



# GS-LSAMP/NNJ-B2B

## Show Your STEM Innovation Challenge (sySTEMic) 2019

### Background:

Each year, 40% of the food produced in the United States is thrown away as garbage, the equivalent of 20 pounds of food per person each month. With at least 10% of the U.S. energy budget (97.7 Quadrillion BTUs annually) going to food production (including agriculture, transportation, processing, and food handling), this food waste also represents a waste of approximately 4.9 Quadrillion BTUs each year. In addition, every year rotting food produces 3.3 billion tons of methane worldwide, a greenhouse gas with 34X the climate warming potential as carbon dioxide.

### The Challenge:

Come up with a way to ameliorate any aspect of the issue of food waste. Summaries will be due **February 22, 2019**. Presentations and awards will be made at Transfer Day, **March 1, 2019**.

### The Requirements:

- Teams must be made of 5-7 students from a variety of STEM fields
- Solutions should draw on multi-disciplinary expertise and include a plan of action (how would this be created?)
- Your solution can be local, regional, national or global, but it must be sound science (nothing magical or sci-fi)
- Solutions must be researched (literature review) to support feasibility and may target producers, consumers, commercial or governmental entities
- Teams are encouraged to recruit faculty advisors (faculty may not contribute to the final product)
- Each team will have to pitch its solution (Shark Tank style!) using a 5-minute slide presentation, which must include how the solution would work and what makes it a valid solution (how does it address the problem?) and the next step of development (what shortcomings need to be addressed?)
- Winning and runner-up team members will receive prizes

