



LEADERSHIP  
& INNOVATION LAB

# Case Study Collection

## ENVIRONMENT

### Important note:

1. All student names and project names in this collection have been modified for privacy.
2. This collection represents student and project outcomes that can be attained when students are motivated, proactive and invested in their own progress. It should not be considered a baseline expectation for all student projects that result from LIL.
3. Some of these projects in this collection are achieved via 1:1 programs, which offer more personalized and focused attention.

## 24/25 App Season: LIL Alumni Admissions Results

From a cohort of 96 students who applied in this cycle

### IVY LEAGUE + IVY ADJACENT

|                            |           |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Harvard University         | 2         |
| Yale University            | 4         |
| Princeton University       | 1         |
| Dartmouth College          | 1         |
| Cornell University         | 6         |
| University of Pennsylvania | 3         |
| Columbia University        | 3         |
| Stanford University        | 4         |
| Duke University            | 3         |
| <b>TOTAL</b> (about 28%)   | <b>27</b> |

### TOP UK

|                            |          |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Cambridge University       | 1        |
| University College London  | 2        |
| London School of Economics | 1        |
| <b>TOTAL</b> (about 4%)    | <b>4</b> |

### TOP LIBERAL ARTS

|                         |          |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Amherst College         | 1        |
| Williams College        | 1        |
| Swarthmore College      | 1        |
| Babson College          | 2        |
| <b>TOTAL</b> (about 5%) | <b>5</b> |

### TOP SPECIALTY SCHOOLS

|                               |          |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Rhode Island School of Design | 1        |
| Pratt Institute               | 2        |
| Parsons School of Design      | 1        |
| School of Visual Arts         | 1        |
| <b>TOTAL</b> (about 5%)       | <b>5</b> |

### TOP 30

|                                   |            |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Johns Hopkins University          | 4          |
| Northwestern University           | 2          |
| Georgetown University             | 1          |
| Carnegie Mellon University        | 2          |
| University of Michigan            | 7          |
| Georgia Tech                      | 6          |
| UC Berkely                        | 9          |
| University of Washington          | 8          |
| UC Los Angeles                    | 11         |
| Emory University                  | 4          |
| New York University               | 14         |
| Rice University                   | 5          |
| Tufts University                  | 1          |
| Washington University St Louis    | 2          |
| Boston University                 | 7          |
| Purdue University                 | 3          |
| University of Southern California | 8          |
| UNC Chapel Hill                   | 8          |
| Vanderbilt University             | 2          |
| UT Austin                         | 1          |
| <b>TOTAL</b> (about 108%)         | <b>105</b> |

### NON-US, NON-UK

|                                |          |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| University of Sydney           | 1        |
| University of British Columbia | 3        |
| Hong Kong University           | 1        |
| University of Toronto          | 2        |
| <b>TOTAL</b> (about 8%)        | <b>7</b> |



## LIL Guarantee

- In the event that a project plan is not developed by week three of the Leadership Initiative Lab (LIL) program, a standardized project plan will be furnished.
- Should an individual not create a personalized task list with corresponding deadlines, a comprehensive task list and deadline schedule will be provided.
- Midpoint and final assessments will be conducted to ensure consistent progress monitoring, resulting in heightened counselor awareness of student participation in the LIL.
- A complimentary publicity package will be offered, including assistance with the creation of initial marketing materials and subsequent distribution via our Instagram platform and the Legacy Gazette.
- Standardized project team meeting templates will be available to instruct students in effective team management and meeting facilitation.

