



## AI for Sustainability Hackathon 2026

Organized by

Canadian University Dubai, UAE

[www.SustainAI2026.org](http://www.SustainAI2026.org)

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### Eligibility Criteria for Hackathon Judges

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**Judges should meet the following criteria:**

- Relevant Expertise:** A solid background in software development, engineering, AI, cybersecurity, healthcare, or another field related to the hackathon theme.
- Industry or Academic Experience:** At least 3–5 years of experience in industry, research, or academia within the hackathon's focus area.
- Experience in Innovation or Evaluation:** Prior involvement in evaluating projects, mentoring startups, or contributing to innovative solutions is preferred.
- Impartiality and Ethics:** Must remain unbiased, professional, and evaluate all projects solely on merit.
- Analytical and Communication Skills:** Able to assess technical feasibility, innovation, and impact while providing constructive, actionable feedback.
- Availability and Commitment:** Must be available for the full judging process, including Q&A sessions and final evaluations.

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### Selection Criteria

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**Judges are selected based on the following factors:**

- Technical Expertise:** Proven knowledge in areas such as programming, design, AI, IoT, cybersecurity, blockchain, or other relevant fields.
- Industry Representation:** A balanced mix of professionals from startups, tech firms, academia, and government organizations to ensure varied perspectives.
- Competition Experience:** Prior judging experience in hackathons, startup pitches, or research competitions is an advantage.

4. **Diversity of Backgrounds:** Include judges from academia, corporate R&D, startups, and venture capital for comprehensive feedback.
5. **Reputation and Credibility:** Well-respected individuals with recognized contributions or achievements in their domain.
6. **Neutrality:** Judges should have no personal or business connections with participants to maintain fairness.

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## Selection Process

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### 1. Identifying Potential Judges

- Reach out to industry experts, professors, startup founders, and past hackathon winners.
- Seek recommendations from sponsors, organizing committees, and previous judges.
- Use platforms like LinkedIn and academic conferences to find qualified candidates.

### 2. Screening and Shortlisting

- Verify credentials, technical expertise, and previous judging experience.
- Ensure diversity between industry and academic professionals.
- Confirm availability and willingness to judge impartially.

### 3. Invitation and Confirmation

- Send formal invitations detailing responsibilities, judging criteria, and the event schedule.
- Obtain written confirmation and agreement to ethical guidelines.

### 4. Briefing and Orientation

- Hold a pre-hackathon session to explain scoring criteria and expectations.
- Provide judges with the hackathon themes, submission rules, and scoring rubrics ahead of time.

**Thanks and Regards,**

**Convener,**  
**AI for Sustainability Hackathon 2026**  
**[www.SustainAI2026.org](http://www.SustainAI2026.org)**  
**[contact@SustainAI2026.org](mailto:contact@SustainAI2026.org)**