

**Exploring UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in BC's Cities:
*An investigation of SDG Alignment with Six Municipal Plans***

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Executive Summary

This paper looks at six British Columbia cities, evaluating their Official Community Plans (OCPs) and related planning documents (in the case of the City of Vancouver) in the context of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Very few provinces, municipalities and corporations are utilizing the SDGs as a framework for regional and local level ambition, and most remain unclear on how to help Canada achieve, implement and report on the SDGs, domestically and/or internationally. Taking six BC municipalities as a starting point, this paper aims to demonstrate how city initiatives connect to global goals, how the SDG framework can be used to communicate city sustainability ambition and achievement, and provide examples of local level sustainability-related policy and plans already underway that align and assist in the domestic implementation of the SDG goals and targets for Canada. Through assessing the alignment of six BC city's policy documents with the SDGs, this paper finds positive OCP-level policy alignment with many SDGs, alongside common gaps that should be considered to further advancement and implementation SDGs at the local level.

This research was made possible through a collaboration with the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS) and the University of British Columbia's Sustainability Initiative (USI). The six cities chosen for assessment are the same as those being studied by the PICS's Built Environment project, which aims to develop practical strategies and policy recommendations around greenhouse gas emissions reductions, alongside clean energy (SDG 7); resilient industries, innovations and infrastructure (SDG 9); sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11) and increasing climate action (SDG 13), and among other relevant SDGs in BC's built environment. These six cities include: Prince George, Surrey, Saanich, Kelowna, Revelstoke, and Vancouver, and represent the type of urban and suburban communities in which the majority of BC residents live.

Referencing examples of localization of the SDGs from the United States, this report is the first of its kind for BC municipalities. Realizing SDG alignment and gaps can provide a stepping stone for future action on the SDGs in municipal planning and assist in the national implementation and reporting of SDGs, both domestically and internationally.

Introduction

Sustainability has a long history and continues to be an ever growing aspect of city planning strategies in local governments in BC and across Canada. Furthermore, the role of cities in achieving global sustainability is becoming more and more prominent in national and international agendas, as municipalities are recognized as the direct conduit to communities and their citizens, as well as the opportunity to evoke change on the ground. Currently, many projects that range from international top-down directives to bottom-up civil society initiatives are aiming to increase urban sustainability. The United Nation's (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) outline 17 ambitious goals that include Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities which sets specific targets for urban centers. In British Columbia (BC), urban sustainability initiatives are numerous such as the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions' (PICS) Built Environment project that aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase energy efficiency, while improving liveability in BC cities, and Vancouver's Greenest City 2020 plan that aims to set international standards for urban sustainability. Urban sustainability initiatives are especially impactful in BC because 86 percent of BC's population resides in urban centers.¹ There are also provincial and federal mandates to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and a growing social awareness of the importance of wellbeing and social sustainability that is putting pressure on cities to become more sustainable.

The SDGs, globally agreed upon, have the potential to greatly impact city development. Yet in Canada, there has been an overall lack of senior government-led SDG initiatives, and little to no leadership, resources and support from the federal or provincial governments on how cities can use the SDGs to guide local government planning. Knowing that cities across the country have strong sustainability mandates, this report assesses six BC cities for alignment with the SDGs to identify where these cities' current local policies may align with global goals, as well as gaps where further policy development is needed.

This paper looks at six municipalities' Official Community Plans (OCPs) as a way to evaluate bottom-up initiatives that work towards achieving the SDGs. The report shows these BC municipalities have many policies in place to work towards achieving the SDGs, but also common policy gaps. The authors anticipate the findings can be used by municipalities to further connect their local initiatives to international goals, compare their sustainability initiatives to those of other municipalities, and to demonstrate how local governments are achieving progress on the SDGs to ultimately assist implementation of SDGs domestically and inform Canada's Voluntary National Review (VNR) to the UN.

In terms of overall structure, this report provides a background to the SDGs, an overview of SDG initiatives in Canada, provides examples of how the SDGs are being implemented or "localized" in local government policy and planning-related initiatives in the United States. Next, the core body of the report demonstrates how six BC municipalities' OCPs align with the SDGs through a series of graphic charts and policy summaries. The report concludes with a section on next steps, outlining how the SDGs can be more formally integrated into city planning in BC.

The Global Goals

In October 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Sustainable Development Goals, referred to as the Global Goals, or the SDGs. The goals are part of *Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* which outlines 17 goals and 169 targets that are meant to "stimulate action over the next fifteen years in areas of critical importance for humanity and the planet."²

¹ Statistics Canada. Population Urban and Rural, British Columbia, 2011 Census. Retrieved from statcan.gc.ca

² Un General Assembly, Seventieth Session. Resolution 70/1: Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. 21 October 2015.

