



MY ENVIRONMENT • MY FUTURE

COMPETITION BRIEF 24/25



MY ENVIRONMENT
MY FUTURE

Built
Environment
Schools
Trust

MEMF SCHOOL COMPETITION

The Built Environment School Trust and My Environment My Future (MEMF) invites all young people ages 11-18, across the UK to think innovatively and practically about how they can improve their local urban area, by redesigning a building or space near them.

For the fifth year running, our free competition supports students to connect the curriculum to a real-world scenario whilst gaining, and putting into practice valuable skills such as teamwork, problem-solving and presentation skills. Through this competition we aim to empower young people to discover the potential they have to influence the world around them.

The built environment, which surrounds us all, is one of the largest and best paid employment sectors in the UK, yet many career paths remain unknown to people outside of the sector. Through this competition, we aim to showcase the diverse career opportunities available and demonstrate how they shape the world around us.

The Built Environment Schools Trust will provide further information and careers support during and after the competition.



Visit www.memf.careers to download all competition resources for free. Register your school for the competition [here](#).



MEMF School Competition: Building A Sustainable Future

Sustainability has become a growing priority that shapes how we all live. For the next generation entering the workforce, sustainability has been a constant, and growing discussion throughout their lives.

For this reason we have chosen "Building a Sustainable Future" as the theme for our My Environment My Future school programme this year.

Like sustainability, the built environment touches every aspect of our lives – from how we live and work to how we relax. The built environment currently ranks among the largest sources of CO2 emissions and landfill waste worldwide. The sector is very aware that it must transform its practices and develop new environmental strategies in the coming years.

For young people passionate about making a positive impact on our planet and creating a more sustainable future, the built environment sector offers a direct path to drive real change. Through sustainable design, innovative construction methods, and green technologies, young people can help reduce environmental impact as they shape tomorrow's communities.

Through this competition, participants will gain practical insights into real-world sustainability challenges while developing valuable and essential employability skills. They'll discover how their ideas can help create more sustainable urban spaces, all while exploring exciting career opportunities in this dynamic sector.



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COMPETITION BRIEF

This brief guides you through running the school competition with your students. We've designed the competition to be flexible and accessible to all students by keeping the delivery requirements minimal. Below, you'll find the key requirements for each competition entry. You should feel free to adapt the delivery approach to best suit your students' needs beyond these core requirements.

Key Requirements

Each entry should cover the four key areas and apply the theme of sustainability to each area:

- the original site,
- their new designs,
- sustainable practises
- how the proposed plans meet the needs of the local community.

We encourage all entries to think outside of the box and to stretch the imagination in terms of what is possible when designing their proposal.

The Site

In their submission, students should research their local area and select a building or space that needs redevelopment or renovation. They should describe the site's original purpose and explain why it needs to change.

The Design

As part of their entry, students should describe and illustrate (either digitally or by hand) their new designs, showcasing the layout and key design features. Each entry must explain the structure's function and how the design choices support its purpose. Students should also demonstrate how their design considers the local surrounding area. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to showcase their creativity and practice problem-solving skills.



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Sustainability

Sustainable practices should run throughout the entire entry. Students must include a specific section discussing how sustainability influences their designs and the purpose of the space. This could cover the materials used, energy sources chosen, and waste management strategies – all of which should be reflected in the designs or proposal. Students should also demonstrate how their building will remain future-proof and meet the needs of generations to come. For more information on sustainable practices in the built environment, take a look at the supporting resources, available on our website from January.

Local Community

The needs of the local community should be at the heart of any redevelopment. Our communities are diverse and intersectional, so new spaces must welcome everyone. Students should identify their target audience and explain how their designs create inclusive spaces that meet community needs. They can demonstrate this through thoughtful choices in accessibility, function, materials, and transport links.

Submission Details

There are three age categories: 11-14, 15-16, and 17-19. Students can enter as individuals or teams, submitting their work digitally as posters, presentations, or videos. You don't need to have completed the MEMF school programme—this competition is designed as a standalone challenge.

Every student must complete the post-competition survey before the deadline. You'll find survey links on the MEMF website. If you have any trouble with the survey, please contact us.

All entries must be submitted by 5pm on 16th May via email to molly@csstt.org.uk

Key Dates

Competition Launch: 13th January 2025

Submission Deadline: 16th of May 2025

Winners Announced: 25th of June 2025



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Delivery of the Competition

Over the years, teachers and career leads have delivered the competition in various innovative ways: as part of a lesson for students to continue independently, as homework over the Easter holidays, as an end-of-term project, or as a framework for existing school projects. Whatever delivery method you choose, we provide a flexible framework of entry requirements that you can align with your students' needs and academic schedules.

Want to try something different? Consider making this a cross-curricular activity by collaborating with other subjects. The built environment naturally connects with maths, art, design technology and many other subjects.

For an even more engaging challenge, invite your students to work together to design an entire town focused on sustainability. Groups can each design different parts such as schools, parks, houses, and shops and then collaborate to create their ideal town.

Remember, these are just optional suggestions. They won't affect the judging process or competition access they are simply fun ways to make the experience more exciting. Our objective is to bring the built environment sector to life as a career destination, we don't mind how resources are used

Student Prizes

Submissions will be reviewed by the Built Environment Schools Trust Board, and winners from each age category will win a voucher (£50 per student for groups of up to 4). All participating schools will be offered a career talk by a built environment industry professional. Please contact info@memf.careers if you are interested.

Teachers Prizes

Teachers can also submit an entry to win a £100 Amazon voucher for the most innovative delivery of the competition. More details will follow in January.

Get in Touch

We look forward to seeing your students' entries and best of luck to all who enter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch at info@memf.careers

To leave your feedback either email us at info@memf.careers or complete [this one-minute survey](#).