



# CITYZEN

## POLLUTION CONTROL

2026 Pollution  
Control Challenge



For pupils aged 14-16



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## Introduction to the ICE CityZen Pollution Control Challenge

Welcome to ICE's new competition for students aged 14-16 attending UK schools.

This challenge is an ideal stepping stone for students who might want to compete, in a future year, in the ICE CityZen Award.

The challenge is free to take part in and suitable for all students - regardless of what subjects they're currently studying.

The challenge is a digital game - an ICE CityZen adventure which is based on the CityZen Award game - winner of the 2023 Learning Technologies Gold Award for **Best Learning Game** and 2024 Bett Award for **Best Secondary Free Learning Resource**.

The challenge takes between **15-30 minutes to play** and has been shown to help students develop:

**Problem-solving and critical thinking skills** - in tackling the river pollution mystery in the game.

**Research and information assimilation abilities** - when sifting through the data within the game for pertinent facts.

**Environmental awareness** - including the interconnected nature of environmental issues and impact on humans and nature.

**Awareness of the impact and scope of careers in engineering.** Civil engineering is not a well-understood career although it is much in-demand, as well as being one of the happiest jobs and offering the chance to make a difference to global issues like climate change which affect us all. Many students aged 14-16 either haven't heard of it yet or have misconceptions about what type of person should become a civil engineer!



## Scoring and prizes

CityZen is a game unlike any other...It's a learning game... where your game is probably different to your classmates...

different people to help = different outcomes!

Complete the game - get a certificate of achievement.  
Score over 1000 – get a Pollution Control Gold certificate!

**Plus, three teams who score the highest game scores will win:**

- ★ A money-can't-visit VIP tour to a local civil engineering office or project.
- ★ A £20 Waterstones voucher for each team member

Find out more about the prizes from the competition Terms and Conditions found at [ice.org.uk/cityzen](https://www.ice.org.uk/cityzen)

## Competition deadlines

You can register as many single students, or teams of up to four, as you like until **15 December 2026**.

The deadline for completing the game is **18 December 2026**



## Registering for the Challenge

As soon as you know which students will be taking part in the CityZen Pollution Control Challenge please create their teams in the CityZen Account Manager. You'll want to do this before the first session, so that students can play the game straight away.

Find the CityZen Account Manager at [bit.ly/CityZen-login](https://bit.ly/CityZen-login)

You will use this portal to:

- register your school and students
- generate game access codes

You'll need some information about all your team members to be able to register them:

Their full names; dates of birth; current school year and permission to share this information with us (see page on data and award terms and conditions included in this pack.)

A permission form can be downloaded here: <https://bit.ly/437zVVv>

**Teams can be between 1 and 4 students.** Go to the 'teams' tab and click on the + button to add students. When you've added all the students in a team don't forget to click 'Add team' to finish.

If you are **changing/leaving your school** please transfer your CityZen account to another teacher. You can change the password to something that you can share with your colleague when you update the account with their email address. If you're not transferring your account please let us know to delete it. If you need any support with using the CityZen account manager get in touch at [careers@ice.org.uk](mailto:careers@ice.org.uk)

### Getting started (playing the game)

To start playing the game, teams need their unique access codes. You create codes when you enter your teams details in the CityZen Account Manager (as above).

Click on a code to open an email in your default email programme - this will contain a weblink to the game with the code pre-populated in the entry window (a quick way to pass codes onto your teams!).

Find the game website at [https://bit.ly/play\\_pollution\\_control](https://bit.ly/play_pollution_control)



## Running the Challenge

### Who runs the challenge

The challenge is designed to be run inside schools by a teacher who can take responsibility for setting students up with the game and competition resources, and take care of competition administration.

### When and where to run the CityZen Pollution Control Challenge

You might be running the CityZen Challenge as part of a geography, humanities or media studies lesson, or as a STEM club activity.

Either way, you can tailor our suggested session outline to connect to topics within your current programme of study. See our curriculum links page for some helpful pointers.