The SDGs were created to continue the work of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), designed “to fight poverty in its many dimensions” and were the “overarching development framework for the world” from 2000 to 2015.³ The SDGs have a much more ambitious agenda than the MDGs. “They seek to eliminate rather than reduce poverty, and have more demanding targets on health, education and gender equality.” In addition, the SDGs “include issues that were not in the MDGs such as climate change, sustainable consumption, innovation and the importance of peace and justice for all.”⁴

The 17 goals and 169 targets of the SDGs outline specific action needed for sustainable development and have accompanying indicators to measure achievement. Though detailed, the goals are meant to be interpreted in context of each country’s unique opportunities, challenges and circumstance and have broad applicability. As stated in *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development*, the goals are “integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development,” (social, environmental and economic).⁵ Therefore, when interpreting sustainability achievements in the context of the SDGs, the UN recognizes the goals are not mutually exclusive and progress towards them will take different forms and be accomplished by different levels of government, alongside non-government and civil society organizations. Progress can also be measured with adapted indicators according to local data, and through locally defined targets. The UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) provides guidelines to align SDGs with local, academic and corporate sustainability agendas.⁶

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



3 United Nations. The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015.

4 United Nations Development Program. World Leaders Adopt Sustainable Development Goals. 25 September 2015. Retrieved from: undp.org

5 Un General Assembly, Seventieth Session. Resolution 70/1.

6 UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network. Vision and Organization. Unsdsn.org.

Sustainable Development Goals

1. No Poverty	End poverty in all its forms everywhere
2. Zero Hunger	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
3. Good Health and Wellbeing	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
4. Quality Education	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
5. Gender Equality	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
6. Clean Water and Sanitation	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
7. Affordable Clean Energy	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
8. Decent work and Economic Growth	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
9. Industry, Innovation, and infrastructure	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
10. Reduced Inequalities	Reduce inequality within and among countries
11. Sustainable Cities and Communities	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
12. Responsible Consumption and Production	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
13. Climate Action	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
14. Life Below Water	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
15. Life on Land	Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
17. Partnerships for the Goals	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

Canada and the SDGs

Canada, along with all UN member states, adopted the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development thereby stating its commitment to help to achieve the goals. Yet, to date, Canada has done little domestically or internationally to create broad-level awareness of the SDGs or action around implementation. There has been no guidance from the Canadian government to explain how Canada is tracking progress on SDG targets, or to explain how Canadian provinces and territories, municipalities, or public or private institutions can contribute to Canada's progress on the SDGs.⁷ This has left a gap in national-level leadership and direction that municipalities and private corporations have started to fill through bottom-up initiatives to track their own progress and contributions to the goals. At the same time, the apparent lack of national direction has also dissuaded some institutions from using SDGs as a framework, hindering alignment and progress towards achieving SDGs.

On the international stage, Canada has not yet participated in voluntary reporting at the UN Sustainable Development High Level Political Forum (HLPF), the venue created for countries to present their SDG initiatives to facilitate the sharing of experiences, and “strengthen policies and institutions of governments and to mobilize multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for the implementation” of the Goals.⁸ This stands in contrast to many countries, such as Australia and the United Kingdom, that have been acknowledged by the UN for their innovation and excellence in providing public services that implement the SDGs.⁹

Canadian efforts to mobilize on SDG commitments have seen a recent boost with the Canadian mission to the UN announcing that it will be presenting Canada's Voluntary National Review at the 2018 HLPF. In addition, BCCIC has requested that the Auditor General review the federal government's commitments to the SDGs which is expected to be done in March of 2018. BCCIC has been very effective in spurring bottom-up mobilization on the 2030 Agenda and evaluating where Canada stands on SDG completion. Moreover, they have been joined by the Brookings Institute who has also taken initiative to track Canada's progress on the SDGs to demonstrate where Canada needs to focus its efforts.

Brookings Institute published a report, *Who and What gets Left Behind? Assessing Canada's Domestic Status on the Sustainable Development Goals*, in which they present a framework for evaluating Canada's current domestic status on achieving the SDGs.¹⁰ They evaluate 78 of the 169 SDG targets that are outcome-focused and apply to high-income countries and take a “no-man-gets-left-behind” approach stipulating that for Canada to have achieved an SDG target, 100% of the population has to have achieved this goal. Their rationale being one percentage point represents 360,000 people in Canada; thus too many people are left behind even if Canada has a 99 percent success rate in achieving a goal. The report finds that overall, “Canada is not fully on track for achieving any of Goals one through 16” and identifies areas where groups and issues require targeted attention.¹¹

BCCIC has been very active in advocating for local and national-level activity around the SDGs and has taken on the SDGs as a primary focus of their organization. They have produced reports to evaluate Canada's progress towards achieving the SDGs, and also engaged with communities in the province of BC to communicate the SDG framework and understand how local civil society organizations see themselves as contributors to the Global Goals. In their report, *Where Canada Stands: A Sustainable Development Goals Progress Report*, BCCIC (2017) evaluates Canada's progress on the seven UN Sustainable Development

7 Government of Canada. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. International.gc.ca.

8 United Nations, Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform. High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development: Voluntary National Review. Retrieved from sustainabledevelopment.un.org

9 United Nations Public Service Forum 2017. Retrieved from un.org.

10 McArthur, John W., and Krista Rasmussen. Who and What Gets Left Behind? Assessing Canada's Domestic Status on the Sustainable Development Goals. Brookings. Global Economy and Development, Working Paper 108. October 2017.

