



Young SDG Innovators Program: Participants Overview

In addition to engaging and empowering young professionals, the Young SDG Innovators Program offers several other opportunities for sustainability and innovation professionals to leverage their expertise and experience while building new talents and skills. Companies applying for the program have the opportunity to nominate individuals as:

Innovators

Innovators are entrepreneurial young professionals (35 years or younger) representing their company to take part in the program to develop and drive innovative SDG business solutions. Either in teams or working alone, the Innovators will, over the course of 10 months, work on a challenge specific to their company with the goal of designing more sustainable business models, initiatives and products that will advance the company's sustainability efforts while driving innovation and delivering tangible solutions with potential market value. Participation comprises 10 days of in-person meetings across five (5) innovation camps over the course of 10 months. Innovators are also expected to spend an estimated two to three hours weekly on online self-learning and collaboration activities in between meetings through online challenges, activities and group work.

Champions

The team Champion will be responsible for supporting the company's Innovator team and acting as a link between the team and the company management to embed and implement the ideas and outcomes of the program into the company's strategy and operations. Representing senior management, Champions will play an integral role in the program by promoting the work of the Innovator team internally and ensuring the innovation models and ideas developed in the program are aligned with the company's needs and strategy. During the 10-month program, Champions are required to have four (4) meetings with the Innovator team to validate and discuss their project. Champions are also required to arrange at least one opportunity for the Innovator team to meet with senior management to present their project and program outcomes.

In addition, your company can also identify individuals to participate in the program as:

Mentors

SDG Innovation Mentors will help shape the ambitions and plans of the Innovator teams, serving as advisors to Innovator teams as they identify a sustainable development challenge relevant to their company and develop a solution that will address it. Mentors will support the teams in their efforts to frame their challenge, applying sustainable business and innovation concepts to create prototypes and tangible business solutions with real market potential. Throughout the program, Mentors will play a pivotal role in shepherding the team's journey from ideation to development to a presentation of their solution to their company's senior management. Mentors are expected to attend the five 2-day Innovation camps with the Innovator teams as well as spend 1-2 hours biweekly meeting with their teams.

Facilitators

Facilitators are experienced professionals who lead the Innovator camps and guide the Innovator teams through the innovation design process during the in-person meetings. Facilitators support the teams in navigating the process and different challenges and ensure the workshops and activities allow for experiential learning and dynamic and interactive dialogue and teamwork. It is the facilitator's role to motivate, engage and energize the participants through the day's activities and sessions. Facilitators should be available for the full duration of the camp (2 days), including 2-3 hours of online or in-person preparatory and briefing activities.