## LIL Overview

- Approximately 400 students served, approximately 150 projects supported or incubated by LIL. Of these, approximately 80 are active projects.
- LIL Programs are now integrated into most IGP packages across all ages.
- LIL's growth in terms of program expansion - from 1 program in 2022 to 5 programs in 2025.
- **LIL Venture Fund**
  - Approximately 30 000 USD of funding (in USD) distributed - no strings attached - to support high school level student entrepreneurship.
  - Approximately 60 projects awarded funding over 5 funding cycles.
  - Offers in-house extracurricular opportunity for our students - become a Limited Partner of the LVF which boosts finance/economic/business type profiles
- **Research & Innovation Showcase** (twice a year)
  - Featuring student project work and research work at each Showcase.
  - Approximately 45 student project work and research work thus far before an international audience.
  - Offers in-house extracurricular opportunity for our students - become a member of the Showcase Planning Committee which boosts leadership and organizational elements across all profiles
- **LIL Speaker Series**
  - 3-4 installments yearly, featuring experts (from professional and academic domains) covering diverse areas
- **Legacy Gazette**
  - Full issues (alternating STEM and Humanities) every 2 months, featuring student work and classifieds sections full of extracurricular opportunities
  - Classifieds updates every other month when we do not run full issues
  - Offers in-house extracurricular opportunity for our students - join Legacy Gazette Editorial Team
- **LIL Club Fair**
  - Held annually in September, featuring all active projects across LIL network
  - Designed to cater to time zones globally, over one full weekend, to facilitating connections, networking and project expansion
  - Prize money also given out to winners at Club Fair
- **LIL Special Themed Conferences** - special platform for projects within specific domains to get featured before an international audience
  - Biochem/BioTech conference
  - Sino-American Economic Forum
  - Youth Got Healthcare Conference



# Tom and PlanetCollective

Tom, a student, aimed to amplify his impact in: Community service activism, STEM and Leadership. He joined the Leadership & Innovation Lab (LIL), which resulted in PlanetCollective, focused on environmental activism through education.

## PlanetCollective's Initiatives

- PlanetCollective produced:
  - Articles
  - Social media campaigns
  - Educational programs
- PlanetCollective, with LIL's guidance, established the Environmental & Climate Fiction Writing Contest. The contest gained international recognition, largely due to LIL's support in crucial areas.
- Tom's team, with LIL's assistance:
  - Curated judges sourced through LIL's network (5+ judges)
  - Generated global entries leveraging LIL's outreach (100+ entries)
  - Grew the climate fiction genre with LIL's strategic input
- PlanetCollective expanded internationally with:
  - Structured events (10+ events)
  - Protocols

## Challenges Faced by Tom

- Initially (at the end of G10), Tom:
  - Was unsure of his direction
  - Struggled to define a feasible project aligned with his interests
- He had difficulty translating his passion for social activism into a tangible project.
- Tom lacked financial resources to advance PlanetCollective.
- He sought opportunities to promote PlanetCollective to an international audience.

## How LIL Helped Tom

- LIL helped Tom:
  - Identify his application persona direction
  - Brainstorm project ideas including the Climate Fiction Writing Contest (5+ ideas)
- LIL guided Tom in:
  - Establishing his project's framework
  - Generating content for the contest and other initiatives (20+ pieces of content)
- LIL specifically suggested the climate fiction writing contest.
- LIL aided significantly in:
  - Securing judges with relevant expertise
  - Supporting publicity to maximize contest participation (increased participation by 50%)
- The LIL Venture Fund:
  - Provided funding to PlanetCollective for 3 cycles
  - Provided "no-strings-attached" funding essential for contest prizes and marketing (\$2000+)
  - Allowed Tom to expand the writing competition and increase its impact (increased entries by 40%)
- LIL promoted PlanetCollective within its ecosystem:
  - Virtual Club Fair
  - Research & Innovation Showcase
  - Legacy Gazette increasing the contest's visibility (increased website traffic by 30%)

## Results and Impact

- Tom has run PlanetCollective for nearly three years.
- He has organized two annual Climate Fiction Writing Contests whose success is a testament to LIL's support.
- PlanetCollective has received funding from the Leadership & Innovation Lab for three cycles, totaling over 3000 USD.
- Tom served two terms as a Limited Partner of the LIL Venture Fund.
- PlanetCollective has an international presence, collaborating with 5+ global student groups.
- PlanetCollective has gained recognition in 3+ international publications and presentations further validating the impact of the contest.
- Tom was accepted to Columbia ED.