11 McArthur, John W., and Krista Rasmussen, 2017.

Goals that were under review at the 2017 HLPF, providing a civil society perspective on Canada’s progress.¹² This report finds that even though Canada ranks 13th out of 149 countries in the 2016 SDG index, “Canada still has a long way to go until it can claim no one is left behind.”¹³ In their work with communities, BCCIC has found that there is enthusiasm and support for the SDG framework and that individuals and groups, including non-government organizations and local governments, were already driving progress on each of the SDGs.¹⁴

The enthusiasm for creating SDG initiatives outside of a formal national context, as seen from Brookings and from BCCIC, demonstrates potential for significant action towards achieving the SDGs at a sub-national level. The following section describes the “localization” of the SDGs, and the various forms this has taken.

Localizing the SDGs

Since being announced at the end of 2015, there have been many initiatives to align municipal corporate, and academic sustainability strategy with the Global Goals. Though initially conceptualized as country-level goals, the goals were meant to involve integrated partnerships and local champions, as highlighted in goal 17, “Partnerships for the goals,” and with the many SDG targets that call for local action.

The process of adapting the SDGs to subnational contexts is referred to as “localizing.” It takes into account local settings to develop suitable targets, means of implementation, and appropriate indicators to measure and monitor progress. Localization relates both to how local and regional governments [universities, or corporations] can support the achievement of the SDGs through action from the bottom up and to how the SDGs can provide a framework for local development policy.”¹⁵

Lessons learned from the MDGs suggest that SDG application at the local level can be beneficial, possibly even essential, in accomplishing implementation domestically. UN Development Program (UNDP) reported that the MDGs were most effective “when applied not as a rigid framework, but as an opportunity for change agents to: Draw attention to local needs; Build consensus on priorities; Win international support and local engagement; Align fragmented efforts; Make progress (or lack thereof) more visible; and/or Hold leaders to account for their commitments.”¹⁶ When used to these ends, application of the SDGs at the local level is critical in achieving desired outcomes locally, which in turn scales up to ensure success at the state level, and internationally. Localizing supports strong local sustainability strategies, while offering bottom-up channels capable of spreading and promoting greater awareness of the SDGs. The *SDGs & Cities* section will demonstrate innovative ways in which the SDGs have been adapted to monitor and evaluate sustainability progress and achievement in cities.

SDGs & Cities

Sustainability in cities is an integral aspect of achieving the SDGs, as highlighted by Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities. UNDP underscores the importance of cities in achieving the SDGs, as more than half of the world’s current population lives in cities, with continued rapid expansion over the foreseeable future due to rural to urban migration. Many social and environmental issues—and solutions—are concentrated in cities, while more and more national and municipal governments aim to provide services and address these multifaceted challenges through a sustainability lens.¹⁷

12 British Columbia Council for International Cooperation. Where Canada Stands: A Sustainable Development Goals Progress Report. July 2017.

13 BCCIC, Where Canada Stands, 2017.

14 BCCIC. The Invisible Mosaic: BC and the Sustainable Development Goals. October 5, 2016.

15 Global Task Force for Local and Regional Governments, UN Habitat, UNDP. Roadmap for localizing the SDGs. Implementation and monitoring at a sub-national level. June 2016.

16 United Nations. The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015.

17 United Nations Development Program. Sustainable Development Goals – Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities. Retrieved from: undp.org

The UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) started the USA Sustainable Cities Initiative (USA-SCI) to localize the SDGs and build on ongoing municipal sustainable development planning efforts.¹⁸ *Getting Started with the SDGs in Cities* explains that “the SDGs capture large parts of the existing political agenda in virtually every city. When aligned with existing planning frameworks and development priorities, they can strengthen development outcomes and provide additional resources for local governments.”¹⁹

Since its launch in early November 2015, USA-SCI has demonstrated how the SDGs can be useful in city-level sustainability evaluation and planning through two main initiatives. The *US Cities SDG Index* uses the SDGs as a lens through which to evaluate sustainable development. Using available data, it ranks 100 American cities on their sustainability performance across the 17 SDGs.²⁰ In addition, through USA-SCI three cities are piloting SDG-based city-level development strategies, San Jose, Baltimore and New York. This pilot process involves exploring how the SDGs can be made responsive to city-level development challenges and opportunities, articulating clear and compelling goals, and operationalizing the goals through targets and indicators.²¹ As these projects are experiments in SDG application, results of the pilot study are still to be determined, but as explained below in the San Jose example, progress has been made.

Universities are proven key partners in USA-SCI, which makes PICS’s and USI’s leadership on city-SDG initiatives promising and relevant to success. The interdisciplinary research and support that PICS, USI, and like institutions can provide creates opportunities for collaboration on SDG research and education and realizes the interconnected aspects of fulfilling the global goals. BCCIC also realized the importance of partnerships in their research and make a good case for the crucial involvement of civil society organizations in realizing the SDGs in Canada.²²

The San Jose case highlighted below, outlines the university-city partnership between San Jose State University and City of San Jose, showing how the City may better align their major city plans to the SDGs.²³ San Jose is highlighted in this report, as it is considered the US city that has made the most progress towards achieving the SDGs and has done, in the researchers’ opinion, the most clear and replicable work on SDG integration in city planning.²⁴

San Jose Highlight

San Jose, California, is the 10th largest city in the USA with a population of 1.05 million.²⁵ It has long been a leader in sustainability, and according to the *US Cities SDG Index* is ranked number one in sustainable development.²⁶ The City of San Jose partnered with San Jose State University and later Stanford University to explore implementation of the SDGs.

