

SUSTAINABILITY GAME JAM

How to Prepare



OUR GOAL

An accessible and non-intimidating event that supports people with a variety of backgrounds and skills, and is - above all –a fun way to explore potential for games to promote sustainability.

Toward that end, we've pulled together some resources to help you think about how teams can work together, game-making tools, and an environmental issue you might be inspired to tackle. We've kept this brief because the point isn't to create the perfect game (really!!!!), but to have fun and be part of a collaborative and creative process.

GAME-MAKING AND PROTOTYPING TOOLS

Although digital game development platforms are getting much easier to use, there is strong consensus that a weekend is not long enough to become adept at using one AND produce a working game prototype. So individuals and teams without previous experience using game engines to develop digital games will be strongly encouraged to use other tools that allow them to hit the ground running. Below is a table of possible tools and platforms (maybe you know of others!) and how hard they are to start using. Registered participants should think about which tools are accessible for them right away, but also might use this list to explore some new tools. **We will have a bunch of basic prototyping supplies on hand for physical/paper gaming, including access to some printing stations. We'll also have tables, power, and wifi – teams and individuals should plan to bring any other supplies or materials needed.**

	Learning curve (0-10)*	Examples
Physical or "paper" tools		
Board games	0	<i>Monopoly, Risk, Pandemic</i>
Card games	0	<i>PIT, Go Fish, Magic</i>
Dice-based games	0	<i>Yahtzee, Bang! The Dice Game, Blueprints</i>
Tile-based games	0	<i>Dominoes, Mahjong, Scrabble</i>
Digital Storytelling/Other Game Tools		
Powerpoint	0	<i>Tic-Tac-Toe, Mystery Squares, Bullseye</i>
Google Earth	2	<i>geocaching, Milktruck Madness, Where in the World</i>
Twine	4	<i>Creatures Such As We, Bee</i>
Digital game engines		
GameMaker	6	See www.yoyogames.com/showcase for some
Unity	8	See https://unity3d.com/showcase/gallery for some
*0=none, 10=days/weeks		

HOW DO I MAKE A GAME ABOUT “SUSTAINABILITY” ANYWAY?

People can – and do – spend a lot of time trying to define sustainability. We aren’t going to do that because we want to spend time making some games about it instead!

Since sustainability intersects with daily life in a million ways - from the way we get around, to the food we buy, to the vacations we take, to how we get rid of garbage – it’s all fair game. We recommend that teams don’t try and save the whole world with one game, but adopt just one sustainability issue to think and build a game around.

You could pick any headline about the environment and think of it as a sustainability problem that a game might help solve - we’ve collected a few current headlines about issues where the attitudes and behavior of individuals can make a big difference (images link to the articles).

Traders

China to U.S.: Please stop sending us your junk

by Jacopo Prisco @CNHMoney
September 21, 2017 9:00 AM ET



Containers ships in Qingdao port, China.

For decades, shipping containers have been loaded with American scrap and waste and dispatched to China for recycling.

It's a \$5 billion annual business that is now in danger of sinking.

Composting food waste remains your best option, says UW study

Michelle Ma
UW News

Many people compost their food scraps and yard waste because they think it's the right thing to do.

A new University of Washington study confirms that sentiment, and also calculates the environmental benefits associated with keeping these organic materials out of landfills.

The biggest takeaway for residents of Seattle, San Francisco and other places that offer curbside compost pickup is to take advantage of that service — and pat yourself on the back for using it.



I column by Sally
Cycle

"You should definitely pay attention to where you put your food waste, and you should feel good you live in a place where compost is an option," said paper author Sally Brown, a UW research associate professor of environmental and forest sciences.

Sweden runs out of garbage, forced to import from neighbors

Recycling-happy Sweden, where almost a million homes are heated by waste incineration, is facing a unique dilemma: It needs more fuel.



MATT HICKMAN
December 9, 2016, 1:21 p.m.

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Sweden is serious about recycling, so much so that very little waste actually ends up landfills (Photo: Evrika/Shutterstock)

What happens to recyclable rubbish put in the wrong bin?

By Max Evans
BBC News

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f t e Share



Cory Environmental's 30-hectare Haldol Landfill site, near Johnston, Wrexham

An average of 1,200 tonnes of Welsh rubbish - about the weight of 165 double-decker buses - is sent to landfill every day.

Composting confusion rampant in UW waste bins, study finds

Molly McElroy

News and Information

A study of waste bins at the University of Washington's Seattle campus revealed that 88 percent of the contents in trash bins could have been recycled or composted. Most – 72 percent – of what didn't belong in trash bins turned out to be compostable items, such as food, carry-out containers and paper coffee cups.

"Food waste is the single most significant contaminant in trash bins," said Jack Johnson, a UW archaeology graduate student who leads the UW Garbology Project. "It is clear that most contamination stems from people throwing the contents of their on-campus meals, including foods and compostable/recyclable packaging, into trash bins," he wrote in a [report \(pdf\)](#) posted this week summarizing the project's findings.



Students in Jack Johnson's archaeology class at UW sort trash, compostables and recyclables. *Alex Credington, UW*

Plastic Garbage Patch Bigger Than Mexico Found in Pacific

Yet another floating mass of microscopic plastic has been discovered in the ocean, and it is mind-blowingly vast.



This recent video from Taiwan shows how the global ocean plastic pollution problem has become ubiquitous.

By Shaena Montanari

PUBLISHED JULY 25, 2017

THEWORLDPOST

It's Time to Take Environmental Costs Into Account

By Marinka van Riet and Alice Powell



LOI NERVAL/ISTOCK

The dangers of fiscal opacity in the extractive sector are well known: corruption, mismanagement and waste. Resource revenues might be poured into pet projects rather than to where society needs it most, while companies underpay on their taxes. But what happens when environmental information remains hidden? The results are no less dramatic, and no less harmful.

How Santa Barbara Became a Water-Saving Success Story



By Sanden Totten

APRIL 30, 2015



As cities across California look for ways to save water, they might want to study Santa Barbara. The coastal town of about 90,000 people already cut water use by 22 percent in two years, and it's gearing up to save even more.

QUARTZ

FEEL-GOOD ECONOMICS

Conscious consumerism is a lie. Here's a better way to help save the world



Energy and Environment

Pollution kills 9 million people each year, new study finds

By Brady Dennis

October 25 at 8:30 PM



Traffic moves at dusk in New Delhi, home to some of the world's most polluted air. (Mahesh Bhatnagar/AP)

MENTAL PREPARATION

At the risk of this document getting kind of long, here's a few thoughts and resources for how to approach a game jam and come away feeling successful:

- Someone wrote this neat piece called "The Geek's Guide to Surviving the Global Game Jam" <http://www.stlgamejam.com/the-geeks-guide-to-surviving-the-global-game-jam/> with good general jam guidelines and perspectives.
- Unless you are registering as a team, we'll be putting people into groups ahead of time so you can get started right away. But if you really don't mesh with your group, we can make adjustments at the beginning of the jam, so don't stress about this part too much!
- Remember – the topic might be doom-and-gloomy, but it doesn't mean we can't bring creativity and fun to it. And who knows, that might be what makes the difference!

CODE OF CONDUCT

This is intended to be an inclusive and welcoming event. As part of registering, all participants will be asked to agree and adhere to our code of conduct.