

**15th International Conference on Sustainable Waste Management
and Circular Economy and IPLA Global Forum 2025**

**School Children's Congress on Waste
Management and Circular Economy**

Conference Overview

15th International Conference on Sustainable Waste Management - Circular Economy & IPLA Global Forum 2025 (IconSWM-CE & IPLA GF 2025)

- **Date:** October 28th, 2025
- **Venue:** Graphic Era (Deemed to be University), Dehradun, Uttarakhand, India
- **Mode:** Hybrid (In-person & Online)

Organizers:

- Graphic Era (Deemed to be University)
- International Society of Waste Management Air and Water (ISWMAW)
- International Partnership for Expanding Waste Management Services of Local Authorities (IPLA) Global Forum

A Premier Global Event: The **15th IconSWM-CE & IPLA GF 2025** is set to be a landmark international gathering, uniting global experts, policymakers, researchers, industry leaders, urban local bodies (ULBs), NGOs, and other interest groups from various countries. This conference aims to **advance sustainable waste management and circular economy solutions**, fostering crucial discussions, knowledge exchange, collaboration, innovation, and capacity building to drive impactful strategies for waste reduction, recycling, and sustainable development worldwide.

About the Conference

The accelerating exploitation of natural resources, the relentless generation of waste, and the escalating increase in global emissions collectively exert a profound and detrimental impact on both nature and life on Earth. The continuous rise in global mean temperature poses severe threats to human civilization and ecological balance. To effectively achieve the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and ensure a comfortable and thriving world for future generations, a **fundamental shift in our consumption patterns is imperative**.

This necessitates a concerted effort to **reduce waste generation** through enhanced resource efficiency and to **transform waste into valuable products**, thereby decarbonizing industrial processes. The overarching aim of the **15th IconSWM-CE & IPLA GF 2025** is to facilitate robust discussions and comprehensive knowledge sharing among a **diverse array of stakeholders**. This includes governments, leading academic and research institutions, industries, Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), NGOs, and various interest groups from across the globe.

The conference will address critical issues related to **sustainable waste management and the circular economy**, drawing insights from an anticipated participation of over **800 delegates from nearly 60 countries**. This prestigious international event, organized by Graphic Era (Deemed to be University) in collaboration with the International Society of Waste Management Air and Water (ISWMAW), emphasizes **environmentally sound solid waste management practices** and the principles of circularity.

About the School Children's Congress on Waste Management & Circular Economy

We extend a heartfelt invitation to **students in grades 6 to 12** from both public and private schools to actively participate in the **School Children's Congress on Waste Management & Circular Economy**. This integral event will be organized on **October 28th, 2025**, as a vital part of the 15th International Conference on Sustainable Waste Management - Circular Economy and IPLA Global Forum 2025. This congress is a collaborative initiative by the International Society of Waste Management Air and Water (ISWMAW) and Graphic Era (Deemed to be University).

The primary objective of this program is to **educate and empower young people**, encouraging their active participation in shaping a sustainable future. By immersing them in the principles of the circular economy, we aim to inspire actionable change. This congress forms a crucial component of ISWMAW's nationwide mission, "**Catch Them Young: Circular Economy in Campus**," fostering environmental consciousness from an early age.

? Understanding the Significance - Why should a student attend the congress? ?

This congress is designed to introduce students to the intricacies and real-world challenges of sustainability. It focuses on strategies for **waste reduction** and the effective utilization of waste to produce new, recycled products. This is achieved by promoting the circulation of waste materials within manufacturing processes, significantly reducing the demand for virgin material extraction from Mother Earth.

Furthermore, students will gain an essential understanding of product life cycles, recognize the critical need for a **circular economy**, and internalize the **3R concept: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle**. They will learn practical ways to **protect the environment and Mother Earth** through their daily activities, both within their schools and at home.

✨ Impactful Learning and Encouraging the Younger Generation ✨

The School Children's Congress aims to illuminate the adverse impacts of waste on the environment and society, underscoring the urgent need for innovative solutions. Through engaging talks and exposure to cutting-edge research, students will grasp how to accelerate the development of **sustainable waste management practices** and contribute directly to achieving the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

This initiative actively encourages students to cultivate **critical thinking skills** regarding their pivotal role in environmental stewardship. Beyond merely attending as delegates, students are envisioned to emerge from the program as highly **motivated change agents** ready to spearhead environmental initiatives in their communities.

A Platform for Growth

The congress is poised to be a powerful catalyst for personal development and a springboard for future success. It provides an unparalleled opportunity for students to acquire and hone essential **leadership, public speaking, and critical thinking skills**, in addition to deepening their environmental knowledge. These are indispensable competencies that students need to develop to excel across their educational and professional trajectories.