This initial project to assess San Jose’s City planning alignment to the SDGs and suggest recommendation for increased alignment was performed by San Jose State University and had the following goals: 1) Map current policies and initiatives to the SDGs; 2) Consult with key stakeholders to identify additional goals and targets to achieve the SDGs that the City could undertake by way of existing City initiatives; and 3) Present

18 Sustainable Development Solutions Network. Solutions Initiative: USA Sustainable Cities Initiative (USA-SCI). Retrieved from: unsdsn.org

19 UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network. *Getting Started with the SDGs in Cities: A Guide for Stakeholders*. July 2016.

20 UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network. *Achieving a Sustainable Urban America*. April 2017.

21 Sustainable Development Solutions Network. Solutions Initiative: USA Sustainable Cities Initiative (USA-SCI). Retrieved from: unsdsn.org

22 BCCIC. *The Invisible Mosaic: BC and the Sustainable Development Goals*. October 5, 2016.

23 San Jose State University. *San Jose: Implementing the UN Sustainable Development Goals at the local level*. December 2016.

24 UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network. *Achieving a Sustainable Urban America*. April 2017.

25 City of San Jose. *Population*. Retrieved from: sanjoseca.gov

26 UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network. *Achieving a Sustainable Urban America*. April 2017.

recommendations for next steps. This process recognized a need for data solutions to improve policy and services for residences. Stanford was brought on as a partner to identify necessary, feasible and relevant SDG indicator data to be incorporated into the City’s plans.

The project revealed that San Jose’s current General Plan and other main policy initiatives cover a broad range of SDGs, aligning with almost all of the goals. However, they contain many high-level policy statements that are difficult to measure progress against. Therefore, the report recommends the following:

As each initiative develops, ensure that a wide range of multi-sector stakeholders are involved, and establish a formal and clear mechanism to ensure ongoing community engagement;

Establish specific, measureable SDG-aligned targets under initiative and identify necessary and feasible indicator data for tracking

Develop an interactive, public data dashboard that tracks metrics

Establish a long-term advisory committee that will review progress, ensures accountability, and provide feedback on areas that need improvement to align with the SDGs.

Challenges foreseen with implementation of the recommendations are that establishing the right targets will take expertise and an understanding of how all the various stakeholders will be able to contribute towards achieving those targets. Another key challenge is the availability of data to track each target. These challenges provide the key takeaway that resources are needed to pursue the SDGs and that collaboration and partnerships between multi-sector stakeholders are necessary to achieve sustainable development.

SDG Alignment: BC Municipalities

Six municipalities were assessed for how their main policies align with the SDGs. These include: Prince George, Surrey, Saanich, Kelowna, Revelstoke, and Vancouver. These cities were selected as they are also being reviewed as part of the PICS Energy Efficiency in Built Environment project, which aims to develop practical strategies and policy recommendations to increase energy efficiency in BC’s built environment, a central component of reducing GHG emissions in the province.²⁷ In this PICS project, land use patterns and zoning criteria were reviewed and used to inform neighbourhood pattern typologies which can be used to develop energy efficiency strategies for the province. A review of these same cities’ policies in the context of the UN SDGs compliments the Built Environment project offers an international context for the research.

Official Community Plans (OCP), top-level planning documents required of municipalities by the BC provincial government, were used for mapping alignment. In the case of Vancouver, there is no OCP, so two primary planning documents were used, the *Greenest City 2020 Action Plan* and the *Healthy City Strategy (2015-2018)*, which together cover similar content to an OCP and the SDGs.

City Details

Municipality	Population, 2016 ²⁸	Region
Prince George	74,003	Northern BC
Surrey	517,887	Lower Mainland
Saanich	114,148	Vancouver Island
Kelowna	127,380	Interior BC
Revelstoke	7,547	Interior BC
Vancouver	631,486	Lower Mainland

²⁷ Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions. Energy Efficiency in the Built Environment. Retrieved from pics.uvic.ca, Dec. 2017.

²⁸ Statistics Canada, 2016 Census, City Census Profile. Retrieved from statcan.gc.ca.

Methodology

For each city, two OCP-SDG Alignment Charts have been developed showing alignment of the OCP subsections to each SDG as well as a policy summary table. The first chart, OCP-SDG Alignment, displays alignment with the OCP subsections as they are ordered in the OCP. The second chart, the OCP Breakdown, categorizes the OCP subsections into Required, Optional, and Additional headings to reveal which city planning policies go above and beyond that what is required by the Province. The Policy Summary Table briefly describes the policies, plans, and initiatives that a city is doing to work towards achieving each SDG.

