

# Western Sydney University with Common Purpose CITY CHALLENGE

# 21<sup>C</sup> PROJECT



## How should Western Sydney embrace renewable and resilient energy to help achieve net zero emissions by 2050?

27-28 February 2020 Parramatta South

Western Sydney University and Common Purpose, the global leadership development not-for-profit, are aligned in their commitment to ensuring students have the skills and capabilities to thrive.

Following on the success of our first program together in 2019, we are now scaling up our partnership to run the inaugural City Challenge program in Western Sydney. It will be run in partnership with the 21C Curriculum Project and The Academy, and with the Greater Sydney Commission. We are delighted that Liz Dibbs, the Western City District Commissioner will be supporting the program again.

The program is designed to develop students' ability to thrive in complex situations, lead diverse groups and create innovative solutions.

### Who Is It for?

The City Challenge will bring together a diverse, interdisciplinary group of up to 500 students from all levels of study and across all campuses.

The City Challenge will take place 27–28 February 2020 and will be held on Parramatta South Campus.

### Students will get the chance to:

**Work** in a new and ambiguous environment to tackle a pressing city challenge.

**Deliver** real impact in the city in which they are studying.

### What's the learning journey?

Students on the program have been set a pressing challenge by the Greater Sydney Commission:

**"How should Western Sydney embrace renewable and resilient energy to help achieve net zero emissions by 2050?"**

Students get a high level briefing from the city's leadership, go deeper into the critical areas of the challenge with experts in the field, and go out to visit organisations on the frontline to meet the people affected by the challenge. Working with advisors from the University's staff, the students will develop an idea in response to the challenge which is judged by their peers and by experts, before five groups present their ideas to a panel comprising the Greater Sydney Commission as well as industry and University leaders.

A final winning idea will be selected by the panel, which will receive support from the Commission and the University to turn the idea into reality.

*"It is easy to get lost in the loud noises of the world but when you have supportive people in your group that lift you alongside them, it gives you a voice to speak and a leg to stand on. When everyone works in unison we can come up with perfect solutions to imperfect problems."*

**Mohammed Islam, Student,  
Western Sydney University**



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### What are the outcomes?

As a result of the program students will have developed — and be able to demonstrate — the skills and competencies required to be successful in the 21st century.

- Through living with ambiguity they will be more **Open**
- Through solving complex problems they will be more **Influential**.

### Who will they meet?

Over 20 industry partners from across different sectors will be involved in the program, including:

- Greater Sydney Commission
- City of Parramatta
- Macquarie Group
- Arup
- Canterbury Bankstown City Council
- Electric Vehicle Council
- Green Building Council of Australia
- GreenPower
- Landcom
- Sydney Metro
- Sydney Water
- Western Sydney Business Chamber
- Western Sydney Parkland Trust
- Western Sydney Community Forum.

*“The skills I have learned from the last four days will be invaluable in both my academic and personal life. I learned how to work in a team, how to be a leader who draws out the best of their team and uses my louder voice to give a voice to those who are struggling to be heard.”*

**Alexandra Corbett, Student,  
Western Sydney University**

*“By having practical experience in tackling real-life issues through teams and industry engagement, this experience has allowed me to feel more confident in my competencies in carrying out future efforts in my pursuit to become an influential community leader.”*

**Andrew Phong, Student  
Western Sydney University**

### For more information please contact:

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or visit

[https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/learning\\_futures/home](https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/learning_futures/home)

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