FUTURE17

Sustainable Development Goals Challenge Program

PROJECT EXAMPLES

Throughout the previous cycles of Future17 there have been a huge range of inspiring projects collaborating with various project partners from all around the world.
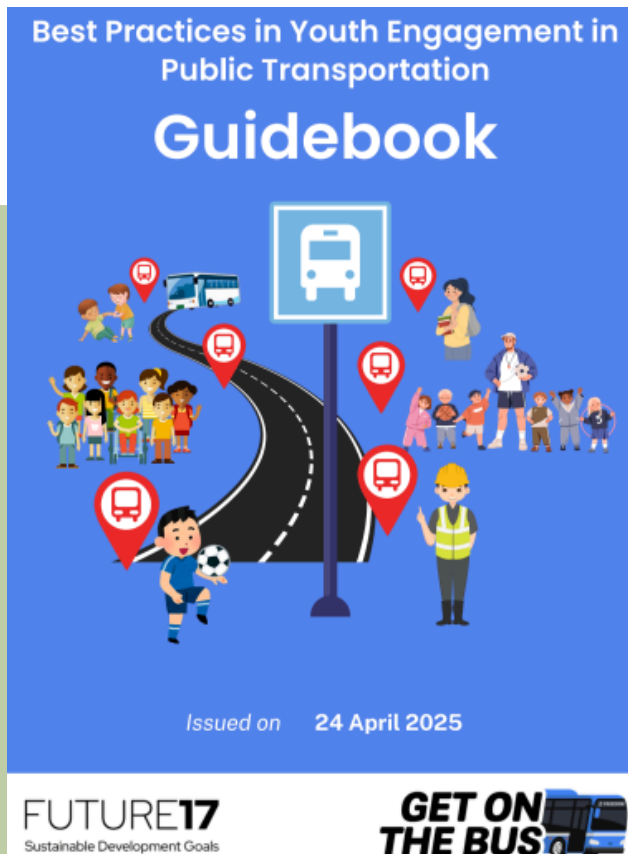
We present several examples below of projects that may help to inspire your own project development.

University of Exeter

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BEST PRACTICES IN YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION (CANADA)

Best Practices in Youth Engagement in Public Transportation

Guidebook

Issued on   24 April 2025

FUTURE17
Sustainable Development Goals

GET ON THE BUS

Sustainable Development Goals:

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

13 CLIMATE ACTION

Findings and conclusion:

The project team has developed a guidebook that highlights best practices for youth engagement in public transportation. These practices are organized into key themes, including Finance & Incentives, Safety, Community Engagement and Youth Participation, Policy Advocacy, Accessibility & Inclusivity, Education, Transferable Youth Engagement Practices, and Technological Innovations.

The guidebook emphasizes that youth are not only primary users of transit systems, but also vital contributors to innovation and advocacy for more inclusive, sustainable, and accessible mobility solutions.

Summary:

The project aims to research and compile best practices in youth engagement in public transportation systems across Canada, the United States of America, and England.

Students: Exeter, ASU, CUHK, Duke Kunshan, Stellenbosch

Mentors: ASU, Stellenbosch

CREATING EQUITABLE OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH SUSTAINABLE TOURISM FOR MARGINALIZED BLACK TOURISM BUSINESSES (US)

Sustainable Development Goals:

Summary:

The project aims to enhance the sustainability, scalability, and profitability of marginalized small Black tourism businesses by fostering equitable opportunities that align with SDGs #8, #10, and #17, focusing on research, data aggregation, and needs assessment.

Findings and conclusion:

The project team has developed a comprehensive spreadsheet and final report to support the Cultural Heritage Economic Alliance (CHEA) in engaging tourism boards and governments worldwide.

This data enabled CHEA Global to present research on Black Tour Operators at key events, advocating for marginalized tourism businesses. The project advances CHEA Global's mission to foster sustainable growth and greater inclusion in the global tourism industry.

Students: Exeter, Stellenbosch, UNEC

Mentors: Stellenbosch, UNEC

GREEN COMPLIANCE & ETHICAL MARKETING FRAMEWORK (UK)

Summary:

The project aims to support small businesses in understanding, implementing, and marketing sustainability practices effectively.

Findings and conclusion:

The project team has delivered 3 key outputs:

- a Sustainable Compliance Framework and Dashboard
- a Green Marketing Analysis Report
- an Ethical Marketing Guide.

These tools aim to help businesses communicate their sustainability efforts transparently and in line with emerging regulations.