The authors of this report read each OCP and reviewed content for alignment with SDGs through key word searches to develop the *OCP-SDG Alignment Chart*. Key words were chosen from the descriptions of the SDGs and their targets. A subsection of the OCP was marked as aligning with a SDG if the objectives and policies reflected intended outcomes of the SDG, while recognizing the context of the city. The same methodology was used to search through Vancouver’s planning documents.

A second chart, *OCP Breakdowns*, was also created based on OCP requirements as listed on the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Local Government Division website.²⁹ The municipal guidelines include “required” statements and map designations to be included in an OCP, alongside “optional” statements. For our search, any policy sections found in the OCPs that did not fall under these categories are as listed in the chart under “additional.”

When completing the Policy-SDG Table, the word search process was used again to identify local OCP policies and/or objectives with similar intention to each SDG. The OCP policy and/or objective is briefly described, and specific planning documents are also referenced. Furthermore, green, yellow, and red coloured dots are used to rank how well the policies aligned with the SDGs. Green indicates that the SDG is “well represented” in the OCP through detailed policy sections that cover the themes of the SDG relevant to cities/at the city-level scale. Yellow indicates that the SDG is represented in the OCP but through general or vague policies that do not cover all the themes of the SDG (relevant to cities). Red indicates that the SDG is not represented in the OCP.

Key Words Used in OCP Alignment Search

SDGs	Key Words
1. No Poverty	Poverty, poor, vulnerable, social protection
2. Zero Hunger	Hunger, food, agriculture, nutritious, malnutrition, healthy, farm, farmland, seeds
3. Good Health and Wellbeing	Health, wellbeing, mental health, maternal, children, newborn, AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, disease, drugs, alcohol, healthcare
4. Quality Education	Education, school, childhood, preschool, university, post-secondary, training, skills, literacy, literate, numeracy, numerate
5. Gender Equality	Gender, equality, discrimination, women, woman, girls, female, sexual, reproductive, empowerment
6. Clean Water and Sanitation	Water, sanitation, hygiene, freshwater,
7. Affordable Clean Energy	Energy, renewable, efficiency, fossil-fuels,
8. Decent work and Economic Growth	Work, economy, economic, gross domestic product, employment, productivity, diversification, labour, pay, income
9. Industry, Innovation, and infrastructure	Industry, industrial, industrialization, innovation, innovative, infrastructure, technology, economic development, financial services, credit, employment, markets
10. Reduced Inequalities	Inequality, equality, equal, income, accessible, access, ability, disability, social protection, wage, migration, race, ethnicity, religion, economic, socioeconomic, status
11. Sustainable Cities and Communities	Housing, affordable, transport system, transportation, accessible, urbanization, vulnerable, culture, cultural, heritage, disasters, air quality, waste management, rural, regional planning, inclusion, resource efficiency, community
12. Responsible Consumption and Production	Consumption, production, natural resources, waste, liquid waste, food waste, chemicals consumers, producers, companies, compost
13. Climate Action	Climate, climate change, natural disasters, awareness, mitigation, greenhouse gas (GHG)
14. Life Below Water	Marine, ocean, water, pollution, coast, coastal, fish, mammals, fishing, fisheries, overfishing, aquaculture, ecosystem
15. Life on Land	Lake, river, freshwater, terrestrial, ecosystem, forests, wetlands, mountains, drylands, deforestation, degradation, biodiversity, habitats, species, genetic, poaching, trafficking, wildlife, flora, fauna, conservation
16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	Violence, death, abuse, exploitation, trafficking, justice, equal, equality, law, legal, illegal, crime, accountable, transparent, institutions, inclusive, participatory, participation, representative, representation, discrimination, non-discriminatory,
17. Partnerships for the Goals	Partnership, partners, capacity, resources, tax, revenue, stakeholders, finance, trade

City Policy to SDG Alignment Findings

As part of the larger study, alignment findings for all six cities were summarized. Yet for purposes of this paper, we provide an OCP-SDG Alignment and Breakdown charts for the City of Kelowna, alongside Kelowna's Policy-SDG Table only as examples of the charts and tables that were prepared for the six cities.

As shown in the charts below, the City of Kelowna's OCP objectives and policies are categorized into five main sections: Development Process; Environment; Infrastructure; Economic Development; Arts, Culture, Heritage; Social Sustainability. In terms of ministry guidelines, the District of Saanich's OCP has many subsections (17) that meet the "required" mandate, including policies on land use; transit, agriculture, parks, etc. It also has two "optional" sections focusing on farm protection and stormwater management. Lastly, Kelowna outlines a number of "additional" sections not required in an OCP, including policies on arts and culture, heritage, and social sustainability, among others. As shown in the figures: OCP-SDG Alignment and OCP Breakdown, when evaluating OCP policy and objectives for the City of Kelowna with UN SDGs, there is considerable alignment amongst the required, optional, additional policies and objectives, with the strongest "key word" alignment found with:

- Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
- Goal 3: Good Health and Wellbeing
- Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
- Goal 14: Life Below Water
- Goal 15: Life on Land

Alignment was also found, but to a lesser extent, with:

- Goal 2: Zero Hunger;
- Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy;
- Goal 13: Climate Action;
- Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation;
- Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities;
- Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals;
- Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production.