Networking and Future Prospects

Participating students and their accompanying teachers will have invaluable opportunities to **interact and exchange ideas** with peers and educators from diverse schools across the nation. Interactions with distinguished academics, seasoned industry professionals, and like-minded individuals will create robust **networking opportunities**. This dynamic environment will enable students to forge meaningful relationships that could significantly influence their future academic pursuits and professional careers. The conference promises a **rich and exciting confluence of diverse ideas and experiences**.

Why Schools Need to Promote Participation?

Children are the **global citizens of tomorrow**. During their formative years, when they are most receptive to messages and information, children possess a unique ability to influence their families and friends, shaping their attitudes towards the environment. It is paramount that school and college students are exposed to **effective waste management strategies, the principles of the circular economy, and concepts of resource efficiency**. This early exposure will have a cascading effect on society at large.

Educational institutions bear the responsibility to facilitate and enable students to engage actively in the School Congress Program. Such steadfast support unequivocally demonstrates a commitment to **holistic education** which equally values academic excellence, environmental preservation, and social inclusion.

This program profoundly encourages students to embrace **environmental responsibility** beyond the confines of the classroom. Schools will seize an invaluable opportunity to foster students' social and intellectual growth, seamlessly incorporate sustainability into the very mission of the school, and contribute substantially to the **global dialogue on sustainable practices**. By participating in this program, students will actively contribute to the burgeoning global movement for environmental preservation and balanced economic development.

The School Children's Congress on Waste Management & Circular Economy offers a unique space where young minds can flourish, learn, and emerge inspired and prepared to confront one of the most critical challenges of our time. Through initiatives such as this, we aspire to nurture the next generation of environmental stewards—individuals who will champion the traditions of **sustainability, creativity, and conscious citizenship**. Let us collectively motivate, enlighten, and take coordinated action to forge a truly sustainable future.

About Circular Economy

A circular economy represents a fundamental, systems-level approach to economic development, marking a significant paradigm shift from the conventional linear economy model of "extract-produce-consume-dispose." This transformative model aims for "**zero waste**" by prioritizing resource conservation and ensuring that products, at the end of their initial life cycle, are still suitable for utilization as input materials in new production processes within a value chain. This creates **closed-loop material cycles** that dramatically enhance resource efficiency and productivity.

The benefits of transitioning to a circular economy are multifaceted, extending to businesses, society, and the environment. It fosters the creation of **new employment opportunities** and delivers substantial environmental sustainability. Circular Economy (CE) distinctly focuses on a **regenerative closed-loop system**, designed to facilitate living within our planetary boundaries. Crucially, embracing a transition to CE is not merely a necessity but a profound opportunity, holding the potential to deliver **long-lasting economic, environmental, and social benefits** for all.

About Graphic Era (Deemed to be University)

Graphic Era (Deemed to be University), is a renowned institution committed to academic excellence and research. With state-of-the-art infrastructure, highly experienced faculty, and a vibrant student community, Graphic Era has consistently been at the forefront of innovation and holistic education across various disciplines including engineering, management, humanities, and computer applications. The university's commitment to sustainability and cutting-edge research makes it an **ideal host for IconSWM-CE & IPLA GF 2025**.

About ISWMAW & IconSWM-CE

The **International Society of Waste Management, Air and Water (ISWMAW)** is a leading global organization dedicated to promoting environmentally sound practices in solid waste management, circular economy principles, effluent treatment, and air and water pollution control. ISWMAW is actively involved in educating school children and college students, fostering awareness about environmental protection. The society plays a pivotal role in establishing and monitoring effective waste management systems and managing air and water quality. Its flagship program, the **International Conference on Sustainable Waste Management & Circular Economy (IconSWM-CE)**, and the "**Catch Them Young: Zero Waste and Circular Economy in Campus**" (CTY: ZW&CEC) initiative, are organized across the country and abroad to generate widespread awareness and facilitate knowledge exchange. (For more information, visit www.iswmaw.com)

Events in School Children's Congress on Waste Management & Circular Economy

The Congress offers a series of engaging events designed to foster critical thinking and innovation in sustainable waste management and the circular economy. Every event is meticulously structured to benefit children by enhancing their understanding of sustainability and empowering them to articulate their perspectives effectively.

The events are categorized into two groups:

- **Category A:** Classes 6-8
- **Category B:** Classes 9-10
- **Category C:** Classes 11-12

There are three main streams in the congress:

S. No	Event Name	Team/Individual
1	Model Building	Team (Max 3 Members)
2	Drawing	Individual
3	Essay Writing	Individual

Model Building

Theme for Model Building: Zero waste & Circular economy in the areas of Solid Waste, Water, Energy, and Emission.

