



BCWWA

BC WATER & WASTE ASSOCIATION

2026 STUDENT DESIGN COMPETITION

Role Description

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Role of the Municipal Sponsor

The municipal sponsor is a member of the committee and plays a pivotal role in developing the project statement and providing supporting documentation about the facility. They also usually sit as one of the four judges on the judging panel.

The role of the municipal sponsor is to:

- Brainstorm project statement ideas;
- Support the development of the final project statement, including providing supporting documentation;
- Host the facility tour for student teams; and
- Participate on the judging panel

Role of Student Team Leaders

Student team leaders will act as the coordinator of the project and be the liaison between the team and the BCWWA staff, faculty and consultant advisors, and SDC committee chair. Each team will select one leader from their team.

The role of the student team leader is to:

- Ensure a schedule for the team’s work is created and adhered to;
- Coordinate communication with the BCWWA staff, faculty and consultant advisors, and the SDC committee chair;
- Distribute Q&A and other pertinent information to the team; and
- Ensure “deliverables” (design reports, WEF entry form and abstract) are completed and submitted before the deadlines.

Role of Faculty Advisors

Faculty advisors (i.e., Professors) will act as a resource for student teams during the design stages of the competition. Each team will be able to select one faculty advisor for guidance, who will act as a mentor and set aside some of their personal time to provide general direction and basic assistance. Faculty advisors will not be a source to obtain solutions, as teams are intended to deliver project solutions independently.

Advisors typically allocate approximately two hours on a bi-weekly basis for mentoring. This represents a total of approximately 10 hours over the duration of the competition.

The role of the faculty advisor is to:

- Present and explain the project statement;

- Help students prepare for the site visit and ask the right questions;
- Guide students to commonly accepted design literature, as well as local, provincial and federal design standards;
- Participate in interim and final design review workshops with the students; and
- Assist students in preparing for the oral presentations, and for the question-and-answer period.

Role of Consultant Advisors

Each team is permitted to seek out local engineering consulting firms for design help. Teams are encouraged to seek out consulting advisors from engineering consultants sponsoring the competition to assist in the mentoring process. In general, engineering consultants may volunteer to provide basic consulting assistance to the teams if asked, but students must take into consideration that engineering consultants may not be able to assist due to business demands or legal reasons.

Assistance the consultants may provide the design teams includes:

- Advice on cost information for commonly used materials and equipment, such as pipes, valves and concrete;
- Limited feedback on unit prices decisions; and
- Review of deliverables prior to submittal.

However, the consultants must not perform any of the following tasks for students:

- Check calculations;
- Write sections of the design report;
- Provide economic calculations;
- Provide treatment alternatives to consider;
- Select alternatives; or
- Interact daily with the team leader

Role of Vendors and Equipment Suppliers

As engineering designers, the student teams will require input from equipment suppliers to size the right units and obtain pricing information. However, the student teams must be aware that the equipment suppliers will not complete the design for students. The student teams will be responsible for design calculations and the selection and specification of all equipment.

Student teams must be aware that equipment suppliers may be occupied with other business priorities. Therefore, student teams should provide adequate time for suppliers to provide the technical and pricing information requested. To ensure there is adequate time for discussion with vendors, student teams should engage in preliminary discussions with equipment suppliers early during the design phase (January).



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