



## LIFT



LAUNCHING INVESTMENT FOR FUTURE TRANSFORMATION

THE ACKERMAN CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABILITY (ACES) CREATED LAUNCHING INVESTMENT FOR FUTURE TRANSFORMATION (LIFT) AS A FREE COMPETITION TO HELP STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT AND GAIN EXPERIENCE IN BLENDED FINANCE, IMPACT INVESTING AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.

## What is LIFT?

LIFT Challenges undergraduate and graduate students across the world to propose blended finance and impact investing strategies for sustainability solutions that will drive equity and economic mobility related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### APPLY

Students from ALL academic backgrounds are encouraged to apply, regardless of their knowledge of blended finance.

Simply [register](#) a team of 3-5 students, then submit a [concept note](#) about your blended finance solution related to the SDGs. [Concept Notes accepted on rolling basis.](#)

### COACHING

After submitting a concept note, your team is matched with coaching opportunities to help with your blended finance strategy before the submission deadline.

Then, develop your proposal and [submit by Jan. 23, 2023](#). The proposal requirements are listed on the compete page at the LIFT website below.

### JUDGING

Our judges represent a broad cross-section of industry professionals and distinguished alumni.

The judging consists of two online rounds. If your team is chosen to compete in the finals, you will be invited to pitch live to panels of judges. [The finals take place virtually on Feb. 10 and 11, 2023.](#)

### IMPACT

- Make powerful connections
- Help change the world
- Chance to win a share of \$15,000

### IMPORTANT DATES

[General three-paragraph concept notes](#): Accepted on a rolling bases. The earlier you submit them, the earlier we will provide you with coaching sessions by professionals.

[Final proposal submission deadline](#): January 23, 2023

[Live pitch finals](#): Feb. 10 - 11, 2023

LEARN ABOUT BLENDED FINANCE AND HOW TO JOIN THIS FREE COMPETITION BY VISITING:  
[ACES.UNC.EDU/LIFTCHALLENGE/](https://aces.unc.edu/liftchallenge/)

Have questions? Email Us at the Ackerman Center for Excellence in Sustainability in Kenan-Flagler Business School: [aces@unc.edu](mailto:aces@unc.edu)





ACES supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

## LAST YEAR'S FINALISTS

Fostering East African women's economic empowerment and high-impact entrepreneurship through blended finance, triggering systemic change that will transform the lives of millions.

Funding decentralized micro-insurance for healthcare in emerging markets. Using blockchain and AI, we seek to insure low income individuals in rural India.

Modernizing recycling infrastructure in the U.S. state of North Carolina through the issuance of municipal green bonds to support the construction of recycling facilities.

Blending corporate social responsibility-related philanthropy with bond capital, providing low-rate long-growth loans to start-ups to scale climate technology.

Funding an affordable urban farming solution in Cyprus designed to resource innovative agriculture and sustainability solutions by utilizing a lego design concept.

Financing the acquisition of privately held businesses along the southern Gulf coast in the U.S. to transition them into employee-owned cooperatives.

Protecting the Amazon Forest through a partnership with local communities to reinvigorate traditional regenerative practices (e.g., agroforestry, beekeeping) and help finance it through carbon credits.

Integrating a blended finance approach to jumpstart a sustainable micro-loan program, promoting financial equity and global partnerships for the SDGs in Mexico and the U.S.

