The Environmental Challenge, a competition for university students

VIRTUAL EC October 29 – November 12, 2021

Proudly hosted by the Pacific Northwest International Section of the Air & Waste Management Association

The Purpose

The Environmental Challenge gives student teams the opportunity to develop solutions to a mock environmental problem and present their solution to a panel of environmental professionals. We do not give you a lot of numbers to crunch. We are more interested in hearing about the issues involved, how you interpreted the problem, the rational you use to get to your conclusions, and how well you communicate your ideas. In light of all this, we incorporate a "tweak" to simulate how in the real world, nothing ever goes as planned. There is often new information that comes along and changes the game. Remember, the tweak is given last minute, the purpose being that you will need to interact with the Players in order to most effectively address this problem.

IDAHIPSY WATER OR BUST

The water levels have been shrinking year by year in the Idahipsy region. Aquafers have been at an all-time low and the Department of Environmental Affairs of Droughts (DEAD) has made an aggressive pact to halt depletion. The Department has put a halt on any new groundwater well installation permits, and adapted a 75% cap on the regions groundwater usage – meaning farmers and city folks alike can only draw 25% of their normal water allotments from their existing wells. How are these crops going to water themselves, people drink, and grass stay green? The town's economy depends on farmers producing crops and outsourcing them to the nation's supermarkets. Are there other viable solutions to sources of water, and how can it be accessible to the town, as well as the people with restrictions placed on their groundwater wells?

The Expectation

You are expected to discuss these issues with the stakeholders and include your solutions in the final presentations via TEAMS. Detailed calculations are not as important as your logic train, process, conceptualizations, creativity and integration of the Tweak into your proposal. Remember you can come up with assumptions, but they will need to pass the "straight-face" test. This is, sort of, like the real world!