

Net Zero Challenge Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Questions on Teams and age limit

1. Is it possible to have a group member aged +35?

For official team members, there is a strict age limit between 18-35, however it is allowed for advisors/reviewers outside of these age limits to be involved. The potential presenter at the GC/COP26 will have to be between 18-35 (at time of submission).

2. Can a team be composed by more than 4 people?

More than 4 people can collaborate to the paper as advisors/reviewers. However, in the submission there should only be 4 participants. The collaborations can be mentioned in the paper.

3. Can we compose a team by young professionals from different nationalities?

Yes. International teams are welcome!

4. Can we compose a team by young professionals from different companies/organizations/universities?

Yes. Diverse backgrounds are encouraged! We are happy for participants from the same utility/organization/company to apply either as part of the same team, or as part of separate teams. Applicants should only participate in one team though, i.e. an individual cannot be part of multiple teams.

Technical Questions on Paper

5. Should it be a technical paper? Do you want us to do power system analysis (and/or modeling) to answer the given question?

Should not be a technical paper, should be simple, concise and for a generalist audience. You can and should be using research from others, and referencing correctly, but no primary research or technical analysis is expected. We are not expecting any primary research such as power system analysis, we encourage to use existing research or modelling conclusions, and keep the paper non-technical, the audience should be for policy officials, or environmental/energy enthusiasts with limited technical understanding of nuclear energy.

6. Should I reference others research?

Yes, all sources should be properly referenced (no specific referencing style required), work will be checked for plagiarism.

7. Could you please explain in brief the contents of paper on policy? and if there is a template, please present it?

No template, we encourage applicants/teams to use the flexibility to be creative, and provide clear, concise, and well-structured submissions. It is recommended you clearly define the problem/challenge you are addressing.

8. Are we able to give policy recommendations for another country in our region?

Yes, this is perfectly fine and appropriate, you are operating in a personal capacity and not affiliated directly with any country officials etc.

9. If my/the country does not have a net zero target as of yet, can we still use the country example or use another country/region?

The country does not necessarily need to have already committed to a target of Net Zero, so you are able to select a countries energy system even if they have not selected to commit to net zero.

10. Alternatively, are we allowed to give a policy recommendation for a region?

Yes, you can select a region rather than a specific country to focus on if you wish. The views presented will be solely those of the presenter only, and have no obligations towards their organizations, companies, and/or countries. The views presented will not be binding in any context, and cannot be reproduced, reiterated, or referred to in any binding form to the Country of the presenter.

Criteria & Evaluation Questions

11. With which criteria should the team representative be chosen?

The winning team will offer the team representative an opportunity to attend a side event at COP26, therefore, the team representative should be skilled in presenting and speaking.

12. Can the paper be written in other language than English?

No. The paper should be written in English language.

13. What are the exclusionary criteria and other criteria you will apply for selection?

The following selection criteria will be applied (as already communicated on the webpage)

Innovation and creativity: The submitted work should be innovative, combining in-depth analysis, background text with necessary explanations and concise policy recommendations.

Research: Relevance, quality, and reliability of policy analysis, including appropriate referencing.

Logic: The depth of thinking behind the policy recommendations and its logical structure.

Originality: Submission should be an original.

The evaluation board will be using a score point system for the anonymous assessment of the submissions.

14. Could you please describe in brief the system of evaluation you will adopt?

A group of IAEA experts from different disciplines will be selected to review the papers and select the five finalists – further details will be provided to the finalists ahead of the GC event/part of the challenge.

15. What kind of support the IAEA will provide?

The IAEA expects participants/teams to work independently for this challenge, however the IAEA has published previous reports on nuclear power and climate change which may be useful for background reading, and available on the IAEA website.

Submission Questions

16. Is there any specific format in which you want the papers to be submitted?

The paper should be submitted in word document (.docx) format.

17. Is there any limit on word count and/or number of pages for the paper?

There is a strict 1000-word limit on the paper, plus a 150-word abstract. There is no strict page limit, this can encourage the use of illustrations and visuals to save on word count and make the paper more accessible to the reader.

18. Are you providing feedback on submissions?

No feedback will be provided.

19. Is there any specific format in which you want the papers to be submitted?

No specific format, but the paper should be well structured, concise and use illustrations or charts effectively.

General Conference and COP26 Section

20. How will the final round of pitches look like?

The evaluation panel will select the best five papers, and the five teams will be invited to pitch their ideas at an event to be held during the IAEA 65th General Conference that is going to take

place on 20-24 September. The pitches should be no longer than five minutes and should be appealing and engaging.

21. When will we be notified of a un/successful outcome?

The paper should be submitted as a Word document (.docx) and should be accompanied, in a separate attachment, by the CV/Resume of the participant(s). Submissions for the IAEA Net Zero Challenge should be sent to: NetZero.Challenge@iaea.org by August 23, 23:59 CEST. We will look to notify entrants of the outcome week commencing 6th September or earlier, providing further details and criteria for the General Conference part of the event. Further details on the COP26 part will be provided to the winners.

22. Will the papers be published?

The IAEA will select some submissions for publication on its website and possibly as an IAEA publication. The authors will be contacted, and their consent will be sought.

Inquiries from the live Q&A session held on July 6, 2021

23. Does the approx. 1000-word count include citations?

The 1000-word limit includes the body text (excluding citations, the abstract and footnotes)

24. I believe that you had mentioned that our paper topic does not need to be specific to our home nation, can it be aimed at a more global approach rather than just region specific?

Yes, the paper can look into your country, another country or region of your interest or even a region of a country as long as there is a compelling policy proposal that can be made. Policy proposals at a global level are possible but discouraged due to the tight word limit.

25. What are you looking for with regards to the innovation criteria?

We encourage any sort of innovation in your approach, be it the development and/or application of new technologies, stakeholder engagement, financing, or anything else.

26. What rules/requirements should we follow in the paper?

Information on the requirements can be found under [IAEA Net Zero Challenge | IAEA](#) or in the FAQs. Should you have additional questions, do not hesitate to contact us at netzero.challenge@iaea.org.