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Coding The News Cards Project

# Writeup for Cards Project

Explaining the Story

For my cards project, I chose to work on a project on the pattern of spills that has been occurring in New York state by ConEd. I am working on this project in my other class and felt like this would enhance the work I am already doing. By completing the project, it has visualized the data for me in a way that I wasn’t able to before the project. I think the dataset was a good choice for the project as it gives the reader a lot of information on the spills and you can interrogate the data a bit more freely with this project.

Build Process

I started by cleaning my Con Edison spills dataset and pushing it to my Github page to access. I created a function to fetch the data from Github, parse through the data to make it readable and store in an object from which the data could be extracted and used in the page. To do that, I created another function that would grab the HTML elements I wanted to populate with the data. I then read in the data, cleaned it a bit to make sure it was presentable on the page and then created HTML code to be appended to the parent container where I wanted my cards to show up in. I looped through each individual item in my greater dataset and added the unique data needed for each card in the HTML code. Lastly, I implemented a filtering component based on the year and county when and where the spills occurred. I grabbed the select elements in the HTML and added an event listener to each, attaching a function that would filter the data using a function which is available to Array objects in JavaScript, that filtered the data to only show what was selected based on the filters selected and then reran my showCards function. I chose a simple approach to the design as I did not want a lot of noise on the page and wanted eyes to focus on the area and amount spilled. I went for muted colors and tried to choose colors that went well with each other without going overboard with the color scheme.

Design and Editorial Decisions

I encapsulated the spilled amount in a thin border and made the text reddish-brown to make the figure stick out. I also emphasized the size of the location and amount spilled as that is what I wanted the focus to be on so I made sure, hierarchy wise, these pieces of information were first and bigger than the rest. I also added information like the source and factor of the spill but placed those below in smaller font as I considered it ancillary pieces of information for this specific project. I also know the year will take up the least amount of space width wise so I placed it on the bottom for aesthetic purposes, but it also makes it easier to check which year the spill is from as it is not buried in the middle with the other data.