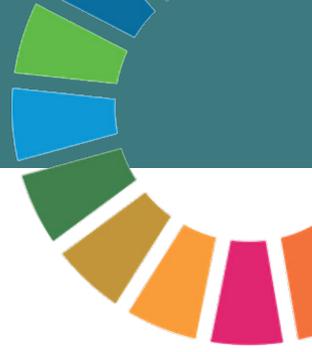Figure 1. Sustainable Development Goals Wheel https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/sustainable-development-goals_en

BCCIC- Sustainable Development Goal Scorecard Project

Prepared by:
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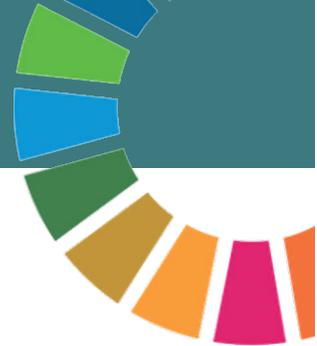International Cooperation

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS DISCLAIMER

INTRODUCTION

The Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) scorecard project in partnership with the British Columbia Council for International Cooperation (BCCIC) looked to better understand how the City of Kelowna has aligned local sustainability efforts with global agendas. The goal of this project was to review Kelowna's progress towards achieving the 17 SDGs as outlined in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In conducting Canada's first Voluntary Local Review (VLR), BCCIC supported in identifying targets and indicators that were within the city's priorities and ability to effect change. Identifying trends, challenges, and opportunities relevant to each of the 17 SDGs, the VLR project supports the advancement of sustainability in the community and in doing so highlights the important role that cities play in meeting global agendas.

BACKGROUND

In 2015, the United Nations and its 193 member states adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a "blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all."[1] At the core of the SDGs are 17 interlinked global goals that provide a universal framework for action to end extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustice and protect the environment. Since the adoption of the SDGs in Canada, various municipalities and civil society organizations (CSOs) have supported advancing this agenda at the local scale. Funded in part by the Government of Canada's Sustainable Development Goals Program, BCCIC is one organization focused on the SDGs and their implementation across the province of British Columbia.[2] BCCIC has produced a series of policy briefs on key issues concerning 2030 Agenda implementation, capacity development, localization, policy integration and monitoring and evaluation.[3] In 2015, BCCIC travelled to communities around the province to support and gather community members, local governments, and organizations to draw connections between the work they do and the Sustainable Development Goals.[4] The City of Kelowna participated in these initial activities and began working with BCCIC in collaboration with the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions, to create the SDG scorecard project and Canada's first Voluntary Local Review.

VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEWS

It is important to understand the function of Voluntary Local Reviews to fully appreciate the BCCIC scorecard project. A Voluntary Local Review is an emerging process by which subnational governments choose to evaluate and report on local-level progress towards achieving the SDGs.[5] While National governments are highly encouraged to conduct Voluntary National Reviews, Voluntary Local Reviews are optional, however, are becoming increasingly popular amongst municipalities as means to evaluate sustainability efforts and provide a roadmap for meeting various sustainable development goals. Integral to the process of developing Canada's first VLR close consultation with the City of Kelowna, and a variety of stakeholders was necessary. The result was a robust analysis and review of Kelowna's alignment with, and progress towards, the UN Sustainable Development Goals as outlined in this report.
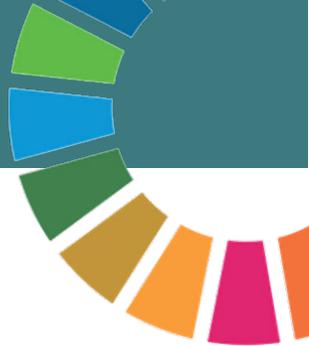
RESEARCH

Extensive research, review, and evaluation were fundamental to define current sustainability trends, challenges, and opportunities within the City of Kelowna and the larger regional district. An environmental scan prefaced this research as an opportunity to understand the local demographics and geography of the city in greater depth. This work included a thorough review of policies, targets, and indicators in local-level plans, including the city's Official Community Plan, Climate Action Plan, and Healthy City Strategy in order to identify their alignment with SDG targets and indicators. Following the review of local-level documents research focused on collecting and analyzing local-level data relevant to each of the 17 SDGs. This included researching various academic, grey, and government sources to understand current trends and challenges in the region. Working in collaboration with industry professionals, non-profit organizations, provincial, federal, and First Nations partners was integral to the fulfilment of this research. Data sharing, peer evaluation, and review ensured robust research that was inclusive to a variety of perspectives, scopes and scales. This research provided the foundation for the VLR report, highlighting current trends and challenges towards meeting the SDGs including recommendations for advancing sustainable development initiatives in Kelowna.