The least alignment is found with Goal 1: No Poverty; Goal 4: Quality Education; and Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. The key word search failed to find any reference to Goal 5: Gender Equality in the OCP.

City of Kelowna OCP-SDG Alignment

Kelowna OCP Objective and Policy Themes

Development Process

General

Area-specific Considerations

Residential Land Use Policies

Commercial Land Use Policies

Industrial Land Use Policies

Institutional Land Use Policies

Agricultural Land Use Policies

Subdivision Applications

OCP Amendment Applications

Environment

Infrastructure

General infrastructure policies

General Transportation Policies

Transportation Demand Management Policies

Pedestrian and Cycling Policies

Transit Initiatives

Roadway Initiatives

Parking Initiatives

Parks Policies

General Utility Policies

Water Servicing Policies

Sanitary Sewer Servicing Policies

Stormwater Management Policies

Solid Waste Policies

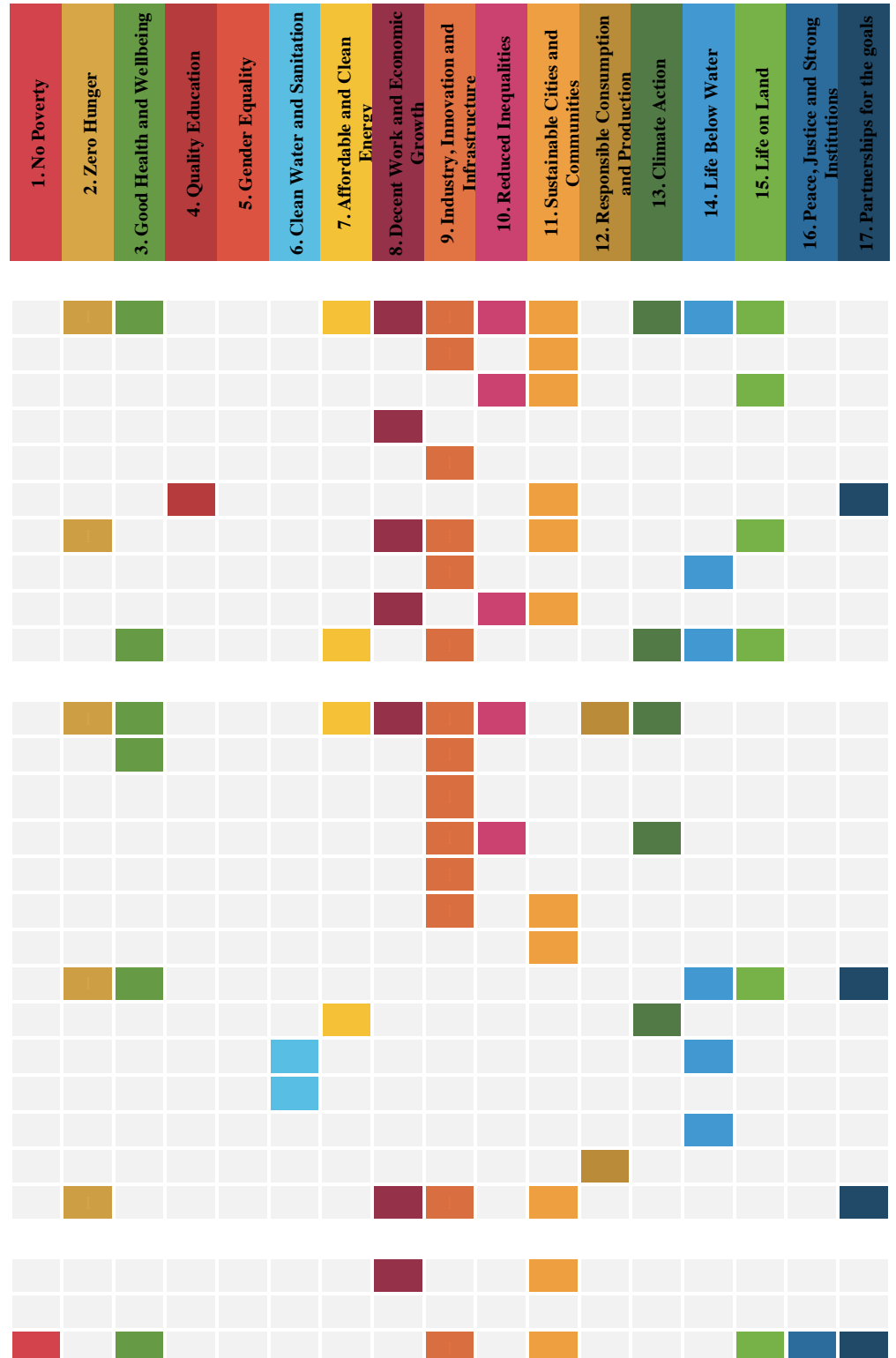
Economic Development

Arts, Culture, Heritage

Arts and Culture Policies

Heritage Policies

Social Sustainability

