

ENERGY EFFICIENT GOALS

STUDENT TEAMS FROM VARIOUS CITY COLLEGES HAVE COME UP WITH LOW-CARBON SOLUTIONS FOR A GREENER INDIA

The US Consulate and IIT (M) have jointly introduced a revolutionary student programme — Carbon Zero challenge. Among about 500 applications, 26 teams were shortlisted out of which 19 are college teams. The challenge invited students from Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Puducherry and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The objective is to isolate problems in five thematic areas like agriculture, urban areas, transportation, industrial processes and water and waste management and find solutions to the same.

Elaborating more about the competition, professor Indumathi

from IIT (M) shares, “Youngsters are always full of enthusiastic ideas. Their dedication to the environment is more nowadays than older generations. We have got excellent projects which deserve a grant of five lakh rupees for the development of the prototype.”

Adding to her statement, Sivaraman from Industrial Waste Management Association (IWMA), states, “The students have come up with carbon mitigation solutions which benefit our ecosystem. They get to interact with researchers, investors and potential companies who want to launch their product as a start-up.”

Sivagami, a post-doctoral research scholar from one of the final teams selected from IIT (M) reveals, “My team of five has cre-

ated a solution to plastics by solar panels. The amount of plastics generated by us will soon be equal to the weight of the fish in the ocean! We worked on solar’s energy efficient solution. If supplied to malls and big institutions that give out a lot of plastic, then they can be treated before disposal causing no harm to nature.”

Stating that the grant from Polaris, Virtusa was a much needed support, Divya Priya another PhD student concludes, “We have many ideas that can’t be put into use because of the lack of funds.

The five lakh grant is not only a great boost, but a wonderful ‘paper to prototype’ initiative. It is a form of encouragement that makes us work harder to launch our product soon.”

The demo day of all the prototypes will happen in January 2018.

—PS

The five lakh grant is not only a great boost, but a wonderful ‘paper to prototype’ initiative

— DIVYA PRIYA



Students displaying their prototype designs to the panelists