



EcoHack 2019 HOW TO HACKATHON

When and Where

The Friday Challenge Night will be held in Louis Loft. The Saturday Makers Space will be in the Moeller Resources Room in the Edwards School of Business Building. We will return to Louis Loft for the final presentations on Saturday night.

What you need to bring

1. A good attitude!
2. A Computer loaded with any software you might want to use
3. Any materials that you think might be useful, if you want to prototype a solution
4. Open mind that is ready to innovate, make mistakes, and iterate

Community Partners

Our community partners are diverse. And. Awesome.

EcoHack is about effecting change in YOUR community and we are humbled by the number of organizations that chose to give their weekend to student participants in an effort to do just that. We can't wait for you to meet them!

Some example partners: City of Saskatoon, Maple Leaf Foods, Ebs Source for Sports, Safe Drinking Water Foundation, and more!

Prizes

EcoHack is about encouraging innovation and solving local challenges, as such no prize money will be awarded outside of door prizes.

However, we do have awards that will go to teams that shine: You can win most innovative, most polished presentation, most impactful to Saskatoon, or dazzle the audience by taking the biggest risk (and potentially having the most spectacular failure).

Meals and Snacks

We promised that you would be fed, and you will be. So much.

Friday night there will be appetizers available and drinks *for purchase*.

On Saturday we will have a continental breakfast, pizza lunch, and some coffee available to fuel your creativity

On Saturday night, we will offer an appetizer style dinner for all attendees and drinks *for purchase*.

Tips and Tricks

HAVE FUN – set a goal to have a great weekend, and then make it happen

This event is about challenging yourself and developing your skills, don't be afraid to take risks. You will also find that you get out of EcoHack what you put into it. Get creative, join forces with someone you just met, and you will be amazed at the results.

Make this most of this opportunity to build relationships...

Make sure that you use this opportunity to network with environmental sector industry/community partners. These are your future colleagues and they are excited to meet you too! They aren't scary!

What to Expect From Start to Finish

Friday Evening – Challenge Night

1. You will show up to Louis Loft at around 5:00 PM to be there in time to hear all of the community partners present their challenges in quick presentations.
2. Our community partners will give pitches outlining their proposed challenges – you will have to listen for one that you feel the most excited/passionate/curious about!
3. Once all community partners have presented, they will each be given a table to sit at while student participants work the room. You can wander from table to table asking any questions that you have, and talking to the community partners. While you are walking around, feel free to talk to other students who you might want to work with during the Maker-Space Day.
4. At 7:15 (ish) students will be asked to choose a problem and stand by their community partner. Many of the partners have indicated that they are happy to be available to answer questions to you on the weekend, so be sure to get their email or phone number!
5. Tell the event organizers which problem you will be working on and if you have a team, the name of your team members. Feel free to get creative with the team names... this may or may not get you a prize in the end.
6. You are then welcome to hang out for a bit or head home. The Hackathon breakfast will be served on Saturday at 8:00am!

Saturday – Makers Space

1. Breakfast is served at 8:00 AM – the Hackathon officially begins at 8:30 AM.
2. Dive in! Start coming up with solutions, doing research, considering your final presentation. Get fanatical. Be excited.
3. Eat lunch, take a break, enjoy the sunshine that is hopefully flooding the Moeller Resource Room (or the moody winter skies that are more likely).
4. Get back to it! You have until 5:30 PM to develop your solution with your team, realize that solution doesn't work, come up with another solution, and then create a presentation to be handed in. Go, go, go!
5. At 5:30pm, you will have to load the finished presentation onto a flash drive and give it to the event organizer. No changes can be made to your presentation after this point. Take a quick break and be back on campus for 6:30!

Saturday Evening – Pitch Night

1. At 6:50 PM make sure you're back at Louis (doors open at 6:30pm) to present your solution to the judges.
2. Pitches begin at 7pm and our panel of judges will be ready to assess and cheer on you/your team.
3. Once pitches are complete, we will transition into a networking session and supper while the results are tallied.
4. At around 9:00, the judges will come back up to award the winning teams with their respective awards, door prizes will be given out, and we can all pat ourselves on the back for making a difference in Saskatoon.
5. Feel free to continue networking until 9:30pm!

FAQ

How exactly does one “hackathon”

You show up to EcoHack on Friday evening to listen to the community partners present their challenges. You then choose a challenge and dive right in to defining them problem, beginning the ideation process. On Saturday, you come in to work on finding solutions and deciding on your final recommendation, before you create a presentation to highlight your work and present to the judges. BOOM. Hackathoning.

Can anyone hackathon?

Absolutely! Any USask student is eligible to participate in EcoHack.

Why would I invest time in this? What do I get out of it?

We work hard to make sure that this event adds value to your experience as a student. Here is some of what we offer

- For one thing, meals are provided for Friday and Saturday.
- You can attend the Professional Development (EcoHack Prep 101) training on October 1st
- You get co-curricular credit on your transcript for participating,
- You will develop your problem solving skills and gain access to professional development
- You get to network with our amazing judges, community partners, industry representatives, and other students from across campus.
- You also get to have fun and make a real impact on our community. And did we mention you get free food?

Can anyone hackathon?

Again, yep! Diversity in teams creates more innovation and we want people from all different backgrounds to join in whole heartedly.