Category 1 (Classes 6-8) - Examples:

1. **Zero Waste & Circular Economy in Campus:** Design a school that facilitates waste segregation, collection, recycling, and revenue generation.
2. **Eco-friendly School Campus:** Design a school utilizing green technologies and sustainable practices.
3. **Solar-Powered Community Center:** Model a community gathering place operating entirely on solar power.
4. **Rainwater Harvesting System:** Showcase a residential-scale rainwater harvesting system.
5. **Pollinator Garden:** A garden model that attracts and supports local pollinators using native plants.
6. **Recycling Center:** A small-scale recycling facility focused on sorting and processing recyclables.
7. **Vertical Farming:** Build a miniature vertical farm that uses less space and water than traditional farming.
8. **Bicycle Sharing Station:** Model a community bicycle share program to encourage non-motorized transportation.
9. **Waste-Free Marketplace:** Design a market area that eliminates packaging waste and maximizes sustainability.

10. **Green Playground:** A playground model utilizing recycled materials and operating on green principles.
11. **Energy-Efficient Home:** A model home demonstrating energy efficiency and sustainable living features.
12. **Any other related to the theme.**

Model Building (Continued)

Category 2 (Classes 9-10/ 11-12) - Examples:

1. **Zero Waste & Circular Economy in Campus:** Design a school that helps in segregation of wastes, collection, recycling and earn.
2. **Green Transportation Hub:** Model an intermodal transit station that uses clean energy and reduces emissions.
3. **Smart Greenhouse:** A technologically advanced greenhouse model that monitors and adjusts its climate.
4. **Sustainable Factory:** Design a factory model that minimizes waste and incorporates renewable energy.
5. **E-Waste Management Facility:** Show how electronic waste can be properly processed and recycled.
6. **Urban Eco-Park:** An eco-friendly park design that utilizes green energy and promotes biodiversity.
7. **Rain Garden:** Model a rain garden that helps manage stormwater runoff.
8. **Sustainable Water Filtration Plant:** Depict a water filtration system that is both effective and environmentally friendly.
9. **Renewable Energy Village:** A village model that runs entirely on renewable energy sources.
10. **Eco-Friendly Resort:** Model a holiday resort that uses sustainable practices such as greywater recycling.
11. **Green Roof Systems:** A model showcasing different types of green roofs for temperature control and habitat support.
12. **Any other related to the theme.**

Drawing

Theme for Drawing: Zero waste & Circular economy in the areas of Solid Waste, Water, Energy, and Emission.

Category 1 (Classes 6-8) - Examples:

1. **Zero Waste & Circular Economy in Campus:** Design a school that helps in segregation of wastes, collection, recycling and earn.
2. **Life Underwater:** Depict aquatic life in a clean, vibrant ecosystem.
3. **Recycling at Home:** Illustrate a family engaging in home-based recycling activities.
4. **The Green Classroom:** Depict a classroom that uses eco-friendly materials and practices.
5. **Wildlife Sanctuary:** Draw an area dedicated to protecting local fauna and flora.
6. **Eco-Friendly Transportation:** Illustrate children using bicycles or walking to school to promote clean transport.

7. **Conservation Heroes:** Draw individuals or groups taking action to protect the environment, like planting trees.
8. **Renewable Energy at Play:** Show renewable energy sources like windmills or solar panels in a park or playground setting.
9. **Waste-Free Lunches:** Illustrate a group of students enjoying a waste-free lunch with reusable containers.
10. **Save the Bees:** Create a drawing focusing on the importance of bees and pollination.
11. **Solar-Powered Homes:** Visualize homes equipped with solar panels generating their own electricity.
12. **Any other related to the theme.**

Drawing (Continued)

Category 2 (Classes 9-10/ 11-12) - Examples:

1. **Zero Waste & Circular Economy in Campus:** Design a school that helps in segregation of wastes, collection, recycling and earn.
2. **Urban Biodiversity:** Illustrate a city with green spaces supporting diverse species.
3. **Sustainable Food Chain:** Show the process from organic farming to eco-friendly packaging and consumption.
4. **Conserving Water Resources:** Depict innovative ways people in your community can conserve and reuse water.
5. **Green Tech Innovations:** Draw new technologies that help reduce carbon footprints, like electric cars or composting machines.
6. **Eco-Friendly Fashion:** Illustrate the life cycle of a garment from sustainable design to recycling or composting.
7. **Marine Conservation Efforts:** Show actions being taken to protect the marine environment from pollution.
8. **The Green Festival:** Draw a community event that promotes environmental awareness and sustainable living.
9. **Sustainable City Planning:** Visualize a future city incorporating green buildings, renewable energy, and food-growing areas.
10. **The Energy-Efficient School:** Illustrate a school that maximizes energy efficiency through design and renewable technologies.
11. **Protecting Endangered Species:** Create artwork that raises awareness about endangered species and habitats.
12. **Any other related to the theme.**

Essay Writing

Theme for Essay Writing: Zero waste & Circular economy in the areas of Solid Waste, Water, Energy, and Emission.

