If you’re teaching this term…
Please tell your students about Ready Set Solve – it’s a great chance for them to implement some of the skills they’ve been learning at Gustavson, meet local leaders, and maybe work with students from other institutions or faculties.

Post-secondary students in any discipline are invited to solve small, real sustainability and climate change challenges in the capital region. The University of Victoria is a proud supporter of this initiative – and even posed several of the challenges! Gustavson’s Centre for Social and Sustainable Innovation, for example, wants a mobile-friendly app for the student sustainable-lifestyle tips we’ve got on our website. Students can choose from 23 different challenges and they’ll gain valuable experience, contribute to sustainability in the region, and win prizes! They can sign up as an individual (to be placed on a team), or as a team of four by Sunday, January 24. For more details and contact info, visit the CRD website.

Contact Rachel for a digital poster.

Examples: if you’re teaching strategy
This Guardian article has a list of 10 actions business leaders can take to advance the game.

Examples: if you’re going to mention ethics
When Gustavson surveys profs to learn what kinds of sustainability or social responsibility content you’re including in your classes, from Accounting to Strategy to Service Management, “ethics” is one of the key words that comes up the most often. So if you’re including a mention (or more) of ethics in your course this term, here’s a list of the big five corporate scandals of 2015, from The Guardian.

Internal development
In “Is this the most effective development program in history?” Columbia University prof Chris Blattman shares the story of how, in 2011, the Nigerian government handed out $60 million to 1,200 Nigerians—that’s about $50,000 each—to help them create, run and/or scale a business. According to the post, “Three years later there are hundreds more new companies, generating tons of profit, and employing about 7,000 new people.” Not bad for a reasonably modest amount of money.

Philanthropy and market forces – together at last?
What if the international development and philanthropic communities directed more funds to the middle and the bottom, and let market forces and entrepreneurialism take over? The Top-Down, Bottom-Up Development Challenge by Ken Banks in the Stanford Social Innovation Review looks into it.

Design, data, health care
The Power of Lean Data
For years, the complex and costly nature of impact measurement has kept many social enterprises from doing it—or from doing it well. But a series of recent projects that incorporate lean design principles show that it’s possible to gather high-quality impact data quickly and inexpensively.