

The Daily Star | actionaid

# Climate Justice Idea Competition 2025



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

On 23 August 2025, the Daily Star Centre hosted the grand finale of the 4th season of the Climate Justice Idea Competition 2025. The event brought together young innovators, mentors, judges, and partners for a day of urgent conversation and practical hope. The competition was organised by ActionAid Bangladesh and The Daily Star with their civic allies; the finale turned the centre into a busy lab of ideas aimed at protecting people and places most affected by climate impacts.

From 271 submissions across three categories, Green Business, Water Rights, and Energy Transition, there

were nine teams chosen to present their final pitches. Before the finale, each team joined a grooming session where nine mentors offered guidance, helping groups sharpen their plans and strengthen their presentations.

The Daily Star assumed the role of a social doctor, diagnosing problems, pointing to cures, and bringing people, businesses, and policymakers together for action. In previous years, winners of the Green Business and Circular Economy categories have proven their ability to turn ideas into market-ready products that generate income and address local challenges. However,

winners in the Energy Transition category still require stronger policy support, improved financing options, and greater market readiness. The Daily Star remains committed to supporting them by showcasing promising projects to both the private and public sectors.

More than a contest, the finale was a meeting ground where critique met care and urgency met support. Adjudicators raised probing questions, and teams answered with honesty and spirit, showing the real learning that comes when young people are trusted to act. The nine finalists on stage represent many more across the

country: students, entrepreneurs, and community members who refuse to accept the status quo and keep working for safer homes, secure water, and sustainable livelihoods.

As the day closed, the mood was not one of endings but of beginnings. The Daily Star will continue to amplify these ideas through reporting, policy conversations, and multimedia work to help link innovators with mentors, funders, and decision-makers. If today proved anything, it is that with guidance and persistence, local ideas can grow into real answers for climate justice and a safer future for our communities.

Bangladesh is at the forefront of climate change, experiencing its most severe effects. Addressing this crisis requires more than funds, as it demands ideas, policies, and decisive action. Sadly, government processes are slow, and global corporate sectors remain fossil fuel dependent, making change difficult. Through this initiative, we are already creating a data bank of innovative solutions for both the private and public sectors. During our recent visit to Satkhira, we found a severe water crisis where families pay Tk 300-600 for unsafe water, and women often drink only after everyone else. The youth's ideas give us hope. We may not have brought about the change Bangladesh needs, but we are here to support you, combining intergenerational learning with your innovation.



FARAH KABIR  
Country Director,  
ActionAid Bangladesh

The future of the nation, whether seen through the lens of sustainability or prosperity, depends on innovation. Climate change remains a major challenge, yet even without it, the country faces structural issues such as population pressure, limited resources, and systemic inefficiencies. The recurrence of preventable crises reflects a lack of fresh approaches and effective solutions. In this context, youth-led ideas offer a pathway to progress. With hundreds of concepts presented, even a few successful ones have the potential to create significant change. The media has an important role to play in amplifying these solutions through reporting, policy discussions, and multimedia initiatives, ensuring that innovative thinking shapes the direction of national development.

## IDEAS

### The Green Business



Neo kagoj

#### CHAMPION

**Neo kagoj**  
Disposable toilet seat covers

**Team members:** Rouzatul Rumman Farabi, Samira Tasneem, Sumiya Tabassum Prova

The initiative developed a disposable and flushable toilet seat cover named "Hyiegard". It is made from recycled paper pulp. It provides users with a hygienic, no-touch, no-mess toilet experience in public spaces. It eliminates the environmental burden caused by non-flushable, plastic-based alternatives. They offer travel-friendly pocket packs and vending machine units for institutions. The product targets working men and women who spend long hours outside and the project aims to address the severe lack of hygienic public toilet facilities, an issue that disproportionately affects women.

#### OTHER FINALISTS

**SusTire**

**Sustainable footwear**

**Team members:** Priyam Chakraborty, Tustee Mazumder, Ahad Bin Azad

The initiative focuses on upcycling and recycling discarded tyres into durable and affordable footwear. Their process involves turning used

tyre rubber into footwear. They aim to provide eco friendly footwear in Bangladesh and, in the long run, replace the entire production chain with sustainable soles made from tyres. The initiative is targeting low-income and vulnerable communities, focusing on RMG workers and the cobbler community. This initiative not only helps reduce tyre waste but also supports small-scale industries.

