

Project Proposal

Eco Aware: A digital platform for public participation and environmental protection

Background

The background for Eco Aware is the current ecological crisis, caused by the unsustainable and exploitative practices of human society, particularly the dominant economic and political systems that prioritise profit and growth over the health and harmony of the planet. These issues threaten the survival and well-being of humans and other species on the planet, and ecological conservation requires not only individual behavioural change, but also collective political change that challenges the status quo and demands systemic change. Citizens are often unaware of the environmental issues affecting their communities or lack the information and tools to monitor and report on these issues. And citizens are often excluded or marginalised from environmental governance processes, or lack the skills and platforms to influence them.

Project description

Eco Aware is a digital platform designed to engage and empower citizens to collect and share data on local environmental issues and to take collective action to influence policy and decision-making. The platform allows citizens to participate in revolts against future environmental change and human lifestyles in order to promote environmental and ecological conservation and sustainable development. It is inspired by global environmental movements such as the Extinction Rebellion, Friday for the Future and Sunrise, as well as digital activism tools such as Avaaz, Change.org and 350.org. Eco Aware combines the features of mobile apps, portals and social media networks to enable users to use their smartphones or other devices to monitor and report on environmental indicators such as Air quality, water quality, biodiversity, waste management, etc. Learn about the causes and consequences of environmental

problems and the solutions and actions that can be taken to address them. Participate in campaigns, petitions, events, marches and other forms of collective action to raise awareness and demand change. The platform allows citizens to discuss future lifestyle changes that reflect their innermost desires. Implementing peer-to-peer communication channels within the platform can foster direct and decentralized interactions among participants. Leveraging blockchain technology can enhance decentralization within the platform. Blockchain can provide transparency, immutability, and security to user interactions, data storage, and transactions.

Project purpose

Engage and empower citizens to collect and share data on local environmental issues and to take collective action to influence policy and decision-making. To achieve the following outcomes and impacts:

1. Increased awareness and knowledge of environmental issues among citizens and other stakeholders.
2. Increased availability and accessibility of environmental data for citizens and other stakeholders.
3. Increased quality and credibility of environmental data for citizens and other stakeholders.
4. Increased collaboration and dialogue among citizens and other stakeholders on environmental issues.
5. Increased influence and impact of citizens and other stakeholders on environmental policy and decision-making.

Project Exploration

The platform will explore aspects of ecological conservation and environmental justice, including the impact of environmental degradation on marginalized communities, the intersection of social justice and ecological sustainability, and the role of policy and collective action in achieving more sustainable and just societies. As well as reflecting on how platform information can be better made transparent and public and the potential influence of the platform's presence.

Project collaborators

Citizens: Individuals who are interested in or concerned about environmental issues in their communities, and who want to learn more and take action.

Experts: Scientists, researchers, educators, journalists, and other professionals who have relevant knowledge and skills, and who want to share their data and insights, and support citizen science and advocacy.

NGOs: Non-governmental organizations that work on environmental issues, and who want to access and use citizen-generated data, and collaborate with citizens and other stakeholders.

Project timeline

Phase 1: Planning and preparation (4 months). Research on ecological issues and existing digital activism tools, and consultation with partner organisations. Design a prototype of the Eco Aware platform.

Phase 2: Development and testing (6 months). During this phase, the Eco Aware platform is developed using appropriate technologies and platforms. The platform is tested with selected user groups in the target audience and partner organisations and feedback and suggestions for improvement are gathered.

Phase 3: Launch and evaluation (3 months). During this phase, the Eco Aware platform will be launched to the public, using various online and offline channels to promote and engage users. The performance and impact of the platform is monitored and evaluated using quantitative and qualitative methods, such as web analytics, surveys, interviews, etc.

Project funding sources

Funding comes mainly from grants and donations. The project will apply for grants to support environmental or digital projects from various sources, such as foundations, universities, governments, etc. Online platforms such as crowdfunding or cryptocurrency will also be used to solicit donations from individuals or organisations that support ecological conservation causes.

Project methods

Citizen science: The project will enable citizens to collect and share data on

environmental indicators using their smartphones or other devices, following standardized protocols and guidelines.

Data integration and analysis: The project will integrate and analyze data from multiple sources, including citizen-generated data.

Data visualization and communication: The project will visualize and communicate data using interactive charts, stories and other formats, using user-friendly and engaging design and media.

