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# SWANA

New York State Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America

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## SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP

[www.swananys.org/sustainabilityscholarship.htm](http://www.swananys.org/sustainabilityscholarship.htm)

### *What is the objective?*

The Solid Waste Industry has historically been thought of as an end point for various goods and materials used, and subsequently discarded as solid waste by the community. With issues of space and public perception, landfills cannot serve as the sole method for the disposal of solid waste in the future. Although various sustainability initiatives exist, most are not readily implemented on a large scale.

Applicant(s) shall present an innovative sustainability initiative which works toward a zero waste future and provide a plan for implementing the idea in their community.

### *Who is eligible for a Sustainability Challenge Scholarship?*

Students enrolled in or that are planning to enroll in a New York State science or engineering undergraduate or graduate program within the 2020-2021 academic year are eligible to compete for the Sustainability Challenge Scholarship (i.e. graduating high school seniors, undergraduate students, graduate students). Students may work individually or in a team (teams of 1-2 students are suggested).

### *What are the submittal requirements?*

Applicant(s) are required to submit a proposal that presents an innovative sustainability initiative for the management of solid waste. The proposal should contain a description of the initiative, a feasibility analysis, an implementation plan for integrating the initiative into their community (college, dorm, town, county, etc.), and applicable references to support the information presented in the proposal. The proposal should be up to 7 pages (double spaced), not including supporting figures, tables, drawings, etc. The proposal shall be submitted in PDF format to the Sustainability Challenge Representative listed in the Contacts section. If other means would enhance the presentation of your initiative, or if you would like feedback on your proposal, please reach out to the Sustainability Challenge Representative.

For student eligibility verification, a Faculty signature (i.e. professor, teacher, guidance counselor, etc) will be required on the Application form. Select schools have volunteer Faculty Contacts (please see the table in the Contact Section) that may be used as a resource for Sustainability Challenge guidance. If your school does not have a Faculty Contact, please have a Faculty member sign the Application form and reach out to the Sustainability Challenge Representative if there are any questions.

### *How will the scholarship be judged?*

Entries will be reviewed by a Sustainability Challenge Panel determined by the New York State Chapter of SWANA board based on creativity, innovation, relevance and feasibility of the sustainability initiative. The top three (3) finalists will have their proposals posted on the Sustainability Challenge website and the

opportunity may be available to present their initiative at the May 2021 Solid Waste and Recycling Conference with Trade Show in Lake George, NY, hosted by the Federation of New York Solid Waste Associations, <http://nyfederation.org/>. The proposals (and possibly presentation) by the top three finalists will be voted on by the Sustainability Challenge Panel members to determine the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners.

### *Scholarship Amounts*

Monetary scholarships will be awarded to the top three (3) submissions as shown below (and split among team members, if applicable). The monetary awards are to be used for qualified educational expenses (i.e. tuition and fees pertaining to enrollment/attendance, books, equipment, supplies, etc. required for course study).

1st Place: \$3,000

2nd Place: \$1,500

3rd Place: \$500

Along with the monetary scholarship award, students who make a qualified Sustainability Challenge submittal will receive a free, one-year student membership to the New York Chapter of SWANA, (\$68 value). More information at: <http://www.swananys.org>.

### *Deadline*

Entries must be submitted by email to the Sustainability Challenge Representative no later than 11:59 p.m. on April 1, 2020. The top three (3) finalists will be notified by email by May, 1 2020.

### *Contacts*

For submittal questions:

Sustainability Challenge Representative: Diane Conroy

Email: [Diane.Conroy@CornerstoneEG.com](mailto:Diane.Conroy@CornerstoneEG.com)

Phone: 845-695-0255

Additional website resource links are also posted on the Sustainability Challenge website:  
[www.swananys.org/sustainabilityscholarship.htm](http://www.swananys.org/sustainabilityscholarship.htm)

For technical and other sustainability initiative related questions:

Faculty Contacts have been established at the schools listed below:

<b>University</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Position</b>
Manhattan College	Rob Sharp	Chair of Environmental Engineering
	Yelda Hangun-Balkir	Developing New Environmental Science Program
Clarkson University	Susan Powers	Director of the Institute for a Sustainable Environment/ Associate Director of Sustainability
Cornell University	Douglas Haith	Biological and Environmental Engineering Professor (Solid Waste Management Class)
Stony Brook University	David Tonjes	Department of Technology & Society Research Associate Professor Undergraduate Program Director
SUNY Orange	John Wolbeck	Engineering Department Chair
SUNY Albany	Vincent Idone	Associate Chair of Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences Department
SUNY Buffalo	Igor Jankovic	Head of Environmental Engineering Department
	John Atkinson	Sustainability/Air Pollution Professor

The Sustainability Challenge Scholarship program is sponsored by the New York State Chapter of SWANA for the expansion of student participation in the solid waste industry. NY SWANA would be pleased to consider additional sponsors to the Sustainability Challenge Scholarship program. If any agency is interested in becoming a co-sponsor to this Scholarship program, please contact the Sustainability Challenge Representative.