

Moderation Team
Ajay Agarwal

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Section 1: Themes and Actions

Room 11 brought together 19 individuals from across Queen's University to discuss approaches to addressing SDG 11.

They highlighted three common themes: housing and the university's impact on the community, sustainable infrastructure, and accessible transportation systems.

The group stressed that all planning processes, outcomes, and frame of references for SDG 11 should reflect, as a starting point, the **land-based knowledge and priorities of local Indigenous peoples**.

It was noted that there was gender balance in the group. However, some important voices were excluded most notably women faculty members.

Participants indicated they are examining issues through local and global lenses.

1. Housing and the University's Impact on the Community

Issues within this theme included:

- x Housing crisis,
- x Student housing,
- x Green housing,
- x Waste management initiatives within student housing,
- x Active engagement with the community in planning, and
- x Preservation of cultural and heritage resources.

Discussion

Local and student housing was identified for its relationship to the housing crisis in Kingston. **It is crucial to identify the university's role in the housing market**, to understand how student housing impacts the local housing market, to investigate the **green nature of housing**, and determine whether current housing meets the needs of residents in a sustainable manner. A home standards project was proposed to help address issues surrounding the quality of housing in Kingston.

Various roles were identified for the university as a landowner and educator. It was proposed that the university can help students become involved in ensuring access to affordable housing and safe transportation.

The culture of “student ghettos” and the resulting low standard of living for student housing must be addressed. Queen’s, in collaboration with private landlords, can document housing standards as a student project.

Additionally, students are often alone when making complaints to the landlord-tenant board. There is a need for the university to support students. This could ensure safe communities by providing support before students are choosing housing for those with children or not familiar with Kingston.

The idea of landlord “certifications” was raised to ensure landlords are maintaining student housing to good standards.

2. Sustainable Infrastructure

Issues within this theme included:

- x Smart buildings,
- x Modelling and sensing smart cities through urban

As well it was proposed that Smart Buildings, which monitor rooms, could be used to reduce energy consumption.

Solutions

Based on the issues mentioned-above, solutions proposed looked to address Queen's role in sustainable infrastructure.

x **Dev**

How do we incentivize responsible travel behaviours? To improve sustainable transportation, Queen's-related actions will require collaboration with the city.

Solutions

Based on the issues mentioned-above, solutions proposed looked to address Queen's role in accessible transportation systems.

- x **Increase the cost of on-campus parking**

Section 3: Summary of Potential Projects for Next 12-18 Months

- x Ensure all planning processes, outcomes, and references reflect, as a starting point, the land-based knowledge and priorities of local Indigenous peoples.
- x Develop Queen's University Mobility/Active Transportation Network Guidelines for all Queen's University lands.
- x Develop parking policies that disincentivize driving to campus.
- x Develop a sustainability audit for student housing.
- x Selectively close streets on campus to automobile traffic.
- x Advocate for students and influence housing policy in the city.
- x Determine a ratio of university-owned housing Queen's is willing to take on.
- x Develop a landlord certification.
- x Support students in finding safe housing options.
- x Inform people of CO₂ emission/energy consumption for modes of travel.
- x Develop awareness of safe biking/walking routes, information of sidewalk size, bike lanes, lighting, etc.
- x Implement campaigns about biking routes: safety and overall health benefits.
- x Leverage park-and-ride systems to advocate for change.
- x Develop a bike campaign which provides interest free loans to purchase bikes, discounts at local bike shops, free maintenance, training.
- x Look at the issues using local, global, student, and in-house expertise.
- x Allow instructors to embed challenges/activities (local and global) in their curriculum.
- x Develop a curriculum and extra-curricular opportunities that encourage students to address their own local (outside of Kingston) challenges with sustainable solutions appropriate for those locals/regions. .

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