Examples of research conducted for this project included:

- Goal 3 - Good Health and Well-Being: Review and analysis of the "In Plain Sight – Addressing Indigenous Specific Racism and Discrimination in B.C Health Care"

- Goal 13 - Climate Action : Review and analysis of "Our Kelowna as We Take Action – Kelowna's Community Climate Action Plan"

- Goal 11- Sustainable Cities and Communities : Review and analysis of "City of Kelowna Healthy Housing Strategy"

DESIGN AND VISUAL REPRESENTATION

Effective design and visual representation were necessary to convey the complexity of research conducted through this project. Principle to this work was ensuring the report was easy to read and had a strong visual narrative to illustrate the Voluntary Local Review process and its intricacies. This required a collaborative effort to ensure the overall design and flow of the report was consistent, organized, and engaging for the reader. The report was primarily developed using InDesign, however, additional software such as Photoshop, Excel, and Illustrator supported the development of detailed graphs, charts, and other visual representations. The Voluntary Local Review report is a product of these design considerations and will act as a public-facing document for BCCIC and will be submitted to the City of Kelowna for review.
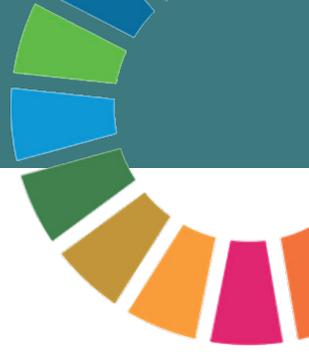
GLOBAL GOALS, LOCAL ACTION

In a world of rapid urbanization, cities play a critical role in advancing global agendas such as the Sustainable Development Goals. The United Nations has increasingly recognized the importance of local governance to drive a more sustainable future as emphasized in SDG 11- "Sustainable Cities and Communities".[6] In many countries, cities assume core responsibilities for policy areas underlying the SDGs such as water, housing, transportation, infrastructure, land use, and climate change.[7] Cities play an integral role in making policy decisions that advance or hinder global agendas for sustainable development. It is also at the local level in which people make daily choice and where human-scale progress can be made towards achieving sustainability. The VLR project exemplifies how cities can use the SDGs as a reference to guide local policies and plans that directly support a more sustainable community, while also contributing to the advancement of broader global agendas.

COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIP

Collaboration and partnership are cornerstones for the successful adoption, action, and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals as emphasized in Goal 17 - "Partnership For The Goals."[8] The SDGs cannot be achieved without broad and inclusive partnerships, as sustainable solutions cannot come from one sector acting in isolation.[9] The Kelowna VLR project encouraged multi-stakeholder partnership and collaboration between various entities including various levels of government, academic institutions, the private sector, CSOs and Indigenous partners. These partnerships were essential for data collection, expert evaluation, and review and provided the necessary inputs to create a robust and collaborative Voluntary Local Review.

INTERRELATED NATURE OF GOALS

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals address a variety of social, economic, and environmental objectives, however, remain deeply interconnected. This means that success in one goal can influence the success of others with positive interactions between the goals bringing opportunities to advance multiple objectives at the same time, creating larger impacts across a wider scale. While these connections create synergies between SDGs it can also result in trade-offs that must be managed to minimise negative impacts.[10] The interrelated nature of the SDGs as reflected in the VLR report highlight the importance of multidisciplinary, complementary, and de-siloed approaches to addressing sustainability.
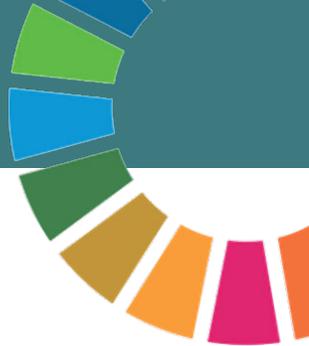
Leave no one behind is the central, transformative promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. It represents the commitment of all UN Member States to eradicate poverty in all its forms, end discrimination, and exclusion, and reduce the inequalities and vulnerabilities that leave people behind and undermine the potential of individuals and humanity as a whole.[11] Within the Canadian context Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, is a precondition for Canada's implementation of all 17 Sustainable Development Goals.[12] The work of Voluntary Local Reviews must recognize the inequalities faced by Indigenous Peoples as a product of colonialism and prioritize Reconciliation through this process. The VLR project covers the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the Syilx/Okanagan Peoples and recognizes while critical first steps have been made there is still significant work to be done to forge a new relationship centered around Indigenous engagement and Reconciliation.

CONCLUSION

The 2030 Agenda is a bold and ambitious agenda that speaks to our global commitment to advance sustainable development. Voluntary Local Reviews provide an opportunity for local level governance to align municipal goals with the SDGs and ultimately support a more inclusive, resilient and sustainable society. It is through partnership and collaboration that VLRs can leverage local knowledge and innovation to address sustainability both at home and within the larger global context.

Link to BCCIC Voluntary Local Review Report:

https://www.bccic.ca/Kelowna-SDG-scorecard/

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