

2026 COMPETITION RUBRIC

Note: This document is subject to change. Last updated: November 8, 2026.

Please send all questions to Harrison Bench at hbench@s4ca.org.

Judge's Name: _____ Team: _____ Time: _____

Instructions: The 2026 Long Island BESS Bowl will be scored out of 20 points total. There are four categories, with scores ranging from 1–5, and four additional bonus points possible.

EVIDENCE & UNDERSTANDING	1 Major misunderstandings or no evidence offered	2	3 Mostly accurate, but leans on general statements with limited evidence. Q&A answers are partial.	4	5 Shows an accurate grasp of what BESS is and the challenge. Claims are backed by evidence. Q&A answers show the team understands its own plan.
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	1 Community impact is not addressed.	2	3 Names stakeholders but treats their concerns in general terms.	4	5 Identifies specific groups affected, explains their concerns fairly, and offers credible ways to address them.

PRACTICALITY, SAFETY & TRADEOFFS	1 Unrealistic, ignores the challenge's constraints, or skips safety entirely.	2	3 Plausible solutions, but with notable gaps or alternatives unaddressed.	4	5 Solutions fit the challenge's constraints and address safety directly. The team weighs at least one alternative and admits real downsides.
PRESENTATION & TEAMWORK	1 Disorganized or incomplete.	2	3 Understandable, but uneven, with some members barely speaking or the structure hard to follow.	4	5 Clear, organized, and within time. Every member contributes, and slides support the message.
BONUSES (please include a justification below)	+1 Originality, creativity, and innovation: _____	+1 Real-world stakeholder engagement: _____	+1 Extensive and high-level background research: _____	+1 Charisma, enthusiasm, and Q&A engagement: _____	**TOTAL SCORE:** _____

Judge's Comments: _____

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