



**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**

FRIDAY MARCH 1ST, 2019 | PETERBOROUGH ONTARIO

COMMUNITY FORUM

Understanding the UN Sustainable Development Goals:
Canada's Commitment and the Local Connection

SDGs BACKGROUNDER

The Sustainable Development Goals are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation, prosperity, and peace and justice. The 17 Goals are at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which was adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015. The Goals interconnect and seek to address the complex global challenges we face, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation, prosperity, and peace and justice. To find out more the UN SDGs, visit: sustainabledevelopment.un.org



FORUM OPEN SPACE SUMMARY

In local communities across the world, governments, the private sector, and civil society have started to mobilize efforts to take action on the UN SDGs. At this Community Forum, we explored diverse local actions and initiatives that connect to the Goals through a facilitated Open Space activity. **A full summary of the Open Space Discussion is available online.** We also undertook a collective process of prioritizing existing and emergent initiatives, in order to identify five key goals - and related actions - that reflect our community's strengths and concerns, and that can inform the development of a local strategy to advance the Sustainable Development Goals.

On the following pages, the five key Local SDG Priority Actions are discussed in further detail.

HOSTED BY:

Fleming College | Office of Sustainability

kwic
Kawartha World Issues Centre



PETERBOROUGH | KAWARTHA | HALIBURTON
Sustainability Education Network
Located on Michisagig territory | A UNU Regional Centre of Expertise

GreenUP

CCIC
Ontario Council for International Cooperation

PRIORITY GOAL 1

BASIC INCOME GUARANTEE

1 NO POVERTY



SUMMARY

A basic income guarantee (BIG) ensures everyone an income sufficient to meet basic needs and live with dignity, regardless of work status. A basic income guarantee is recognized as a highly effective way to support important societal goals, including the reduction and elimination of poverty and insecurity; the narrowing of extreme income and wealth inequalities; shared citizenship; and improved democratic and economic functioning.

LOCAL ACTION

In 2019, there will be a Federal election, and there is a critical opportunity to raise the profile of basic income as local priority issue. To do this, we will need to:

- **Develop a Political Approach:** Explore best-practices and strategies employed by similar movements, related to universal health care, accessibility standards, and housing; work with partners and local experts who may be able to build a case for policy and law changes at all levels of government.
- **Build the Case:** Amplify and disseminate research that demonstrates the relationship between income guarantee, housing, food security, physical and mental health, and other indicators of wellbeing.
- **Establish a Coalition:** A broad-based network of support is needed. This should include cross-sector partnerships between local organizations and agencies, as well as base of community advocates.

WHO'S DOING THIS WORK LOCALLY?

Nourish has established the Basic Income Peterborough Network. To find out more about the work of the Network, visit: nourishproject.ca/basic-income-peterborough-network. Nourish is a project of the YWCA, in partnership with Peterborough Public Health and GreenUP.

PRIORITY GOAL 2

EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



SUMMARY

Opportunities for experiential education - including spaces to play, learn, and be immersed in nature - are critical for development and wellbeing. Place-based experiential education helps us to know the names and needs of the plants, animals, and insects that we share an ecosystem with, and to understand and contribute to the relationships that support a healthy environment. Indigenous Knowledge is vital to our understanding of place, and Indigenous Ways of Knowing should be integrated across curricula.

LOCAL ACTION

To ensure we build our local capacity to offer meaningful experiential and place-based education, we will need to:

- **Educate Educators:** Support educators to feel confident taking students outdoors, to develop strategies for teaching about complex issues such as climate change, and to understand how to appropriately integrate Indigenous Knowledge systems across curricula.
- **Build on Local Assets:** Invest in the community organizations that offer essential experiential learning opportunities. The Pathway to Stewardship and Kinship is a vital community framework and collaborative model.
- **Increase Access to Greenspace:** Ensure equitable access to healthy greenspace for all children. The City of Peterborough is undertaking a Parks and Open Space Review that will inform future greenspace development.

- **Advocate for Systemic Change:** While implementing experiential education on the ground is vital, we also need to engage in political advocacy to bring about systemic change and to replace our current 'industrial model' of education. To do this, we should look to successful evidence-based models such as Finland.

WHO'S DOING THIS WORK LOCALLY?