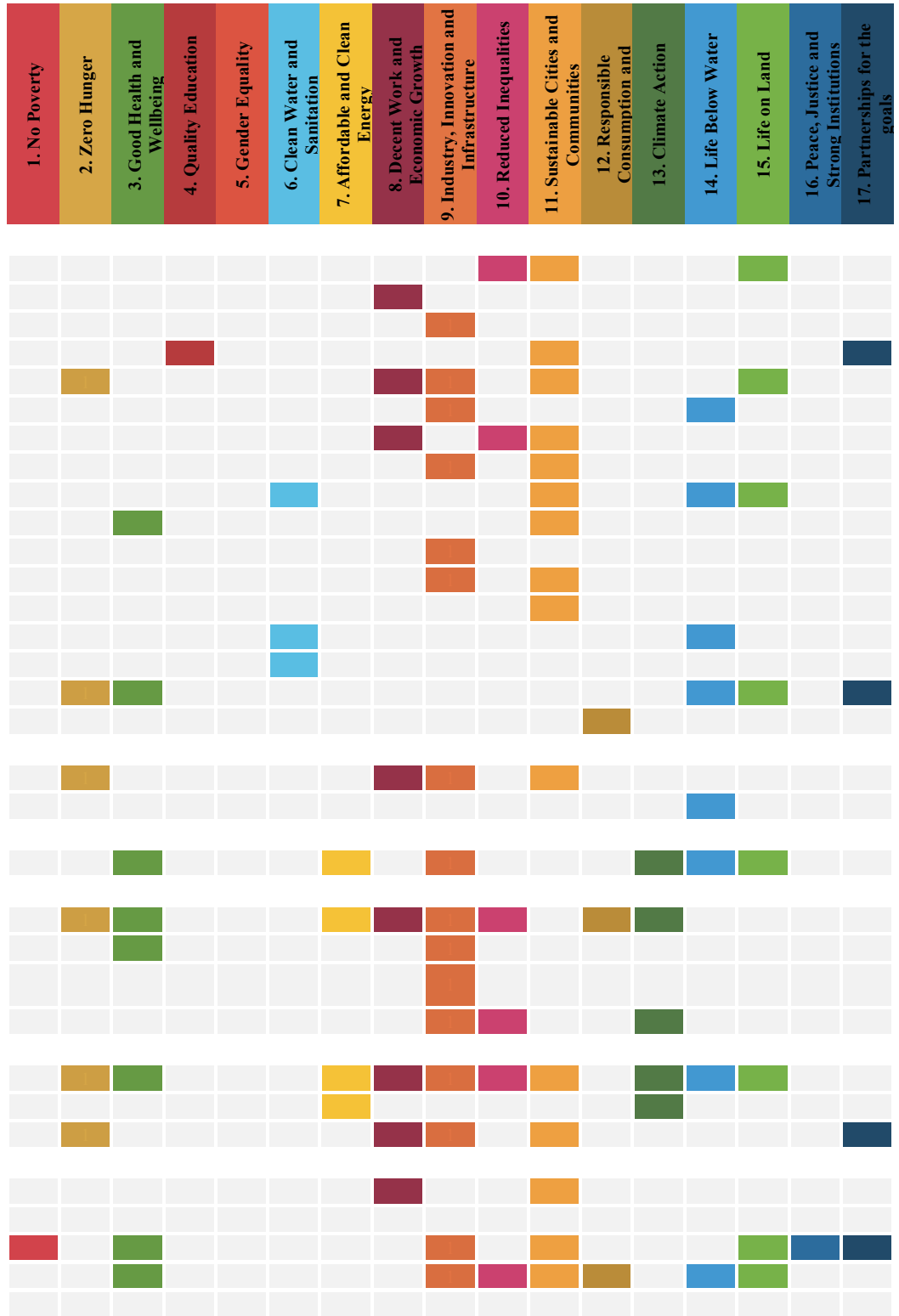


City of Kelowna OCP Breakdown

Kelowna OCP Objective and Policy Themes

Required

- Residential Land Use Policies
- Commercial Land Use Policies
- Industrial Land Use Policies
- Institutional Land Use Policies
- Agricultural Land Use Policies
- Subdivision Applications
- OCP Amendment Applications
- Area-specific Considerations
- Natural Environment DP Guidelines
- Hazardous Condition DP Guidelines
- Transit Initiatives
- Roadway Initiatives
- Parking Initiatives
- Water Servicing Policies
- Sanitary Sewer Servicing Policies
- Parks Policies
- Solid Waste Policies
- Optional Material**
- Farm Protection DP Guidelines
- Stormwater Management Policies
- Additional Material**
- Environment**
- Infrastructure**
- General infrastructure policies
- General Transportation Policies
- Transportation Demand Management Policies
- Pedestrian and Cycling Policies
- Development Process**
- General
- General Utility Policies
- Economic Development**
- Arts, Culture, Heritage**
- Arts and Culture Policies
- Heritage Policies
- Social Sustainability**
- Urban Design DP Guidelines
- Heritage Conservation Ara Guidelines



