



Week 3

What went well?

The progress I made; what was achieved and done

- The organization we will be working with is Bio-Eco, and Manuel is our contact person for this company. My LiA project teammate and I met Manuel twice this week to learn more about the food waste problem, the background of Bio-Eco, and the content of the upcoming project
- I researched the food waste facts and data globally, in Mexico, and the United States
- We made a timeline to keep track of our progress and the tasks to be completed each day
- We contacted potential organizations that might have office cafeterias for their employees. We invited them to collaborate with us to organize a food waste management workshop
- I learned about the “ideate” and “prototype” stages in design thinking
- I learned about the tips and recommendations for doing research
- We had a meeting with the make_sense team to discuss our project and whether we were facing any challenges

- We had a collective session about our project. Each team of Laidlaw Scholars had to share with the entire cohort and the make_sense team what their projects were about and their current challenges. The audience could then brainstorm and respond by providing possible solutions to the presenting team
- We completed the design thinking templates given by make_sense

What could have been done differently?

Things that did not get done and/or could be changed

- We could have created an agenda before meeting Manuel. The meeting would be more efficient, and we could get all the necessary answers from him
- Despite contacting over 20 companies on LinkedIn, we could not find any organization willing to collaborate with us to organize the food waste management workshop
- We did not fully understand Manuel's expectations of the content of this project, which caused some confusion. At first, the mission statement provided by make_sense stated that we were expected to create a gamified experience to raise awareness about food waste in restaurants. However, after meeting with Manuel, he asked us to organize a workshop in a large organization with an office cafeteria for its employees

What did I learn about myself when working with others?

Contributions, behaviours and values I exhibited

- I am brave. I did not give up when realizing there was a challenge in finding potential organizations to hold the workshop. Instead, I kept forging new paths and started thinking of alternative solutions, for example, reaching out to Manuel and make_sense to see if they have any connections
- I am curious. I enjoyed collecting and analyzing food waste data, which has raised my awareness towards the alarming food waste problem. Knowing how food waste

made an enormous impact environmentally and financially, I felt motivated to continue working on projects about climate change

What did I learn about leadership?

Leadership attributes and insights I developed

- I learned to analyze food waste data and generate conclusions from it by myself, which is essential for us to see the real problem. This experience strengthened my research and project management skills to become a good leader
- I learned that when leading a project, it is common to encounter various challenges that we have never faced before. We should always “expect the unexpected” and prepare for the worst by having a contingency plan
- I learned that the world needs compassionate leaders, who can provide user-centred solutions. They can identify the real problems faced by the end-users and listen to their needs

What do I want to develop or focus on next?

What I still need to develop

- I should continue to look for potential organizations fulfilling the above criteria that are willing to collaborate with us to organize the food waste management workshop
- I should meet with Manuel again to consolidate the logistics, goals and content of this project
- I should start planning the activities of the workshop and make it more engaging for participants