

MEMBER PROPOSAL

Survey: [Proposals from members](#)

Date: Mon, 31 Mar 2025 16:32:05 -0400

Member: Federica Geremicca

E-mail: feg28@pitt.edu

Questions

1. Name of Proponent(s)*:

Federica Geremicca, Catrin Böcher, Mengqing Kan, Ursula Cardenas

2. Country(ies)*:

United States, the Netherlands, Canada

3. Title of Proposal*:

Sustainable Voices: A Writing Challenge to Amplify Industrial Ecology's Impact

4. * WHAT IS THE CENTRAL IDEA OF THE PROPOSAL?

The central idea of this proposal is to encourage society members to donate their time to generate high quality content for the ISIE's newly approved industrial ecology website, an initiative spearheaded by the ISIE Student Board. This website is designed to be a leading resource for IE topics, accessible and engaging for a broad audience. To facilitate the population of the site with high-quality content, we propose organizing a writing challenge, which will engage participants in creating scientifically accurate yet approachable content, bridging the gap between academic knowledge and everyday understanding. Winners will be announced during the ISIE conference, and entries will be published on the website to ensure broad dissemination of ideas. The winning entries will also have the opportunity to collaborate with a graphic designer to illustrate their text, enhancing its visual appeal and educational value. By encouraging ISIE members to communicate complex sustainability concepts clearly, we aim to empower a diverse audience, including high schoolers, teachers, and anyone interested in sustainable practices. This will foster skill development and collaboration among participants, inspiring curiosity and building a community of informed advocates, making IE an approachable and actionable topic for all.

5. * WHAT IS THE BENEFIT TO THE SOCIETY AND MEMBERS?

Funding this initiative supports ISIE's mission by advancing knowledge and accessibility in industrial ecology. The competition will disseminate ISIE principles to a broader audience, enhancing public understanding and deepening participants' knowledge. It will also serve as a channel for high-quality content, supporting the society's strategic initiative to strengthen its identity. By fostering a more accessible and engaging resource, this approach will increase member engagement with the new website and provide greater exposure for ISIE across educational institutions and beyond, encouraging collaborations with other disciplines and fields. A valuable outgrowth of this effort will be improved communication skills for young researchers, equipping them to present their work in more approachable ways. This heightened visibility and engagement can attract new stakeholders, ultimately expanding the society's reach and influence in promoting sustainable practices.

6. * WHO WOULD GOVERN OR OPERATE THE PROPOSAL?

The writing competition will be overseen by the ISIE Student Chapter Board. The board will oversee the competition process, will invite potential judges and organise the prize hand-over. A sub-group within the student chapter board will take the lead in this.

7. * WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL (e.g. Administrative, Financial, personnel)

This effort is supported by the ISIE Student Board, which has already secured a grant to develop the website. While the team has successfully created a website template and structure with defined topics, the labor-intensive nature of content creation remains a challenge, especially in the early stages. To address this, we propose organizing a competition to boost interest and visibility around the platform, encouraging society members to collaborate and contribute. Contributors will gain recognition through online publication of their work, ensuring the rapid implementation of the website's first version while fostering engagement across the ISIE community.

8. * IS THIS PROPOSAL DEFINED WITHIN A SINGLE ISIE SECTION OR ACROSS SECTIONS?

This proposal is primarily defined within the ISIE Student Section, which is leading the initiative to organize the writing competition in support of the website creation. We aim to involve senior members across other ISIE sections to collaborate on content creation. This cross-sectional engagement will enhance the quality and credibility of the content, ensuring a strong foundation for the project. A solid foundation will help spark interest among other society members, encouraging them to contribute material for the website. By integrating diverse perspectives from various sections, we can leverage the collective expertise of the ISIE community to produce high-quality resources that benefit the entire society.

9. IF ISIE MEMBER FOR <2 YEARS, PROVIDE NAME OF SUPPORTING ISIE BOARD MEMBER OR SECTION LEADER

Tamar Makov ISIE Board member

10. EVIDENCE OF SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSAL (FROM WITHIN OR ACROSS SECTIONS OR REGIONS)

The proposal to develop a writing competition and enhance the ISIE website has garnered support from within the ISIE community. The upcoming ISIE conference offers a prime opportunity to further engage participants across various sections, including Socio-Economic Metabolism, Life Cycle Sustainability Assessment, and Sustainable Circular Economy. By involving senior members from different sections in the competition's jury and content creation process, we ensure that the initiative benefits from a wide range of expertise and perspectives, further solidifying support across the society.

11. APPROXIMATE BUDGET IF APPLICABLE (Financial estimates and explanations)

The approximate budget for graphic design services is estimated between \$1,200 and \$1,650 USD. To ensure accuracy, we propose a 10% increase to account for potential variations, as the estimate is based on data from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, where hourly rates range from \$25 to \$35 USD/hour. This calculation assumes two days of work for each of the three winning entries. With the 10% adjustment, the total prize is estimated between \$1,320 and \$1,815 USD. The final cost may vary depending on the country where the service is ultimately requested. [Reference: <https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes271024.htm#ind>]

12. OTHER

In conclusion, the primary goal of the writing competition is to produce high-quality, audience-friendly content for the newly designed ISIE website. The competition targets ISE members, specifically students and early-career professionals, aiming to publish the best submissions on the ISIE website. Conducted entirely online, no specific tools are required for participation. The awards ceremony will be held during the ISIE Conference, where a jury consisting of two Student Board members and two Senior Board members will review submissions and assign prizes. The competition topics align with ISIE's goals. Following the competition, two key phases will ensure the successful integration of the content into the website. The first phase will involve designated Student Board members coordinating the winning group with a graphic designer to finalize the webpage content. Next the designated Student Board members will publish the completed materials on the ISIE website. This structured approach will ensure that the content is not only engaging but also visually appealing and effectively presented to a broad audience.