



Call for Participants

Open Science Data Platform
User Experience Hackathon

FEBRUARY 2024



Natural Resources
Canada

Ressources naturelles
Canada



DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY



Overview

The [Open Science and Data Platform \(OSDP\)](#) User Experience Hackathon is hosted by Dalhousie University's [Department of Information Science](#) in partnership with [Natural Resources Canada \(NRCan\)](#).

This hackathon aims to bring together a diverse audience, including scientists, researchers, academics, postgraduate students, high school students, government figures, general members of the public, non-profit organizations, and Indigenous communities across Canada, to help generate new innovative ideas for the OSDP. To complete the hackathon, you will be required to interact and experiment with the OSDP to evaluate its user experience.

First-time hackathon attendees are encouraged to apply! This call for participants is for both individuals and teams. Hackathon participants will be encouraged to reflect on their experience interacting with the OSDP and provide recommendations to improve the user experience of the platform.

About the OSDP

Co-led by NRCan and Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), the OSDP provides access to science, data, publications, and information about development activities across the country that can be used to understand the cumulative effects of human activities to support better decisions in the future.

It comprises over 150,000 publicly available records from federal, provincial, and territorial governments, as well as regulatory systems. This expanding catalogue features geospatial data, information on regulatory activities like impact assessments, and other themes like climate, air quality, biodiversity, health, and various sectors such as transport, energy, and mining.

The main objective of the platform is to provide open access to information in the understanding of cumulative effects, to support regulatory processes for major development projects, align with the Canadian government's Open Data and scientific integrity values, and foster public confidence in its decisions. The OSDP also enables Canadians, including Indigenous communities, to be able to search, access, and visualize pertinent data at all government levels, facilitating consultation and decision-making processes pertaining to major projects.

Format

This hackathon will be held online over the course of a month (March 27 - April 24, 2024). Full-time commitment is not expected from participants during this period. However, regular use of



the platform is required to have a satisfying hackathon experience for yourself, your team, and collaborators.

You may apply as a team or as an individual. If applying as a team, only one application is necessary. If you are an individual seeking a team, please indicate this in your application form and we will help bring participants wishing to work in a team together. The maximum team size for this hackathon is 5 people. Participants must be at least 16 years old.

Rules

To complete the hackathon, you will be required to interact and experiment with the OSDP to evaluate its user experience. More specifically, you will be asked to:

- Identify a relevant environmental challenge in which an OSDP dataset can be used (feel free to use our examples on our website as seed ideas).
- Develop a solution to the challenge by using at least one of the OSDP's datasets. You may consider different kinds of content, like publications, or use the mapping function.
- Complete a survey and create a short presentation. The presentation could be about the solution to the challenge, and/or the user experience issues experienced, and the resulting recommendations to present to the judging panel by May 15, 2024.

A panel of judges will be established to review the presentation and select the most **creative** and **innovative** projects for prizes. Judges will consider the design and implementation of the selected challenge that provides useful and innovative insights into the OSDP user experience.

Prizes consist of:

- 1st place: \$2,500 CAD
- 2nd place: \$1,500 CAD
- 3rd place: \$1,000 CAD

How to Apply

Visit <https://osdpuxhackathon.com/home/apply/> to apply by **March 23, 2024, 11:59 PM AST**.

Contact

If you have any questions about the hackathon or this call for participation, please contact the Hackathon Planning Committee at OSDPUXHackathon@gmail.com. Find more information on our website at: <http://www.osdpuxhackathon.com/>.