

Working with the Sustainable Development Goals: Advice from Global Cities to Canadian Municipalities



1

Breathe the SDGs

Build an understanding of holistic sustainable development and what citizens want for the future, rather than starting with a statistical debate about goals, targets, and indicators.



2

Use Existing Data

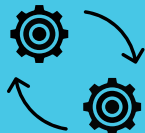
Leverage existing data collection systems for SDGs indicator tracking. If data is not collected, determine if there is a partner to collaborate with who has access. The SDGs offer a "good start" for municipalities without systematic sustainability approaches.



3

Connect the SDGs to Local Issues

Demonstrate how the SDGs provide new perspectives and insights on issues important to the community. Identify how the SDGs align with what is already happening and can deepen and improve planning.



4

Integrate, Don't Duplicate

Connect the SDGs to existing political goals and integrate with reporting mechanisms to avoid creating another layer of work. Don't stress about not hitting all targets. Connect with other cities to help interpret less applicable goals.



5

Foster Broad Ownership and Dialogue

Build ownership of SDGs work across departments and throughout the community. Leverage formal commitments to generate buy-in for the SDGs. This can help ensure consistency through political transitions and can be a platform for dialogue and consensus.



6

Start with Engaged People

Begin working with the departments and individuals who are invested in and see value in the SDGs. Momentum can be built by demonstrating success through pilot projects and initiatives.



7

Adapt the Language of the SDGs to the Local Context

Talk about the SDGs in a way that resonates in the community, perhaps focused on the issues, principles or vision for a better world. Advancing the SDGs doesn't require talking about the framework as presented by the United Nations.

