



The 2026 EY AI & Data Challenge: Optimizing Clean Water Supply

One of the largest annual data challenges in the world, with over 45,000 participants across 146 countries, the EY AI & Data Challenge gives sustainability enthusiasts the opportunity to build skills while developing innovative solutions to mitigate global sustainability issues. This year, the global competition invites university students, early career professionals with up to five years of experience, and EY people to use AI and data to tackle one of humanity's most pressing needs: access to clean, safe water.

You can register today—so get ready! Starting 20 January 2026, you'll have 7.5 weeks, through 13 March, to compete and make an impact. Using a combination of satellite imagery, weather and ground-level environmental datasets, challenge registrants—who can form teams of up to three members—will develop AI models to forecast water quality based on key parameters (alkalinity, salinity and phosphorous) for rivers in South Africa.

Driving meaningful change:

Over the past five years, challenge participants have used AI and data to help detect and manage wildfires, preserve biodiversity, alleviate food insecurity, build coastal resilience and cool urban heat islands.

By joining the 2026 challenge, you can:

- Impact a critical UN SDG: sourcing clean water.
- Sharpen your AI and data science skills.
- Collaborate and connect with peers and mentors.
- Earn thousands in cash rewards and attend a global awards event.

Your models can help:

- Predict water suitability for human health and wellbeing.
- Understand the impact of environmental and climatic changes.
- Support public health and policy decisions through proactive, data-driven Insights.

Access to clean, safe water is essential for healthy communities and sustainable growth. Join the challenge at challenge.ey.com and help us build a better working world—one drop at a time.



Scan to register
and learn more

EY | Building a better working world

EY is building a better working world by creating new value for clients, people, society and the planet, while building trust in capital markets.

Enabled by data, AI and advanced technology, EY teams help clients shape the future with confidence and develop answers for the most pressing issues of today and tomorrow.

EY teams work across a full spectrum of services in assurance, consulting, tax, strategy and transactions. Fueled by sector insights, a globally connected, multidisciplinary network and diverse ecosystem partners, EY teams can provide services in more than 150 countries and territories.

All in to shape the future with confidence.

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