## How to run the Challenge

### Suggested session outline

These are your simple steps to CityZen success

1. Collect participant permissions and register teams on the CityZen Account Manager website.

You could order some free printed careers guides from ICE to give out when your class/group does the challenge: [https://bit.ly/ICE\\_secondary\\_resources](https://bit.ly/ICE_secondary_resources)



2. Present the competition to your class/group using the handy PowerPoint presentation. **Find it from [ice.org.uk/cityzen](https://ice.org.uk/cityzen)**
3. Support your groups as they play the game (before 18 December 2026 deadline!)
4. Debrief after gameplay and learn a little more about civil engineering careers if there is time. This is the ideal time to hand out ICE careers guides.
5. Keep an eye out for the winners announcement by us on email / social media (fingers crossed for your teams!).



## Curriculum links

The following references are not exhaustive but give some ideas for where UK syllabuses link to content in the CityZen Pollution Control game.

### Key themes in the game are:

- Water pollution
- Wastewater and sewage treatment
- Protecting wildlife and biodiversity
- Sustainable and responsible urban development
- Employment opportunities and equality

### Geography

- Water supply and consumption - AQA
- Is weather in the UK becoming more extreme? - AQA
- Qualitative and quantitative data - AQA
- Ecosystems - OCR
- Numerical and statistical skills - Edexcel
- Weather and climate - CCEA
- Managing our environment - CCEA
- Geographical enquiry process - CCEA

### Sciences

- Monitoring and maintaining the environment - OCR Gateway
- Water - Waste water treatment - AQA
- Water - Water purification - WJEC

### Other subjects

- Learning for Life and Work - Employability CCEA



## Further learning links

### Find out more about the topics in Pollution Control...

Protecting nature: See how a pair of engineers put in place measures to stop otters being killed on the road next to their project

New safe homes: Find out about an innovative way to find one of our most threatened amphibians so they can be relocated during construction projects.

A catastrophic combination of chemicals: Find out multiple human-use factors affect the UK's waterways

### Find out more about working in environmental engineering roles



Ayo Sokale is a Graduate Civil Engineer with The Environment Agency. Her work has included supervising the construction of flood storage reservoirs and undertaking engineering design of flood defences. She is also a TV presenter and has filmed with the BBC on several projects!

Full profile at: <https://www.ice.org.uk/what-is-civil-engineering/civil-engineer-profiles/ayo-sokale>



Joshua Macabuag is a disaster risk specialist who works for the World Bank and does modelling for future and current disasters. He is also a volunteer search and rescue engineer helping to save lives.

Full profile at: <https://www.ice.org.uk/what-is-civil-engineering/civil-engineer-profiles/joshua-macabuag>



## Permission to take part and use of data

To participate in the ICE CityZen Pollution Control Challenge your school must agree to share the following student data, with all appropriate permissions sought from parents/guardians, with ICE:

- Names.
- Name and address of your school.
- The year in which each student entered the Competition and their school-year at the time of participation.

### How is personal data collected?

Taking part in the challenge involves registering on the online platform so student and teacher personal data\* is shared with the platform provider who processes this data on our behalf.

Parents/guardians of participants should indicate in writing to you (the school) that they have been made aware of the use of their data and consent to it's use as stated above before such data is shared with ICE.

\*Your (teacher) personal data is also collected on registration on the ICE CityZen platform which includes your name and email.

For more information on data use in the competition please read the full Competition Terms and Conditions which can be found at: [ice.org.uk/cityzen](https://ice.org.uk/cityzen)



# Permission to take part

THIS FORM CAN BE USED TO SECURE PERMISSON FOR COMPETITION ENTRY

In order to participate in the 2026 ICE CityZen Award you will need to have written permission from a **parent or guardian**. This covers sharing the following personal data with ICE:

- Your full name
- School/college year at time of taking part

For more information on data use in the competition please read the full Competition Terms and Conditions which can be found at: [ice.org.uk/CityZen](http://ice.org.uk/CityZen)

I hereby give permission for the young person (under 18 years) named below to take part in the 2026 ICE CityZen Pollution Control Competition. (Required for participation.)

Participants' name.....

School year .....

Age.....

Signed by.....

Name .....

Date signed .....



## ICE CityZen Pollution Control Challenge Student Worksheet

Team name.....

This worksheet is for you/your team to help keep track of any information you think might be useful for solving the river pollution problem in the build stage. You don't need to keep or submit this!

### Promises

.....  
.....  
.....

### Location notes

1. ....
2. ....
3. ....
4. ....
5. ....
6. ....
7. ....
8. ....
9. ....

### Solution notes

.....  
.....  
.....



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