

Year One deliverables / results achieved

- (1) [Policy Innovation Lab course materials](#). Course materials for the Policy Innovation Lab are currently available through CUNY's [Public Interest Tech OER Commons](#) site, the [Public Interest Tech platform pitcases.org](#) operated by Georgetown, Howard and Stanford universities, and [Canvas Commons](#). By providing these free resources we are making it easier for universities to adopt and enhance coursework public interest technology. We continue to add other PIT-UN resources as they are made available to course readings, use case studies, and examples of successful PIT implementation elsewhere. Canvas Commons provides easy adoption into either existing curriculum or for staging new courses in Public Interest Technology following the PIL model. The materials include 7 weekly course modules, 12 assignment instructions and rubrics, a sample syllabus, instructor notes and other course resources. It also includes sprint planning and research plan templates, agile methodology readings and videos, and prototyping tools¹.

These course materials were also referenced in the development of the '[Teaching Public Service in the Digital Age](#)' syllabus. This is one example of how the resources developed for the course have provided value beyond their own use at Heinz College.

- (2) [The Policy Innovation Lab Playbook](#) (PIL Playbook) was designed and improved multiple times throughout the grant period, and includes a series of custom "plays" designed to help new students ramp up quickly to approaching Public Interest Technology with the

¹ A Github repository was originally envisioned for some course materials. It was later determined during the PIT-UN convening in 2019 that the new PIT-UN resources coming on-line from other members served as a more visible and accessible repository for course materials. Course materials were also made discoverable directly through Canvas Commons.

right mindset. The PIL Playbook has served as an important resource for ongoing PIL courses at Heinz College, and has helped provide new students with a model for how the methodologies covered in the course and how to operate most effectively within the structure of the course.



Design and layout by Sharleen Devjani, Chizobam Nwagwu, Sanika Sahasrabuddhe, Sarah Sherwood. Other contributors include PIL classes of Spring / Fall 2019 and Spring 2020.

- (3) **Public Interest Technology Fellowships.** Perhaps the most challenging aspect of the grant period, the first year of the grant supported ten talented students with opportunities to work in PIT projects. The fellowships have supported students during both the summer months as full-time fellows as well as part-time academic year fellows.

Results from the PIT fellowships include:

- (a) **The development of an open source green bonds investment platform called Impact Green.** PIT Fellows: Chizo Nwagwu, Sarah Sherwood, Sharleen Devjani, Sanika Saharabuddhe. Note that this was the first attempt at taking a project from the PIL course through the fellowship to a full capstone. The results shown in the Github repository linked above represents a culmination of those efforts.

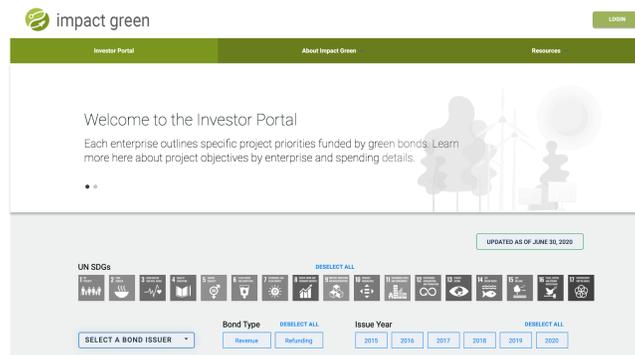


Image is from the final capstone prototype deployed by the capstone team: Yueshan Lin, Yiran Pan, Chizobam Nwagwu, Tristan Pang, Yiting Hui, and Xuanming Cao.

- (b) **A project with the Anti-Defamation League to improve the mapping of extremist activities in the United States.** *PIT Fellows: Chizo Nwagwu, Sarah Sherwood, Sharleen Devjani, Sanika Saharabuddhe.* Work included a redesign effort for the mapping tool and recommendations for improvements as a community tool.
- (c) **Support to the US Census Bureau for the Combating Bias in AI Toolkit.** *PIT Fellows: Alisar Mustafa, Priya Gupta, Yu-Jan Chang.* Work included design assets and research support.

