

Seniors Challenge

Theme: Storing the Future - Energy for a Changing World

Background

Energy storage is critical to a sustainable future. Lithium-ion batteries dominate today, but they rely on rare materials, pose safety risks, and are hard to recycle. With renewable energy like solar and wind growing rapidly, we need new ways to store energy so it is available day and night, in every community.

The challenge is clear: **how can we make energy storage safer, more sustainable, and more accessible for the future?**

Your Challenge

Identify a problem with current energy storage systems and design a solution that makes storage **safer, more sustainable, and more inclusive**.

What You Could Explore

- Alternatives to lithium-ion (safer, more abundant materials).
- Energy storage beyond batteries (e.g., water, air, gravity, heat, or motion).
- System-level designs: microgrids, second-life batteries, or recycling processes.
- The social and economic aspects: who benefits, and how can solutions be fair?

What We're Looking For

- A clearly defined storage problem and its impacts.
- A solution that is **innovative, practical, and sustainable**.
- Consideration of social, economic, and environmental benefits.
- Evidence of research and design process (sketches, prototypes, data, or modelling).
- A pitch that explains your idea clearly and persuasively.