

CleanerGrid

Terms and Conditions, and Competition Entry Format Guidelines

October 2025



Terms and Conditions

By participating in the CleanerGrid 2025 competition (run by EirGrid plc on behalf of the EirGrid Group) (the “**Competition**”) participants and their respective 3rd level institutes accept the following terms and conditions (the “**Terms and Conditions**”):

Eligibility

- 1) All individuals participating in the Competition (the “**Participants**”) must be registered students in a recognised university, technological university, or institute of technology in Ireland (“**3rd Level Institutes**”).
- 2) Applications to the Competition will only be accepted from Participants who are undergraduate, diploma, and/or taught master’s students in 3rd Level Institutes. The Competition is not open to Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) students.
- 3) The Competition is not open to current staff (temporary or permanent) of any company in the EirGrid Group or their immediate family members. In this respect, an “immediate family member” shall mean and include a spouse, civil partner, child, step-child, grandchild, brother, step-brother, sister, step-sister, parent, step-parent, or legal guardian.
- 4) Participants may participate in the Competition as individuals or as part of a small team (max. 6 Participants/students per team).
- 5) Participants must seek permission from their 3rd Level Institute to participate in the Competition and to oversee their respective participation herein. A supervising member of the academic staff (professor, tutor, etc.) of the Participants’ 3rd Level Institute (the “**3rd Level Institute Supervising Member**”) must sign each Participants’/team’s application form to validate permission for all Participants, and to confirm their 3rd Level Institute’s understanding and acceptance of these Terms and Conditions.
- 6) Information on EirGrid’s use of personal data can be found under “Use of Personal Data” section below. Submitting false information as part of an application (for example, a false name, address etc.) will result in immediate disqualification from the Competition.
- 7) EirGrid reserves the right to verify the registration status of all Participants with their listed 3rd Level Institute.
- 8) In accordance with 8(a) and 8(b) below, there are two actions which must be fulfilled in order for Participants to take part in the Competition.

- a. Participants must first submit a completed application form in EirGrid’s prescribed form (the “**Application Form**”) to confirm they are taking part in the Competition. Application Forms can be found online at <https://www.eirgrid.ie/cleanergrid>.

The closing date for receipt by EirGrid of Application Forms is **23:59 on 19th November 2025**. All completed Application Forms must be submitted by email to research@eirgrid.com. EirGrid reserves the right at its discretion to extend the deadline for receipt of Application Forms.

- b. Following submission of the Application Form, Participants may then proceed to submit their Competition entry (the “**Competition Entry**” or “**Competition Entries**”).

The closing date for receipt by EirGrid of Competition Entries is **23:59 on 21st February 2026**. All Competition Entries must be submitted by email to research@eirgrid.com. EirGrid reserves the right at its discretion to extend the deadline for receipt of Competition Entries.

EirGrid is not responsible for lost, late, misdirected, corrupted or attempted submissions of Application Forms or Competition Entries by Participants, and all responsibility for the submissions of same lies with the Participants.

- 9) The final round of judging and the announcement of the winning Competition Entries will take place at an awards ceremony (the “**Awards Ceremony**”) at EirGrid’s offices in or around the end of March 2026¹. Shortlisted Participants/teams will be notified of the exact date and time of the Award Ceremony in or around March 2026, and must ensure their availability to attend the Award Ceremony or to have at least one member of their Participant team (where relevant) in attendance at the Award Ceremony. Shortlisted Participants/teams who do not attend the final round of judging at the Awards Ceremony will be ineligible to receive a prize. Winning Participants/teams will also be contacted via email to provide details for delivery of their prizes, and their 3rd Level Institute Supervising Member will be contacted to provide details for delivery of the relevant prize to their 3rd Level Institute.
- 10) No correspondence will be entered into between EirGrid and Participants regarding the judging process for the Competition and all decisions of the Competition judges with regard to evaluation of Competition Entries and selection of winning Competition Entries will be final.
- 11) EirGrid reserves the right to disqualify any Participants/teams from the Competition that do not comply with these Terms and Conditions.
- 12) These Terms and Conditions and any disputes arising under, out of, or in relation to the Competition shall be interpreted, construed, and governed in accordance with the laws of Ireland. EirGrid’s decisions on any dispute relating to these Terms and Conditions or the conduct or outcome of the Competition shall be final.
- 13) EirGrid reserves the right to amend any of these Terms and Conditions and/or rules of the Competition as it considers necessary. Notice will be given to Participants of any such amendments.