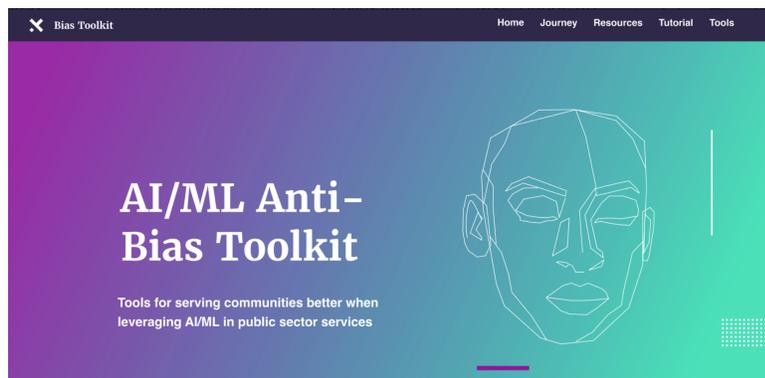


Image of initial prototype from Spring PIL 2020 course: Yu-Jan Chang, Alisar Mustafa, Priya Gupta

- (d) **[Public Interest Technology Pipeline](#).** A reference guide for incoming students interested in PIT job opportunities. *PIT Fellow: Lara Haase.*
 - (e) **First [prototype](#) for the web-based version of the Policy Innovation Lab Playbook.** *PIT Fellow: Sonal Das.* This resource has since been retired as the PDF version has provided better utility in the classroom and is easier to update.
 - (f) **Climate and Social Impact Assessment Scorecard.** *PIT Fellow: Kathryn Schlesinger.* A scorecard developed with input from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission to understand climate impacts based on selected criteria.
- (4) **[The Accelerator Model for the Policy Innovation Lab](#).** Late in the grant period we were able to make progress on ideas around the development of an accelerator. A model for how we anticipate this working heading into 2022 and 2023 are detailed in the linked document.

Moving forward we recognize that a real opportunity lies in building out an accelerator for PIT, work of which we continue in our Year 2 award. This was demonstrated by the realization through the success of the Impact Green project that a unique opportunity

exists for developing not only PIT expertise, but real PIT companies. This is demonstrated through our work to operationalize our model to leverage the expertise students develop in the Policy Innovation Lab, then through a summer fellowship opportunity, and then finally through the Heinz College Capstone project (the equivalent of a thesis).

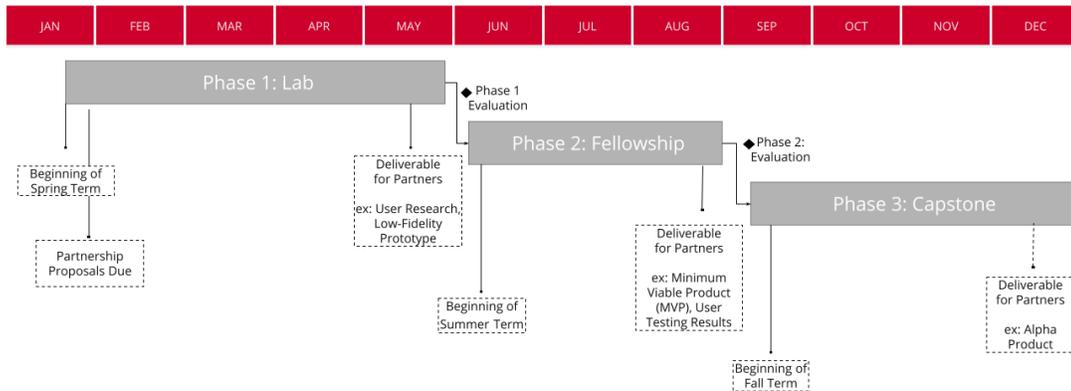


Image: Accelerator Model for the Policy Innovation Lab: Example engagement timeline (2021)

- (5) **Heinz College’s Public Service Weekend.** Our 2020 Summer PIL Fellows provided mentorship to approximately 50 participants during our Policy Innovation Lab Team & Competition, where teams of students engaged in moonshot thinking to come up with creative ideas around the topic of policing and police data initiatives. Held annually in Washington, D.C. and conducted virtually for the first time, the weekend was geared towards promising undergraduate students with a goal to “increase the participation and inclusion of traditionally underrepresented groups at the highest level of public sector leadership.” The event was highly successful as a way to introduce aspiring masters students to Public Interest Technology. The involvement of the PIT Fellows as mentors will continue into Year Two of this grant.

- (6) **Code for America.** Before the pandemic, we had a group of students from the Policy Innovation Lab accepted to present their work supporting vote.gov in 2020. Given the conference was cancelled, we instead arranged for 14 students and fellows and one faculty member from this spring’s Policy Innovation Lab course to attend the Code for America conference in 2021.