API Highways Intro Guide

Better **data.**
Better **decisions.**
Better **lives.**
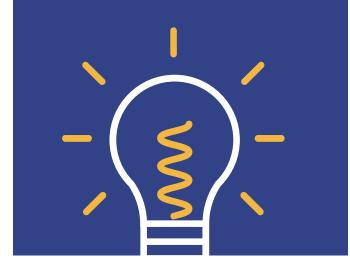
The Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data supports stakeholders to harness the data revolution for sustainable development. The Global Partnership has 300 members from around the globe and across all sectors, many of which have valuable data sets that could support the implementation and measurement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, it is often difficult to find the right data sets in a developer-friendly format across a plethora of portals and platforms, thus inhibiting further use, application, and innovation around these data. API Highways was launched to provide easy access to SDG-relevant data and further empower the developer community to use these data for action and decision-making through the development of rich visualizations and applications.

Developer-friendly, application-ready

We bring high-value data sets and APIs from government, NGO, and private sector organizations into a single infrastructure. This gives developers familiar and standardized APIs and tools to create visualizations and applications on top of SDG-related data.

Key features of the infrastructure

- Wide range of documented, developer-friendly APIs available in one place with a powerful search interface and discovery API
- Data existing in formats or locations that are not well-suited for application development are "API-ified," enabling seamless use by developers to build production apps and visualizations
- Our infrastructure enables **data owners and providers** to connect their data or APIs; we automatically keep data and metadata up-to-date in API Highways
- Data sets within API Highways can be exported seamlessly into a range of powerful **data platforms** and technologies

API Highways will make your data more accessible and usable to an engaged global community. By enabling disparate data sources to be combined in new ways, further insights and applications can be built thereby adding value to your data.

An open source developer community

All API Highways software infrastructure is comprehensively documented and **100% open source**. Our APIs and all source code (API infrastructure and apps/visualizations powered by the API) are freely available to anyone. We are a community of developers, data enthusiasts, and international development experts building an ecosystem of shared methodologies and open source code.

@data4SDGs   APIhighways@data4sdgs.org

Data discoverability

We are growing a network of machine-readable, application-ready API-enabled data from a wealth of government, private, and NGO sources. All data is easily searchable and contextually linked using our Knowledge Graph.

Use case development

By working with partners and country focal points to identify compelling use cases for where data and innovation is needed most, we ensure our efforts are demand-driven. Through a "network of networks" approach, API Highways seeks to make your data more accessible, facilitate code-sharing and community development, and re-purpose projects across new regions and contexts.

Want to get involved?

I'm a developer...

Fill out this form for early access to use our APIs.

APIs for developers, made by developers:
- Discovery API: search for data in API Highways programmatically
- Dataset API: all datasets can be queried using a common API interface
  - RESTful JSON (SQL-like query syntax)
  - Feature Service (ESRI-like query syntax)
- Comprehensive developer documentation for:
  - Discovery and Dataset APIs
  - API Highways infrastructure source code
  - External APIs within our registry
- Subscribe to notifications (dataset updates and alerts, new datasets, geospatial queries, etc.)

I have a potential use case for API Highways...

Interested in visualizing, mashing up, or analyzing data in API Highways using an existing tool or platform (e.g. Tableau)? Do you have a project or use case in mind that might benefit from tools or data provided by API Highways? Please fill out this form.

I'd like to connect a platform to data within API Highways...

If you represent a data platform or visualization tool you'd like to see integrated with API Highways, please fill out this form.

I have data I'd like to see in API Highways...

If you have a data set, data portal, API, or other data you'd like to see in API Highways, please fill out this form.

Is my data a good fit?

- YES: My data is available through a documented API (e.g. World Bank API)
- YES: My data is available online in a machine-readable format (such as CSV or GeoJSON) and kept up-to-date
- NO: My data is only available in PDF format
- NO: My data exists on a spreadsheet and it's not possible to publish to the web
- Still not sure? Please reach out or check out the Data Playbook.

If none of the above apply...

We'd still like to hear from you. Please reach out or join our mailing list to stay up-to-date.