City of Kelowna Policy Summary

SDG	Ranking and Description of OCP Objectives and Policies	Projects, Initiatives, and Plans
1. No Poverty	● OCP has no policies on poverty reduction.	
2. Zero Hunger	● Policies aim to conserve water consumption to allow more for use in agriculture, encourage urban agriculture and local food production, protect farm land from encroaching development, and recognize agriculture as vital to the local economy.	Ministry of Agriculture's Guide to Edge Planning, Agriculture Land Commission Act
3. Good Health and Wellbeing	● An objective and policy aim to promote social wellbeing by providing facilities that are accessible to all community members, and providing active transit options.	City Guidelines for Accessibility in Outdoor Areas
4. Quality Education	● Policies aim to create school sites in appropriate locations and enhance and expand opportunities at post-secondary institutions.	
5. Gender Equality	● There are no policies on this SDG.	
6. Clean Water and Sanitation	● Policies protect ground water and minimize water consumption to provide increased resilience to drought. Policies aim to expand the sanitary sewer system to include new developments.	Sanitary Sewer Systems Priority Map
7. Affordable and Clean Energy	● Policies prioritize reducing energy demand and increasing reliance on renewable energy, supporting renewable energy infrastructure developments.	
8. Decent Work and Economic Growth	● Policies focus on creating a positive investment climate, expanding existing businesses and post-secondary institutions, maintaining open communication with the private sector, ensuring costs are competitive relative to other jurisdictions, attracting a skilled workforce, and connecting businesses through physical infrastructure.	Central Okanagan Economic Development Commission, Business Improvement Areas in Urban Centres
9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	● Policies aim to apply sustainable decision-making approaches in infrastructure planning and procurement including creating access to sustainable modes of transportation. Many policies are aimed at business development and supporting entrepreneurial initiatives.	
10. Reduced Inequalities	● There are policies that aim to make private buildings and public spaces accessible to all.	City Guidelines for Accessibility in Outdoor Areas
11. Sustainable Cities and Communities	● Policies to support to creation of affordable and safe rental, non-market and/ or special needs housing. Objectives and policies aim to identify and conserve heritage resources, develop accessible parks in all areas of the city, and create sustainable transit routes.	Housing opportunities Reserve Fund
12. Responsible Consumption and Production	● A policy aims to divert solid waste from landfills and provide opportunity for reuse and utilization of waste transported for disposal. Resource recovery planning is required in infrastructure projects to maximize opportunities for liquid, material and energy recovery. There are policies to apply sustainable decision-making approaches that include life cycle analysis, integrated resource management strategy, Green House Gas Reduction Criteria, Multiple bottom lines.	Regional Solid Waste Management Plan, Comprehensive Site Development Plan
13. Climate Action	● Kelowna has policies and targets in place to reduce GHG emissions and minimize the city's impact on climate change.	
14. Life Below Water	● Policies protect aquatic ecosystems and ensure that development does not affect surface water.	
15. Life on Land	● Policies aim to maintain intact ecosystems, protect wildlife corridors, protect threatened or endangered species, and preserve riparian areas, watercourses and streams.	Natural Environment Development Permit Areas.
16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	● Policies aim to increase community engagement, support crime prevention and limited vandalism.	Crime Prevention through Environmental Design
17. Partnerships for the Goals	● The OCP outlines intentions to partner with other levels of government and the private sector to accomplish policy objectives in many policy areas.	

Conclusion

The OCP Alignment exercise revealed that the six municipalities have policies that align with most of the SDGs. For all six municipalities, the OCPs generally align well with Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, and Goal 13: Climate Action. In almost all of the six municipalities there is reasonably strong alignment with Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, and Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals. The strong alignment for these goals is in part due to the type of document analysed; the OCPs have requirements for content that fits well into Goals 8, 9, 11, and 13, with there being a strong provincial mandate for action related to Goal 13. However, these cities also had a wide range of focus for policies that related to these SDGs representing how they were aiming to overcome problems specific to their municipality, with the Policy Summary tables providing an overview of the types of initiatives underway in each city.

For all five municipalities with OCPs, there was no mention of gender policies and therefore no alignment with Goal 5: Gender Equality. There was also very weak alignment with Goal 1: No Poverty. Vancouver's *Healthy City Strategy* does mention gender issues in many policy areas, as well as contains a strong policy area to tackle poverty. For all six municipalities, there is generally weak alignment with Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, and Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy. Though Revelstoke's OCP expressed concern over providing adequate potable water and sanitation utilities. Clean water and affordable electricity are not strong areas of concern for most BC municipalities due to the relatively cheap and clean hydro and availability of clean drinking water in most Canadian cities.

This paper outlines a start towards understanding where BC's local city policies lie within the framework of the UN global SDGs. The authors hope to spawn further research into relevant planning related reports, documents, initiatives and programs underway in BC cities and across Canada to better identify and determine additional alignment with SDGs, ideally, working in collaboration with local governments. This bottom-up analysis can be an important first step in creating Canadian-wide city-specific targets and indicators that can be combined and benchmarked to help track national progress on the SDGs.