



# WE Are Innovators

WE is an organization that makes doing good, doable by providing tools and resources to empower people to change the world. WE is proud to partner with Dow to inspire young people to unlock the power of science to address local or global challenges through STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) skills. Through this partnership, WE and Dow are launching WE Are Innovators.

## Announcing WE Are Innovators:

We believe that with innovative ideas, you have the power to develop solutions to some of the world's most pressing challenges: Sustainable Innovation, Environmental Protection, Food Waste, Energy and Housing, and Water Access and Reuse. WE Are Innovators empowers you to identify ways to become a part of the solution by creating ideas that will make a positive impact.

The WE Are Innovators program provides educators with resources that enrich their students' understanding of sustainability issues, inspire critical thinking and help them explore and apply solutions. There is no obligation, no fee and a lot of flexibility for educators and club leaders in adopting these resources.

WE Are Innovators is an opportunity for schools, clubs, classrooms and individual students to take on the challenge to innovate a solution to a sustainability issue. Those who share their ideas through the WE Are Innovators Challenge will have a chance to receive a financial grant for their school, or join a ME to WE service learning trip, where teachers and students can further experiment with dynamic STEM solutions in developing countries.\*

**\*Students must be at least 13 years of age to qualify for service learning trip.**

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## How do you get involved?

Sign up now for WE Are Innovators at [WE.org/weareinnovators](https://www.weareinnovators.org) to participate in September 2018.

*Note: A pilot of the challenge will be running from February to April, 2018. Grants will be available, and you and your student(s) will be eligible to join a service learning trip this summer to Ecuador! If you are interested in joining the pilot challenge, please connect with your Program Manager when you sign up!*

By signing up you will:

- ▶ Receive one-on-one support from a dedicated program manager to help you learn more and spark your ideas
- ▶ Gain access to educational resources to support you and your students in developing your innovative ideas
- ▶ Be eligible for the WE Are Innovators Challenge grants and service learning trip for teachers and students

## What can you expect in the fall?

**Step One:** A program manager will reach out to you to help you get started.

**Step Two:** Pick one of the following sustainability issues that you are passionate about:

1. Sustainable Innovation
2. Environmental Protection
3. Food Waste
4. Energy and Housing
5. Water Access and Reuse

**Step Three:** Brainstorm to develop an innovative and sustainable solution to your selected issue that you could implement in your community to make a positive impact for the future.

**Step Four:** Tell us about your idea by applying for the WE Are Innovators Challenge. By applying, you have a chance to receive a financial grant for your school and join a ME to WE service learning trip!

## Key dates

Sign up for WE Are Innovators NOW to participate in Fall 2018.





# Exploring the issues

Here are some examples of issues and potential solutions, as well as a sample planning guide to help you get started!



## Sustainable Innovation:

**FACT:** By 2050 the population of the world is expected to reach 9.7 billion people. How can science and technology help to ensure our planet is sustainable?

**Innovative Idea:** Create a sustainable school garden to provide nutritious food while supporting the local environment.



## Energy and Housing:

**FACT:** Thirty-five percent of the energy used in homes in the United States is wasted.

**Innovative Idea:** Build models (i.e., dioramas or Lego structures) of energy-efficient homes and host a fair at your school or in the community to educate others.



## Food Waste:

**FACT:** One third of the total amount of food produced in the world each year is wasted.

**Innovative Idea:** Design a compost system within your school or community.



## Water Access and Reuse:

**FACT:** Three quarters of the Earth's surface is covered with water, but less than 1 percent of that water is drinkable.

**Innovative Idea:** Build rain gardens in areas of your school or community to filter run-off water before it returns to the ecosystem.



## Environmental Protection:

**FACT:** Bottles used to package water take over 1,000 years to biodegrade, and produce toxic fumes if incinerated. An estimated 80 percent of all single-use water bottles used in the U.S. simply become "litter."

**Innovative Idea:** Develop environmentally friendly alternatives to everyday products such as plastic bottles and pens.



## Sample\* Planning Guide:

What area of sustainability will you focus on?

1. Sustainable Innovation
2. Environmental Protection
3. Food Waste
4. Energy and Housing
5. Water Access and Reuse

What issue are you trying to solve?

Why is it important, and/or how does it affect people and the environment?

How will you use science to address this issue?

\*More detailed educational resources are available online at [WE.org/weareinnovators](https://www.wework.org/weareinnovators). You can also connect with your designated program manager for support. You will be introduced to your program manager once you sign up.