



## 2024-2025 Future City Competition Theme: Above the Current

### Overview: The Floating City Challenge

Floating cities have captured our imaginations for thousands of years. As long ago as the 7<sup>th</sup> century BC, Homer described one in *The Odyssey*. But now, floating cities are more than a fantastical idea: engineers, scientists, and architects are making them real.

It's predicted that by the end of this century more than 500 coastal cities around the world will be underwater because of sea level rise. Massive storms fueled by climate change will further threaten flooded coasts.

In recent years, scientists and engineers have been building prototypes of floating cities. Floating cities can rise along with sea levels and ride the waves of big storms. If floating cities near coastlines become a reality, then coastal ecosystems can be restored to act as natural flood barriers. In some cases, floating cities are extensions of existing cities, in other cases they are completely independent.

Today's experimental floating cities use cutting-edge technology and clean energy to house people comfortably and provide everything they need. Built with materials that have neutral or beneficial impacts on biological systems, they are designed to start healing the damage done to the ocean as well as keep their residents safe and healthy.

### The students' challenge:

Design a floating city and provide two innovative examples of how your floating city works and keeps its citizens healthy and safe.