in the Global South.

Our report evaluates different CCF delivery models that could be adopted in energy access settings, and it promotes CCF as a potential tool for public funding schemes. [Read the full report for more information.](#)

Efficiency for Access Design Challenge Internship programme

Efficiency for Access and Shortlist launched the Efficiency for Access Design Challenge Internship Programme for the Challenge participants in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). The Challenge's Internship Programme is an opportunity for recent graduates seeking experience in the clean energy sector, to have the opportunity to work on real-world projects, under the guidance of experienced professionals.

Are you a company in the clean energy sector interested in hosting an intern? [Register now](#)

Are you a recent graduate in SSA looking for an internship opportunity in the clean energy sector? We'll share these and other opportunities on the Challenge's Alumni group on LinkedIn.

If you want to learn more about this programme, please get in touch on eforachallenge@est.org.uk

News from Our Network

Engineers Without Borders UK: Engineering for People Design Challenge 2022/23

We are delighted to highlight the recent accomplishments of our Design Challenge partners, Engineers Without Borders UK, as they recently hosted the UK and Ireland Grand Finals of their flagship programme, the Engineering for People Design Challenge. Celebrating its twelfth year, the Challenge was delivered in collaboration with Govan Community Project.

This year, over 8,500 participants submitted engineering designs aimed at addressing the challenges and opportunities in Govan, Glasgow. This great display of skill and dedication showcases the commitment of students to create innovative solutions that have a positive impact upon society and the environment.

[Learn more about the challenge and the winning designs.](#)

The submitted designs underwent evaluation by a distinguished panel of industry judges, including Ellie Grebenik, Senior Programme Manager, who represented the Efficiency for Access coalition and Energy Saving Trust. With a background spanning over 13 years in sustainability, encompassing waste management, low-carbon transport, and energy access, Ellie brought her invaluable expertise to the table to assess and score the submissions. Ellie strongly believes that inspiring and supporting the next generation is paramount in keeping energy access and sustainability at the forefront of design. The energy and passion of the participating students, and engagement and encouragement of the judging panel, both contributed to the overall success of the competition.

[Find out more about the judges for the Engineering for People Design Challenge 2022/23](#)

Transforming Energy Access (TEA) Learning Partnership Workshop

In May 2023, we had the privilege of attending the workshop hosted by Transforming Energy Access, a vital partner of the LEIA programme. The workshop, taking place in Nairobi, Kenya, marked the launch of their energy access Master's courses and brought together 23 new partner universities from the Global South.

The goal of this gathering was to facilitate the sharing of skills, knowledge and expertise in the industry and its education, and provide essential resources for universities to deliver the courses. It was an invaluable opportunity to strengthen our commitment to advancing energy access and sustainability in developing countries.

[Find out more about the Course Uptake Workshop.](#)

Commonwealth Sustainable Energy Transition: Children & Youth Challenge

The Commonwealth Sustainable Energy Transition (CSET) Agenda and CSET Youth have launched the Children & Youth Challenge to engage children and youth (aged 7-17) and educators of all ages from across the Commonwealth in sharing their ideas for sustainable energy solutions in their local communities.

Check out the [website](#) for more information on how you can take part, or sign up to review challenge entries to empower the next generation of changemakers!

Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) This Is Cool Challenge: Applications open until 15 September

Heat extremes have uneven impacts worldwide, with increased global electricity demand for cooling projected to rise by 40 percent by 2030. To address this challenge, young innovators are already generating sustainable cooling solutions in their communities and countries.

The This Is Cool Challenge focuses on youth-led sustainable cooling innovation, providing a platform to showcase the work of young innovators, connecting them with influential networks of cooling partners to support project growth, and promotes knowledge exchange among youth innovators and partners.

Entries may be submitted by individuals or groups of up to five individuals, all under 35 years of age. The deadline for applications is 15 September. [Find out more about the Challenge and apply today.](#)

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The Efficiency for Access Coalition is coordinated jointly by CLASP, an international appliance energy efficiency and market development specialist not-for-profit organisation, and UK's Energy Saving Trust, which specialises in energy efficiency product verification, data and insight, advice, and research.