Environmental education and awareness: The project will provide educational and informational content on environmental issues, causes, consequences and solutions, using various formats and channels, such as videos, podcasts, quizzes, games, etc.

Civic engagement and participation: The project will facilitate civic engagement and participation by enabling users to connect and communicate with other users, experts, NGOs, media and policymakers, and to participate in campaigns, petitions, events and other forms of collective action.

Bibliography

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Platform home page link: <https://lime-owl-wpn803.mystrikingly.com>

Platform home page display:

ECO AWARE

Creating our own environmental monitoring

Our mission

Get Involved

Goals

Blog

Fellow us

Donate Now

Eco Aware

A digital platform for calling for environmental and ecological protection

Eco Aware is a digital platform that aims to engage and empower citizens to collect and share data on local environmental issues, and to take collective action to influence policy and decision-making. Eco-Aware combines the features of a mobile app, a web portal and a social media network to enable users to Monitor and report on environmental indicators such as air quality, water quality, biodiversity, waste management, etc. using their smartphones or other devices. Access and visualize data from other users, official sources and satellite imagery on an interactive map.

Get Involved

We are looking for volunteers who are passionate about the environment to join us in taking action to protect our planet and create a sustainable future! Join our team and make a difference together!

Get Now

Our Goals

Data collection and sharing

The platform will enable users to collect and share data on environmental indicators using their smartphones or other devices, following standardized protocols and guidelines.

Data integration and analysis


The platform will integrate and analyze data from multiple sources, including citizen-generated data, official data and satellite imagery, using advanced data science techniques and algorithms.

Civic participation

The platform will facilitate citizen engagement and participation, enabling users to connect and communicate with other users, experts, NGOs, media and policymakers, and to participate in campaigns, petitions, events and other forms of collective action.

Blog

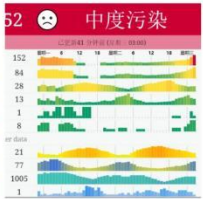
Collect and publish environmental events in your community



London

June 14, 2023


The water quality of the Thames has been looking very clear recently and hopefully it will stay...



Beijing

May 19, 2023

The air quality in Beijing has improved recently, although it has not reached excellent. But it...



New York

March 11, 2023

On the way to work I saw a seagull with a muzzle in its mouth. There was some concern that the...

Reflection

Eco Aware is a digital platform that I designed as an intervention programme for ecological conservation and advocacy. Eco Aware uses a digital platform to rewrite the narrative and representation of environmental issues. It allows users to create and share their own data and stories, rather than relying on official or mainstream sources. (See Me: Digital Space as a Means of Creating Community and Self, n.d.) This project seeks to weave multi-species collectives between humans and other creatures that share the same planet and face the same threats. This digital platform creates a network of solidarity between users and partners who share a common vision and values for environmental issues and social justice. The platform can connect global networkers to act across borders. Eco Aware adopts a decentralized platform model that allows users to have more control and ownership over their data and actions. It uses peer-to-peer and blockchain technologies to create a secure and transparent platform that does not rely on centralized authorities or intermediaries. Eco Aware follows the principles and practices of decentralized platforms that were discussed in the course, such as openness, autonomy, trustlessness, etc.(Galloway, 2004) Eco Aware aims to resist erasure of environmental issues and social justice, which are often ignored, denied, or silenced by the dominant systems and discourses. It enables users to document and preserve their data and stories, as well as to access and learn from the data and stories of others.

Why did I choose to use a digital platform for my intervention? The digital platforms are a very broad source of information and have the potential to appeal to different audiences. Providing a space for marginalised groups facing physical, social or economic barriers to amplify marginalised voices. And the intervention aims to address systemic injustice and promote a more inclusive environmental movement, while ensuring that everyone has equitable access to digital tools. Digital platforms can accommodate a growing user base and adapt to changing needs and emerging environmental and social issues. Rather than posting such information on social media, I believe this platform could allow users to collect and share more accurate and

reliable environmental data. It also allows users to have more control and ownership of their data and actions, using decentralisation and blockchain technology to ensure privacy and security. In order to gather and interpret environmental data properly and dependably, Eco Aware may run across several technical obstacles or constraints. In preserving and defending the privacy and security of users' data, Eco Aware may potentially run across certain ethical or legal challenges. At the same time, Eco Aware may face some resistance or opposition from powerful actors or institutions.

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