Sustainable Development Goals:

Students: Exeter, AUS, CUHK, Stellenbosch, UNEC

Mentors: AUS, UNEC

MAPPING EMERGING CLIMATE TECH SOLUTIONS (MEXICO)

Summary:

The project tackles the challenge of connecting emerging climate-tech solutions with scalable opportunities in Africa, Latin America, and Southeast Asia.

Sustainable Development Goals:

**Students: Exeter, ASU, Stellenbosch**

Mentors: ASU

Findings and conclusion:

The project team has suggested:

- Adaptive Agriculture: Focus on underserved regions in Africa and Asia. Invest in bundled climate-smart inputs, community-led solutions, digital agri-tools, regenerative practices, women-centered programs, and climate-risk platforms.
- Inclusive Fintech: Support women-focused fintech, alternative credit scoring, mobile money services, blockchain trade finance, micro-insurance, and impactful remittance solutions. Emphasize ethical data use and build shared impact metrics.
- Climate-Smart Technologies: Back quantum computing, energy-efficient infrastructure, carbon capture, battery storage for off-grid areas, and integrated climate-agriculture-fintech business models.

WILDFIRE NEXUS – STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFICATION AND MARKET VALIDATION (US)
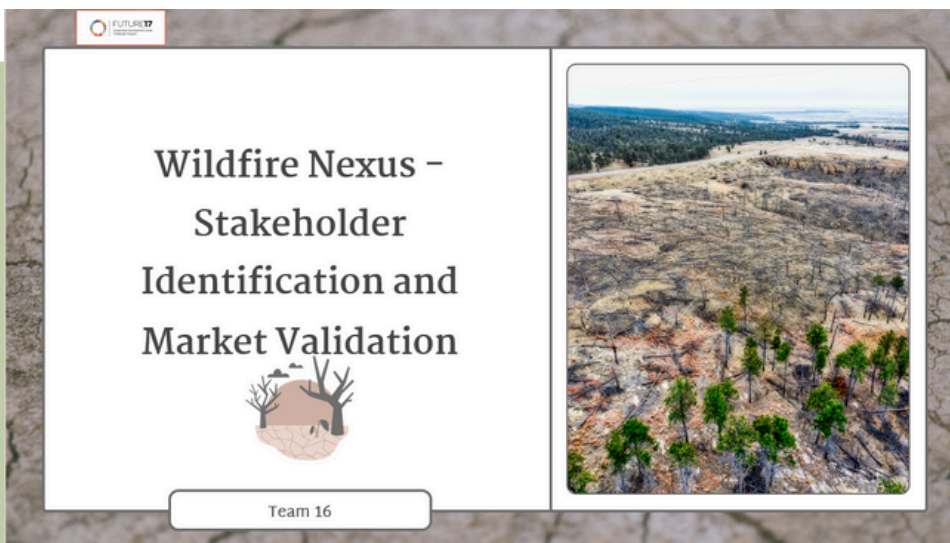
Sustainable Development Goals:

Summary:

The project aims to identify and validate key stakeholders willing to invest in wildfire innovation and determine the financial viability of different offerings to create a sustainable funding and engagement model.

Findings and conclusion:

The project team found that many wildfire innovations stall due to unclear and inequitable support pathways.

To address this challenge, they has developed 2 AI chatbot tools grounded in research and equity-centered design:

- Wildfire Innovation Compass – Helps early-stage innovators frame their ideas and assess readiness.
- Wildfire Strategy Studio – Builds on the Compass to support deployment, funding, and collaboration.

Students: Exeter, ASU, Stellenbosch

Mentors: Exeter, UNEC

ASSESSMENT OF THE CLIMATE FINANCING LANDSCAPE FOR INNOVATION IN EMERGING MARKETS (MEXICO)

Sustainable Development Goals:

Summary:

The project aims to understand the current financing market landscape in the climate tech space for emerging markets and identify potential funders for the Mercy Corps Ventures Climate Venture Lab and prepare fundraising materials.

Students: Exeter, ASU, Stellenbosch, UNEC

Mentors: Exeter, ASU

Findings and conclusion:

The project team identified a major gap in non-equity funding for early-stage, infrastructure-scale pilots in regions like Sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia, and Latin America. To address this, they has created Maya Campos, an AI strategist that connects funders with pilot-stage climate resilience projects.

The work highlights the value of combining equity-centered design with AI-driven tools to close funding gaps and advance inclusive climate innovation.