



What is an app challenge (or hackathon)?

A hackathon is a means for creative problem solving; it brings programmers and innovators together to write code and create applications and websites for a common purpose. Hackathons are common in the technology (tech) world, but only recently have been adopted by civic organizations aiming to solve problems affecting the world's populations and environment. This is called civic hacking, and it implies that you are hacking for a cause.

Isn't hacking bad?

The traditional definition of hacking implies breaking into a private data system – which isn't this. This good type of hacking is defined as using computer programs to write code and solve problems.

Why a hackathon?

We want to inspire environmental health professionals to move towards open data and technology by presenting innovative solutions to environmental health problems. Through a hackathon, we are able to reach a whole new audience of developers and innovators, who bring new perspectives, ideas, and solutions to environmental health.

What is the goal?

We want developers and innovators to create apps that solve EH issues. The integration of technology, environmental health, and public data sends a powerful message: environmental health can evolve and serve the needs of our communities in new and exciting ways.