

Student Design Competition



2025 WEAO Student Design Competition

About the Student Design Competition

The Student Design Competition (SDC) is an annual challenge that provides an opportunity for student teams to apply their knowledge to a current real-world problem. Since 2014, the Water Environment Association of Ontario (WEAO) has collaborated with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks to use the SDC to promote emerging topics within the water industry such as resource recovery and sustainable infrastructure. The competition is supported by a municipality that provides a current and relevant problem. The winner of the WEAO SDC will receive financial support from WEAO to compete at the Water Environment Federation's (WEF) annual SDC at the WEF Technical Exhibition and Conference (WEFTEC). With over 25,000 attendees, this is the world's largest water quality event. Student teams representing WEAO have consistently had strong showings at the international WEFTEC competition.

The 2026 Project Scope

This year's design problem has been kindly provided by the Town of Newmarket. The design challenge focuses on upgrades to Newmarket's Leslie Valley Dry Pond to meet current industry standards and best practices for stormwater management.

Registration

The SDC is open to all full-time university and college students in Ontario. Professors and students who are interested in learning more about the SDC can contact yp@weaocommittee.org, Kelly Ward (kellyw@lystek.com), or Frank Feng (ffeng@rvanderson.com) for more information or to be added to our mailing list.

Registration for the **2025/26 SDC closes on Friday, October 10th, 2025 at 11:59 p.m.**

2026 Project Scope:

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/xcdshared/weao/WEAO SDC 2026 Project Scope.pdf>

Guidelines:

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/xcdshared/weao/WEAO SDC 2026 Guidelines.pdf>

Application Form:

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/xcdshared/weao/WEAO SDC 2026 Entry Form.pdf>

Previous SDC Projects:

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