

## World Climate Cup (WKC)

Climate change continues to advance, yet global efforts to combat it remain insufficient. International formats like the UN Climate Change Conference regularly seek solutions, but they have failed to produce the necessary impact for years. It is time to explore new approaches.

The **World Climate Cup (WKC)**—as simple as it may sound—offers an innovative and dynamic solution. By treating nations as individual competitors and applying the economic principle of nudging, the WKC creates incentives for countries to collaborate in tackling climate change.

The WKC is a global competition in which (ideally) all countries participate, competing in groups of five to achieve predefined climate targets. A neutral supranational organization will act as the arbitration panel. At the start of the competition, each participating country contributes an amount proportionate to its GDP into a central fund. The majority of this fund is awarded to the winning group, with smaller prizes distributed across secondary categories. To ensure fairness, groups are structured so that economically and environmentally weaker nations are paired with stronger ones. This setup fosters cooperation and ensures that sustainability efforts do not leave developing countries behind—success in the competition can only be achieved as a group.

### Classification of Countries

Before the competition begins, participating countries are ranked based on key sustainability and economic indicators. These include CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, the share of renewable energy in national production, past sustainability investments, funding for scientific research, GDP, income inequality, and other relevant factors. Each country is assigned a ranking from 1 to 100 (where 1 represents the least developed and 100 the most developed in economic and sustainability terms) and placed into one of five categories: Category 1 (Rankings 1–20), Category 2 (Rankings 21–40) ... Category 5 (Rankings 81–100)

### Group Composition

Each group consists of five countries—one from each category—ensuring that all groups have roughly equal combined ranking scores (approximately 250 points). This guarantees competitive balance while also fostering cooperation between nations at different stages of development. By structuring groups this way, developing countries are integrated into the sustainability process rather than left behind. Winning the competition depends on collective progress, making collaboration essential.

### Legitimization

To ensure the competition's credibility, the arbitration panel must be a neutral, supranational organization. This role could be filled by an existing entity such as a UN agency, or by a newly established body. To strengthen transparency and trust, each participating country could appoint one or more

commissioners to oversee and monitor the competition. The arbitration panel must have unrestricted access to all relevant data to verify progress. In cases of rule violations, it will have the authority to impose sanctions, disqualify individual countries, or even remove entire groups if necessary.

### **Challenges & Implementation Details**

The primary challenge will be securing participation from nations, particularly major global players like China, the USA, and India. Their involvement is crucial for the competition's legitimacy and effectiveness. Key incentives for participation include: Financial rewards, Prestige, International cooperation. Another challenge will be group formation—ensuring compatible country pairings. To address this, an algorithm could be used to generate the most effective and balanced group combinations while avoiding conflicts. A third challenge is defining a clear and enforceable rulebook. Regulations must prevent scientific isolationism, ensuring that innovation and research remain collaborative. Rule violations must be met with appropriate penalties. However, this challenge can also be an opportunity—fair competition conditions created within the WKC could serve as a model for broader global markets.

### **Objective**

The competition's primary goal is for countries to collectively achieve a predefined climate target within a set timeframe. This target will encompass multiple categories, such as: CO<sub>2</sub> reduction; Innovation in sustainability; Expansion of renewable energy.

The main prize—comprising around 60–70% of the total fund—will be awarded to the winning group. Additional prizes in specific categories will ensure that success is distributed and not concentrated in a single group. Within each group, funds will be distributed proportionally based on GDP. Beyond financial incentives, the WKC aims to: encourage national pride in sustainability efforts, foster global innovation and cooperation, ensure developing countries are part of climate progress, rather than being left behind. Even non-participating nations may feel compelled to enhance their sustainability efforts to avoid falling behind. In theory, the WKC could trigger a global ripple effect, accelerating worldwide climate action.