- **Pathway to Stewardship and Kinship** is a framework for children and youth that supports healthy childhood development, community connection, and environmental stewardship: pathwayproject.ca
- **EcoMentors** offers training to support teachers, teacher candidates, and early childhood educators; this program is led by Camp Kawartha, Fleming College, and Trent University
- **Fleming College** and **Trent University** integrate a variety of experiential and community-based learning and research opportunities into their programs, they have also partnered with the **Kawartha Pine Ridge DSB** to develop the **Youth Leadership in Sustainability Program**, which is a semester-long program for high school students: yls.green
- Community resources include **GreenUP Ecology Park**, **Camp Kawartha Environment Centre**, **KWIC** and **TRACKS**

PRIORITY GOAL 3

PRIORITIZE INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE, PRACTICE, AND LEADERSHIP

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



SUMMARY

Indigenous Knowledge, practice, and leadership should be meaningfully prioritized as we work in partnership to achieve the UN SDGs. During the Open Space conversation, the Peterborough-Kawarthas-Haliburton Sustainability Education Network's governance structure, which situates an Indigenous Advisory Council at its core, was identified as an important local model. In 2016, this Network was designated as a Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) in Education for Sustainable Development by the United Nations University. The Network includes educational institutions, community organizations, governments, businesses, and other stakeholders who work together, across communities, to advance shared objectives. The RCE's objectives have strong linkages to multiple SDGs.

LOCAL ACTION

The Network has identified six key objectives that guide its collaborative work, including:

- To recognize the vital importance of Indigenous Knowledge systems as they engage across all curricula;
- To implement age-appropriate sustainability and stewardship education frameworks from pre-school to secondary school, in both formal and informal settings;
- To build strong bridges between school curriculum and the spectrum of programs offered at Trent University and Fleming College;
- To link post-secondary programs and community-based training programs to green jobs, research, and innovation in the region;
- To develop reciprocal exchanges of sustainability knowledge and practice between residents within the region and with communities across the globe; and,
- To facilitate meaningful local action to advance the above objectives in the context of the Global Action Plan priorities.

WHO'S DOING THIS WORK LOCALLY?

Peterborough-Kawartha-Haliburton Sustainability Education Network (RCE Kawarthas) includes local post-secondary institutions, regional school boards, local governments and government agencies, and community-based organizations. During its first developmental year, the Network was hosted by GreenUP. For more information, visit: rcekawarthas.com.

PRIORITY GOAL 4

13 CLIMATE ACTION



ADVOCATE FOR CLIMATE ACTION

SUMMARY

We are already experiencing the effects of climate change. Global warming is causing long-lasting changes to our climate system, which threatens irreversible consequences if we do not act. It is still possible, with strong political will, increased investment, and using existing technology, to limit the increase in global mean temperature to two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, but this requires urgent and ambitious collective action.

LOCAL ACTION

It is essential that climate action be a national priority in the upcoming Federal election. To do this, we will need to:

- **Amplify Diverse Voices:** Our region has strong youth movements, grassroots community groups, environmental NGOs, and agency partnerships all working to advance climate action. We can leverage these existing groups to build a strong advocacy coalition that represents, and can amplify, diverse local voices.
- **Strengthen Data Collection:** It is essential that we build a strong case for ongoing investment in, and commitment to, climate action. This requires improved and data collection, with leadership from the federal government.
- **Build On Local Success:** This region is a leader in collaborative climate planning, mitigation programming, and climate adaptation initiatives. Local work should be championed and showcased nationally.

WHO'S DOING THIS WORK LOCALLY?

There are a number of groups working locally to advance climate action through on-the-ground projects, advocacy efforts, and community-based planning. These include: **GreenUP:** greenup.on.ca, **Sustainable Peterborough:** sustainablepeterborough.ca, **For Our Grandchildren:** peterborough.fourourgrandchildren.ca, **Peterborough Alliance for Climate Action, Transition Town Peterborough:** transitiontownpeterborough.ca, and **Peterborough Public Health:** peterboroughpublichealth.ca

PRIORITY GOAL 5

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



CLEAN WATER & SANITATION

SUMMARY

Source water protection is an approach to ensure clean, safe, and sustainable drinking water. This approach works to ensure our watersheds are healthy, and their integrity is maintained for future generations. In our region, local First Nations Communities do not have reliable access to safe drinking water.

LOCAL ACTION

- **Maintain Strong Protections:** Ensure that our local conservation authority continues to have a strong mandate, and the resources necessary, to advance source water protection policies and programs.
- **Focus on Vulnerable Areas and Communities:** Emphasize work and investment in communities that are vulnerable to contamination or that lack reliable access to clean drinking water.
- **Resource Local Stewardship:** Support existing partnerships that provide tools and funding to rural landowners.

WHO'S DOING THIS WORK LOCALLY?

- **Otonabee Conservation** works to protect, restore, and manage our local watershed: otonabeeconservation.com
- **Sacred Water Circle** seek to restore a relationship between human communities and water: sacredwater.ca
- **ALUS, Kawartha Land Trust, and the East Central Farm Stewardship Collaborative** work with rural land owners.