Category 1 (Classes 6-8) - Examples:

1. **Zero Waste & Circular Economy in Campus:** Design a school that helps in segregation of wastes, collection, recycling and earn.
2. **Waste Management as business model**

3. **The Three Rs:** Write about the benefits of Reducing, Reusing, and Recycling at a personal and community level.
4. **Local Trees and Their Importance:** Discuss the significance of native trees in your area and why they are essential for the local ecosystem.
5. **My Green Dream School:** Imagine what an environmentally friendly school would look like and describe it.
6. **Water Conservation at Home:** Propose simple methods for saving water in everyday life.
7. **The Importance of Bees:** Explore why bees are vital to the environment and what can be done to protect them.
8. **Heroes of the Environment:** Profile someone you admire who is taking action to protect the environment.
9. **The Role of Renewable Energy:** Discuss how solar and wind power can help us reduce our carbon footprint.
10. **Plastic Pollution and its Impact:** Examine the effects of plastic waste on wildlife and human health.
11. **Green Spaces in our communities:** Explain why parks and natural spaces are important in urban areas.
12. **Saving Energy with Technology:** Describe how modern technology can help save energy at home and school.
13. **Any other related to the theme.**

Category 2 (Classes 9-10/ 11-12) - Examples:

1. **Zero Waste & Circular Economy in Campus:** Design a school that helps in segregation of wastes, collection, recycling and earn.
2. **Climate Change and Future Generations:** Discuss the potential impact of climate change on the next generation and what can be done to mitigate it.
3. **Waste Management as business model**
4. **Sustainable Agriculture vs. Industrial Farming:** Compare and contrast the effects of these two farming methods on the environment.
5. **The Green New Deal:** Explain the Green New Deal and discuss its potential effects on the environment and economy.
6. **Ocean Acidification and Marine Life:** Explore the causes of ocean acidification and its effect on marine ecosystems.
7. **Sustainable Living in Urban Areas:** Discuss challenges and strategies for living sustainably in a city.
8. **The Impact of Fast Fashion on the Environment:** Analyze the fashion industry's environmental footprint and what can be done about it.
9. **Zero Waste Lifestyle:** Explore the feasibility and benefits of a zero waste lifestyle.
10. **Eco-Friendly Technologies and Their Adoption:** Discuss technological innovations that support environmental stewardship and how they can be widely adopted.
11. **Environmental Policy and Legislation:** Review and assess the impact of specific environmental policies or pieces of legislation.
12. **Wildlife Conservation Strategies:** Discuss effective strategies for protecting and preserving wildlife and natural habitats.
13. **Any other related to the theme.**

Guidelines for Schools for Conducting the Events

The following guidelines are recommended for schools conducting preliminary rounds for all categories and events:

- **Preliminary Rounds:** Schools should judge preliminary rounds to select participants for the final round.
- **Submission:** The schools must choose only one (the best) from each category and event based on the criteria given. The selected students' list along with the documentation should be sent to iconswm.ce@gmail.com on or before **September 30th, 2025**. The original materials (models, drawings, essays) should be carefully kept with the school until the announcement of shortlisted students by ISWMAW.

Documentation Process of the Final Event Selected by the School

- **Model Building:** Make a video of the finalized team from each category (max 2 minutes duration), and write a summary of the model in 300 words in a Word document. Email both.
- **Drawing:** Scan the copy of the finalized student from each category, and write a summary of the drawing in 300 words in a Word document. Email both.
- **Essay Writing:** Scan the copy of the finalized student from each category. Email the scanned copy.

The ISWMAW jury members will review the models, drawings, and essays received from schools. Emails will be sent to the shortlisted students in the first week of **October 2025**.

The shortlisted students, along with their coordinating teacher, will come to Graphic Era (Deemed to be University), Dehradun, on the day of the School Congress program, October 28th, 2025. They will bring the final models, drawings, and essays and display them in the allocated place. Winners will be rewarded in the School Congress valedictory.

