

NCIC North West Judging Framework (MDiHub Challenge Stream)

Judging Structure

- **Round 1:** Initial screening (completeness, eligibility, cleantech relevance).
- **Round 2:** Provincial bootcamp pitching & semi-finalist selection.

Each submission is rated on a 1–10 scale across six weighted categories.

Component	% make up	Detail	Score
Innovation & Technical Excellence	20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Originality and novelty of the solution. • Sound scientific or engineering basis. • Use of cleantech principles (energy efficiency, renewable systems, circular-economy design). • Potential for patents, IP or technical differentiation. 	/10
Environmental Impact	20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quantifiable reduction of GHGs, pollutants, or waste. • Demonstrated contribution to land rehabilitation, water reuse, or resource-efficiency. • Climate-resilience outcomes – soil regeneration, biodiversity, water-energy optimization. • Alignment with SDGs 6 (Clean Water), 7 (Clean Energy), 12 (Responsible Consumption), 13 (Climate Action), 15 (Life on Land). 	/10
Socio-Economic Impact & Inclusivity	20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measurable benefit to local communities – jobs, livelihoods, SMME creation. • Inclusion of women, youth, and 	

		<p>marginalized groups in ownership or value-chains.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity-building or knowledge-transfer components. • Strength of partnerships with traditional authorities, municipalities or co-ops. 	/10
Business & Market Readiness	20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Realistic business model and value proposition. • Evidence of market demand or pilot traction. • Cost-effectiveness and scalability. • Financial viability and investor appeal (Impact Amplifier readiness alignment). 	/10
Implementation Feasibility	15%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarity of project plan, milestones, and technical execution. • Availability of human resources, partnerships and local supply-chains. • Demonstrated ability to pilot within the North West Province. • Regulatory and safety compliance readiness. 	/10
Presentation & Pitch Quality	5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarity, storytelling, and visual communication during pitch. • Ability to answer judges' questions with technical and market insight. • Professionalism and teamwork in presentation. 	/10

Supplementary Assessment Guidelines

- a) **Bonus (+5 points)**
Demonstrated circular-economy integration (waste-to-value, biochar, composting, etc.).

- b) **Penalty (-5 points)**
Missing community or environmental relevance; non-cleantech proposals.

- c) **Consensus Round**
Judges meet to normalize scores and reach collective agreement on semifinalists/finalists.