#### EcoNappy

**Biodegradable baby diaper**

**Team members:** Saimon Bin Sadek, Akib Uddin, Shamim Ahmed

The team has developed an eco-friendly and toxin-free baby diaper named EcoNappy. It is an alternative to traditional baby nappies that is biodegradable, sustainable, and promotes optimal health. The biodegradable diaper uses eco-friendly bags made of PLA (polylactic acid) or cotton, biopolymers, and plant-based elastic components and fasteners. They aim to offer a "pocket-friendly" option for parents in Bangladesh. The product minimises the harmful environmental footprint of conventional nappies while ensuring a safer, chemical-free alternative for babies.

#### CHAMPION

**Projmono**  
Multi-dimensional water filter

**Team Members:** Mehrabur Rahaman, Rehin Tazrian, Mohammad Abdul Hasib Zehad

Team Projmono offers Project "Nirmol", a multi-faceted survival system for flood-affected communities to address the lack of safe drinking water during natural disasters. It purifies contaminated water while providing real-time safety alerts. Nirmol can map water quality and mitigate health risks while enhancing community resilience.

Project Nirmol promotes public health and sustainable disaster management. It can also be adapted to different local contexts, providing crucial information in Bengali and creating accessible water quality data.

#### OTHER FINALISTS

**EcoHydra**

**Shocco pen & pro filter**

**Team Members:** Maria Tabassum, Arif Jami, Iffat Habib Khan

Team EcoHydra has created "Shocco", a sustainable, low-cost water filter that makes brackish water safe to drink. It

cuts Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) from 6,000 mg/L to a safe 200-400 mg/L. The 7-layer family "Pro Filter" and the portable "Pen Filter" for individuals are offered and built from recycled materials, reflecting a circular economy model.

EcoHydra focuses on community trust, partnering with NGOs and schools. With a strong financial plan and community-first approach, "Shocco" could transform public health and climate resilience across Bangladesh.

#### Aqua Rights

**Aquifer storage recovery**

**Team Members:** Debadrata Halder, Md. Hasan Sarker, Mairukh Wardi

Team Aqua Rights' idea centres around combating salinity intrusions in coastal areas. They propose an improved Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) system.

This system uses solar-powered pumps and biochar filtration to store rainwater underground, creating a freshwater bubble. It provides a reliable source of clean drinking water and encourages the cultivation of saline-tolerant crops.

### Water Rights



Projmono

### Energy Transition



Team Enermical

#### CHAMPION

**Team Enermical**  
Bio-crude oil

**Team Members:** Arafat Islam Alif, Shahana Alam, Aniruddha Das

Team Enermical offers a hydrothermal liquefaction process for waste management entities. It addresses the challenge of non-recyclable plastic waste. It converts rigid plastics into bio-crude oil. By transforming plastic waste into a usable fuel, this process promotes a circular economy and reduces dependence on fossil fuels. It can also be blended with traditional diesel to create a hybrid fuel.

#### OTHER FINALISTS

**Sonali Urja**

**Community-based power plant**

**Team Members:** Rownok Jahan, Malik Waziha Mehrin, Sanjida Akhter

Team Sonali Urja offers the "Gold Hub," a decentralized power plant designed for rural communities and others to address energy shortages and manage agricultural waste. It converts rice husks into electricity and biochar fertiliser. It provides a reliable power source and mitigates the environmental impact of crop

residue. The Gold Hub promotes sustainable development and economic empowerment. It also establishes new revenue streams for farmers through the sale of waste and trains local women as "Urja Didis" to operate the plant, creating skilled employment and fostering community resilience.

**Trendsetters**  
Solar power from waste-to-energy

**Team Members:** Naushin Nuar, Asman Farhad, and Zannatul Ferdous

Team Trendsetters combines solar power with waste-to-energy technology, creating a "Zero blackout" solution and mitigating the risks of power interruptions. It provides a sustainable method for waste disposal. By integrating dual energy sources, the system promotes grid resilience and energy independence. It can be customised by installing solar panels on the rooftops of government buildings, hospitals, and schools. It creates decentralised power hubs that support essential services. Additionally, its waste-to-energy component helps reduce landfill burden, mitigating environmental pollution and transforming waste into a valuable resource.