Use of Personal Data

- 14) EirGrid collects various types of personal data when a person enters a competition (such as the Competition) on EirGrid Group social media channels.

For example, when a Participant enters the Competition, EirGrid may request and, for a limited period of time, store the Participant’s name and contact details (such as email address, postal address, telephone number) in connection with and as necessary for the Competition. This information will be deleted as soon as is practicable following confirmation of receipt of prizes by the Competition prize winners.
- 15) Where EirGrid operates competitions (such as the Competition) in conjunction with a third-party commercial partner, subject to the relevant competition rules and notices, that third-party commercial partner may request and, for a limited period of time, store personal data in order to ensure a competition winner receives a competition prize. The third-party commercial partner may also receive this personal data directly from EirGrid only in so far as required for the fulfilment, delivery and / or arrangement of the relevant prize. This information will be deleted as soon as is practicable following confirmation of receipt of a prize by the prize winners.

¹ **Note:** This date is indicative only subject to change which will be notified to relevant shortlisted Participants.

- 16) Where Participants are fully responsible for any winning Competition Entry, Participants accept that their name and partial address (e.g. town or county) may be used by EirGrid to publicise the result of the Competition, and may be published online, in print or in any other outlet/media at EirGrid's discretion. For more details on how the EirGrid Group handles personal data generally, please refer to the privacy notices on EirGrid 's website.
- 17) Competition finalists may, at EirGrid's request, be required to participate in publicity (photographs, video, audio, interview, quotations, etc.).
- 18) EirGrid acknowledges that Participants shall retain full ownership of any intellectual property which they produce for the Competition.
- 19) Without prejudice to Condition 18 above, Participants agree that by entering the Competition, EirGrid may utilise elements of a winning Participants' Competition Entries in external press, publications, websites, social media and/or in any promotional material connected to the Competition, or future like EirGrid competitions.

Academic Integrity

- 20) All work in compiling a Competition Entry must be the Participants' own however Participants may be aided/guided by their 3rd Level Institute Supervising Member. Any Competition Entry which is suspected of plagiarism in whole or in part may be disqualified at EirGrid's sole discretion. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged inclusion of the writings, ideas or works of another person, organisation, or artificial intelligence ("AI"), in any formally presented work (including essays, examinations, projects, laboratory reports or presentations).
- 21) **Referencing & Citation Standards:** All Written Reports must follow a consistent citation style – either Harvard or IEEE and include a list of references.
- 22) **AI Use Policy:** Use of AI tools (e.g. ChatGPT, Copilot) must be disclosed within Competition Entries (as applicable) and the use of same must not replace or substitute the Participant's own analysis, synthesis, creativity or original critical thinking. Participants are accountable for the validity and originality of all submitted content. AI-generated content must be reviewed, edited, and understood by the Participant/team. Competition Entries should not include "copy and pasted" AI outputs without interpretation.
- 23) Participants are required to affirm as follows in the cover page of their Written Report (as defined in Condition 26 below):

"This work is original and represents [our/my] own ideas and analysis. All sources are cited, and any assistance from tools (including AI) is disclosed."
- 24) **AI Use Declaration:** Each Competition Entry is required to include an "AI Use Declaration" in an appendix of the Written Report, detailing:
 - a. whether AI tools (e.g. ChatGPT, Grammarly, Copilot) were used; and
 - b. how AI tools were used (e.g. brainstorming, copyediting, code generation).
- 25) **Team Contribution Statement:** Each Competition Entry submitted by a Participant team must include a "Team Contribution Statement" in an appendix of the Written Report detailing, in brief, the individuals within the Participant team who were responsible for different elements of the Competition Entry. This Team Contribution Statement is required to aid EirGrid in evaluating the different contributions made by individuals within a Participant team to the Competition Entry.