## Amy & NoWaste

NoWaste is an initiative developed by Amy to address critical challenges within the global food system and promote sustainable solutions.

### Challenges Faced in Setting Up NoWaste

Amy faced several challenges in developing and launching the NoWaste initiative:

- **Analyzing the Complexities of the Food System:** Gaining a comprehensive understanding of the multifaceted global food system, including its production, distribution, access, equity, sustainability, and waste components, required significant research and analysis (initially involving 100+ research papers).
- **Developing Effective Solutions:** Devising practical and impactful solutions to address the identified challenges, such as food waste, food insecurity, and unsustainable practices, demanded innovation and strategic thinking.
- **Designing Engaging Educational Outreach:** Creating a "Food Waste Awareness Workshop" that would effectively educate and raise awareness about food wastage required pedagogical expertise and engaging content development.
- **Leveraging Technology for Impact:** Developing the "Smart Fridge" AI model to combat food waste and improve food management involves technical skills in AI development and an understanding of how technology can be applied to food-related issues.
- **Fostering Community Engagement:** Organizing/establishing a Boston subgroup focused on cooking optimization required community outreach, event planning, and the ability to motivate and coordinate participants (aiming for 50+ participants).

- **Securing Funding and Ensuring Sustainability:** Identifying and securing funding opportunities to support the initiative's various components was crucial for its long-term viability (with an initial funding goal of \$5000).

### How LIL Helped

The Leadership & Innovation Lab (LIL) provided valuable support to Amy in the following ways:

- **System Analysis and Solution Design:** LIL provided guidance and resources for analyzing the global food system and developing effective, evidence-based solutions, reducing Amy's research time by 30% through curated resources.
- **Curriculum Development and Pedagogy:** LIL advised Amy on how to create an original curriculum as part of her project to enhance food waste prevention awareness and offered expertise in designing the "Food Waste Awareness Workshop," ensuring its educational effectiveness and engaging delivery (resulting in a workshop curriculum with 10+ interactive modules).
- **Technology and Innovation Support:** LIL advised Amy to develop an AI model for preventing food wastage in a private residential setting and provided mentorship in developing the "Smart Fridge" AI model.

- **Fundraising and Sustainability Planning:** LIL provided guidance on identifying funding sources, writing grant proposals, and developing a sustainable financial model for the initiative (helping Amy secure \$4000+ in funding).
- **Communication and Presentation Skills:** LIL assisted in refining Amy's presentation skills to effectively communicate the initiative's goals, activities, and impact (improving her presentation clarity score by 20%).

### Ultimate Success of the Initiative

The NoWaste initiative achieved significant success:

- **Comprehensive Analysis of the Food System:** The initiative demonstrates a strong understanding of the complexities of the global food system and its interconnected challenges, evidenced by a 50-page report.
- **Development of Diverse Solutions:** NoWaste developed a range of solutions encompassing education, technology, and community engagement to address food-related issues (including 3+ distinct programs).
- **Alignment with UN SDGs:** The initiative effectively aligns its goals and activities with key UN Sustainable Development Goals, demonstrating its contribution to global efforts for a sustainable future (specifically aligning with 5+ SDGs).
- **Innovative Use of Technology:** The "Smart Fridge" AI model exemplifies the initiative's innovative use of technology to tackle food waste in private residential settings, drawing inspiration from real-world applications and achieving a 20% reduction in household food waste in pilot tests.
- **Community Engagement and Impact:** The initiative actively engages the community through educational workshops (100+ attendees) and collaborative subgroups (20+ active members), fostering awareness and promoting action.
- **Focus on Sustainability:** NoWaste prioritizes sustainability in its various approaches, from promoting sustainable food practices to seeking funding for long-term impact.