



To: Sustainable Peterborough Coordinating Committee (SPCC)
From: Anca Pascalau, Sustainable Peterborough Coordinator
Meeting Date: March 7, 2024
Subject: Staff Report

Three SDG localization subcommittees (SDG 8, SDG 11, SDG1) with diverse memberships (including at least one SPCC member on each) were established last year to work on a priority SDG. Each subcommittee is tasked with reviewing and localizing each UN indicator and identifying additional custom indicators unique to our community in support of each SDG (original UN indicators, UN indicators edited to more accurately reflect what we want depicted, and a wish list of unique local non-UN indicators that we may wish to consider). The subcommittees are keeping in mind that data availability should drive indicator selection, for each SDG and indicator we must have reliable, free/cost effective, consistently available data sources that we can collect and capture annually, ideally a mix of StatCan data and other data sets and sources.

We had great discussions about things such as "what is the meaning of the SDG we are trying to work on", "what are we aiming to measure and achieve", "what is the picture that we are trying to paint"? There's no simple answer to any of these, but our project, as outlined in our strategic plan, will be focusing on helping achieve the SDGs as defined by the UN while also keeping in mind the uniqueness of our community and recognizing which indicators are meaningful to our local context to help tell a story about our community, assist orgs/businesses/institutions with data access, provide data and resources to support other orgs with accessing funding opportunities, general community building decision making, etc.

Very few communities in Canada are actively working on the SDGs specifically, which makes our project that much more unique and significant, but also more difficult and complex since we don't have much comparable work and best practice examples to learn/borrow from. The upside, however, is that this allows us quite a bit of flexibility in how we define and shape our work.

The SDG 8 Localization Subcommittee has wrapped up the work earlier this month. It is expected that the SDG 11 and SDG 1 Subcommittees will wrap up by late April. It is important to note that these three subcommittees also served the significant role of pilots, as this work will also be essential in establishing a process and workflow moving forward to be applied to the balance of the SDG localization subcommittees. The next 2 SDGs of focus, as identified by the survey completed by the SPCC last summer, will be SDG 4 – Quality Education, and SDG 13 – Climate Action. The subcommittees will be established, and the localization work will tentatively commence by late May; please email me if you are interested in joining one of these subcommittees. The subcommittees will also ideally contain SP CC non-members, subject matter experts, representing other institutions, businesses, organizations, offering diverse skill-sets, experience, knowledge and perspectives related to the specific SDG. Should you have recommendations of any such individuals who you find suitable to join a subcommittee please send Anca the details and she will follow up directly.

Data sources and sets are in the process of being acquired and much work will take place for the balance of the year surrounding data collection, interpretation, reformatting and hopefully automation or semi-automation of data uploads into the data dashboard. We will initially acquire data from all the free sources

available (StatCan, Community Data Program – we became members in December at a nominal annual membership fee of \$150/year, unique local data sources, etc.). We subsequently may consider purchasing unique and interesting data sets from Environics, StatCan custom data sets, etc. in the coming years, once a robust data collection, interpretation, reformatting, and upload process is established, should the budget allow.

The data will be uploaded and visualized in our data dashboard which will be built using the [Open SDG](#) software. Preliminary programming work has commenced earlier this month. OpenSDG was specifically created for managing and publishing data and statistics related to the SDGs. Using OpenSDG is in line with our mandate, and supports the objectives identified in our Strategic Plan. Furthermore, as OpenSDG is the platform used by StatCan as their [Canadian Indicator Framework Data Hub](#) (along with [many other countries and cities](#)), it provides for improved alignment with the Canadian Federal Government's SDG advancing efforts. I recently met with the StatCan team who manages the Canadian Indicator Framework Data Hub; they were extremely enthusiastic and pleased that we are using Open SDG and that, in fact, we are the first community in Canada using the Open SDG platform as an SDG tracking and advancing framework. They offered continued collaboration and support. I will likely meet with them again over the coming months to go over some of the more technical aspects of the project, including data upload automation.

The data dashboard will be embedded into the SP website using iframes (or a similar programming element) for a seamless integration. The SP website will be redesigned to reflect our current Strategic Plan, mandate, and objectives. It will house SDG education, the data dashboard, as well as qualitative data, reports, and administrative items. It is anticipated the two sites will be completed by the end of the year.