

Freetown the Treetown: Pay-to-Grow Digital Tree Tracking

City Innovation Library · Good practice · Sierra Leone

Quality score: 67/100

Evidence strength: Descriptive / self-reported

Summary

Freetown City Council pays residents to plant and digitally geo-tag trees, verifying survival over multiple years via a tracking app funded by tradeable carbon-market tokens. Phase 1 (2020-21) tracked 250,000+ trees at over 80% survival; the city now targets 5 million by 2030.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured results	2/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	1/3
Scalability	2/3
Sustainability / continuity	2/3
Innovation	3/3
Inclusiveness / equity	2/3
Multi-stakeholder collaboration	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-08-07

[Freetown City Council](#) — accessed 2026-08-07

[Earthshot Prize finalist profile](#) — accessed 2026-08-07

[UrbanShift case study \(2021\)](#) — accessed 2026-08-07

[UN Climate Action feature](#) — accessed 2026-08-07

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