Competition Entry Format

- 26) Each Competition Entry shall include a:
- written report (the “**Written Report**”); and
 - video submission (the “**Video Submission**”)
- 27) **Word Count:** The Written Report must be between 6,000 words (minimum) and 7,000 words (maximum) in length, with a $\pm 10\%$ tolerance margin permitted.
- 28) **Word Count Policy:** Written Reports fall outside the permitted tolerance range as outlined in Condition 27 above, will not be marked or considered for evaluation.
- 29) The Written Report word count shall include everything in the main body of the Written Report text (including headings, tables, citations, quotes, lists, etc). The cover page, table of contents, list of references, appendices and footnotes are NOT included in the word count of the Written Report.
- 30) Appendices of the Written Reports should include the **AI Use Declaration** and **Team Contribution Statement** (if relevant) in accordance with Condition 24 and Condition 25 above respectively.
- 31) Other appendices of the Written Reports should be kept to a minimum and only contain reference materials illustrating and supporting arguments fully made in the main body of the Written Report. Any other materials included in appendices will not be marked.
- 32) See section “*Competition Entry Format Guidelines*” below for further detail on the formatting requirements applicable to the Written Reports.

Video Submission Format

- 33) The Video Submission is a mandatory component of the Competition Entry and must be submitted by the same deadline as the Written Report – 23:59 on 21 February 2026.
- 34) Each Video Submission must:
- be less than 15 minutes long.
 - Include speaking by a minimum of half the Participant team members (i.e. in teams of three at least two team members must present, in teams of five at least three team members must present, in teams of 6 at least three team members must present).
 - Present a clear indication of original vs. sourced content through citations in the form of on-screen captions in a consistent citation style – Harvard or IEEE – with corresponding references displayed in a reference slide at the end.
 - Be submitted as a **link to an unlisted YouTube video**, included in the email submission. The video must be uploaded by the Participant(s) to YouTube and set to “unlisted” to ensure it is accessible to the judging panel but not publicly searchable.
- 35) See section “*Competition Entry Format Guidelines*” below for further detail on the formatting requirements applicable to the Video Submissions.

Awards

36) Prizes for the Competition are as follows:

- a. **1st place:** €6,000 for the selected Participant/Participant team, and €6,000 for their 3rd Level Institute;
- b. **2nd place:** €3,000 for the selected Participant/Participant team, and €3,000 for their 3rd Level Institute; and
- c. **3rd place:** €1,500 for the selected Participant/Participant team, and €1,500 for their 3rd Level Institute.

37) In the case of Participant team Competition Entries, any prize money awarded will be distributed in **equal shares** among all officially registered Participant team members.

38) If a Participant team wishes to propose a different prize money distribution arrangement to that stated in Condition 37 above, this must be **agreed in writing by all Participant team members** and submitted to EirGrid **prior to the prize money award being issued**.

39) EirGrid will endeavour to deliver all prizes to the relevant Participants/Participant teams within twenty-eight (28) days of the announcement of the winning Competition Entries. Where this cannot be achieved, EirGrid will notify the relevant Participants/Participant teams of the reasons for the delay and endeavour to deliver the prizes as soon as practicable thereafter.

Competition Entry Format Guidelines

Participants are strongly encouraged to go beyond summarising research by presenting practical recommendations and innovative solutions. Entries should showcase original thinking, actionable ideas, and insightful analysis that contribute meaningfully to the energy and sustainability domain. The Competition values creativity, relevance, and impact—favouring submissions that not only address current challenges but also propose clear pathways for improvement and transformation.