Support to the Selected Students and Coordinating Teachers

- Travel Reimbursement: Bus (Non AC)/train fare (Non AC Sleeper/ 2S) upon submission of tickets.
- Accommodation and Food (for 27-29 October, 2025) will be provided free of cost to students and teachers traveling more than 100 km one way.

Registration

All participants must register for their respective events before the deadline. Schools are requested to handle the initial registration process including both categories for model building, drawing and essay writing, respectively.

Judges

A panel of judges should be appointed at each school level, preferably including at least one subject matter expert in sustainability or related fields.

Documentation

Photographs and videos should be taken during the event to document the students' work.

Resources

Provide students access to materials and information about sustainable waste management and the circular economy to aid their project development.

✓ Guidelines for Model Building:

- Ensure your model represents the theme and its relation to sustainability.
- Use recycled or eco-friendly materials where possible to enhance relevance to sustainability.
- Pay attention to detail, proportion, and scale to accurately convey your concept.
- Ensure the model is stable, durable, and finished neatly.
- Include a brief description or presentation that explains your model and how it works.
- Consider the practical aspects of your model—is it realistic? Could it function in the real world?
- The maximum size of the model should be 50cm×50cm×50cm.
- **Mention the following details on the top left corner of the board:**
 - School Name
 - Category
 - Class
 - Theme Name
 - Team members' names

✓ Guidelines for Drawing:

- Your drawing should directly relate to the chosen theme and depict sustainability practices.
- Creativity in your interpretation of the theme is encouraged.
- Use art materials wisely; focus on minimizing waste and opting for environmentally friendly options.
- The drawing should be well-composed, clear, and aesthetically appealing.
- Use colors and textures effectively to enhance the message of the artwork.
- Include a short description to give context to your artwork and explain its significance.
- Artworks can be created on A3 size paper with any medium of choice.
- **Mention the following details on the top left corner of the sheet:**
 - School Name
 - Category
 - Class
 - Theme Name
 - Student Name

✓ Guidelines for Essay Writing:

- The essay must be well-structured with an introduction, body, and conclusion.
- Display a clear understanding of the topic with good content where you analyze, discuss, and provide insights on the theme.
- Be concise and stay on topic; ensure each paragraph conveys a specific point supporting your theme.
- Use credible sources and reference them accordingly to back up your arguments.
- Grammar, punctuation, and spelling are important – they contribute to clarity and readability.
- Your conclusion should summarize the key points and suggest possible solutions or calls to action.
- Essay should be written in 2000 words on an A4 sheet.
- **Mention the following details on the top left corner of the sheet:**
 - School Name
 - Category
 - Class
 - Theme Name
 - Student Name

★ Evaluation Criteria: ★

1. **Creativity & Originality (Marks: 20):**
 - Innovation in approach or concept.
 - Unique perspective or solution offered.
2. **Technical Execution (Marks: 20):**
 - For models and drawings: quality of construction, use of materials, and attention to detail.
 - For essays: coherence, structure, grammatical accuracy, and use of language.
3. **Relevance to Sustainability & Current Issues (Marks: 20):**
 - Demonstrates understanding of sustainability principles.
 - Shows how the theme contributes to environmental and social sustainability.
4. **Practicality & Feasibility (Marks: 20):**
 - Realistic representation or discussion of implementable solutions.
 - Consider potential challenges and how they could be overcome.
5. **Presentation (Marks: 20):**
 - The overall quality of the presentation, including a visual appeal for models and drawings or flow of ideas in essays.
 - Clear communication of ideas and concepts.

□ Evaluation Process

- ISWMAW's national jury will review submissions from schools across India.
 - **Shortlisted students** will be informed via email
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National-Level Participation

- Shortlisted students and one coordinating teacher must travel to:
 - **Graphic Era (Deemed to be University), Dehradun, Uttarakhand**
 - **Event Date:** 28 October, 2025 (School Congress Program)
 - Students must bring their original **models, drawings, and essays** for exhibition and evaluation.
 - **Winners will be awarded** during the valedictory session of the School Congress.
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Further Details:

Please refer to the official website <https://iconswm.geu.ac.in/> for updated contact information for the conference at Graphic Era (Deemed to be University).

General Enquiries: Email: iconswm.ce@gmail.com Website: <https://iconswm.geu.ac.in/>

How to Join the Workshop?

Coordinating teachers from each school are requested to select the participating students for every event and fill out the registration form at bit.ly/43BwQyq to confirm participation in the workshop.

Deadline: 10 October, 2025

Contact Information:

President

School Children's Congress on Waste Management and Circular Economy, 2025

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