Reference Style

Participants may choose either Harvard or IEEE citation style, but must apply it consistently throughout their submission.

Written Report Format Guidelines

Strict adherence to format guidelines demonstrates professionalism and respect for Competition guidelines.

Word Count Policy

In accordance with Conditions 26 - 29 of the “Terms and Conditions” section above, submitted Written Reports must be approximately between 6,000 - 7,000 words in length. The purpose of a word limit is to maintain fairness and standardise the reviewing workload and to help Participants produce a focused and clear Written Report. Writing to set word limits is a skill required within some professions, as well as an academic skill.

Written Report Format

- **Cover Page:** The cover page of the Written Report shall give the following information in the order listed:
 - The full title of the Competition Entry and subtitle, if any. The title should describe the content of the Written Report accurately and concisely.
 - The full name of the Written Report author or authors (followed by the course of enrolment).
 - Name(s) of the principal 3rd Level Institute Supervising Member, and any co-supervisor(s) if relevant, of the research underlying the Competition Entry.
 - The month and year of submission of the Competition Entry.
 - The following statement:

“This work is submitted to EirGrid in fulfilment of the requirements for the CleanerGrid Competition 2025. This work is original and represents the author’s/s’ own ideas and analysis. All sources are cited, and any assistance from tools (including AI) is disclosed. The author(s) have read and understood the “Eligibility”, “Use of Personal Data”, “Academic Integrity” and “Competition Entry Format” requirements stated within the Terms and Conditions of the CleanerGrid Competition 2025 available at <https://www.eirgrid.ie/cleanergrid>.”

- **Table of Contents:** A table of contents for the Written Report shall immediately follow the cover page. It should list the title of each chapter of the Written Report and the main sections in each chapter together with the relevant starting page numbers.

- **Abstract:** There shall be a summary abstract of the Written Report (of approximately 300 words) immediately following the table of contents page(s). The focus of the Competition Entry should be clearly identified and the hypotheses/propositions articulated. The methods used should be briefly described. The significance of research should be explained. The main insights and conclusions of the Written Report should be summarised.
- **Main body:** The main body of the Written Report should present the work carried out by the author(s)/Participant(s) in addressing the Competition's prompt. The author(s)/Participant(s) may use any suitable headings and/or subheadings at their own discretion throughout the main body of the Written Report. Sources will be cited consistently in either Harvard or IEEE format. The main body of the Written Report should present thoughtful and insightful discussions that are clearly informed by the Written Report results, and thoroughly address how the work supported, refuted, and/or informed the hypotheses/propositions made. There should be an insightful discussion of how the Competition Entry relates to and/or enhances the present scholarship in this area. The points should be supported with original figures, graphs and charts.
- **Conclusion:** There shall be a conclusionary section in the Written Report that include a summary of how the author(s)/Participant(s) addressed the Competition's prompt and a summary of the Written Report's insights, and suggestions for further research in this area.
- **List of References:** The list of references must be in the format of IEEE or Harvard.
- **Appendices:** Each Written Report is required to include the following in its appendices:
 - **AI Use Declaration:** Detailing whether any AI tools (e.g. ChatGPT, Grammarly, Copilot) were used and how they were used (e.g. brainstorming, copyediting, code generation).
 - **Team Contribution Statement:** Detailing, in brief, who was responsible for what elements of the Competition Entry.
- Other Written Report appendices should be kept to a minimum and only contain reference materials illustrating and supporting arguments fully made in the main body of the Written Report.

Video Guidelines:

In accordance with Conditions 33 - 34 of the "Terms and Conditions" section above, submitted Video Presentations must be no longer than 15 minutes long, include spoken contributions from at least half of the Participant team members, and be clearly cited and referenced.

The Video Submission may be presented in any format — including animation, slideshow with voiceover, recorded Zoom presentation, or other creative styles — as long as it effectively communicates the project. It must describe the same research project outlined in the Written Report and clearly present the findings, conclusions, and key insights.