



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



Moderation Team

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SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all

Event Description

On **June 21, 2021**, Queen's University hosted its first [17 Rooms](#) event, which brought together Queen's faculty, students, and staff to identify next steps for advancing the [UN Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) at the university.

Participants were divided into 17 virtual rooms, one per SDG, and asked to identify actions **that Queen's University could take in the following 12 to 18 months to advance their specific goal.**

Rooms participants were also asked to identify:

- The most important issues related to their SDG that Queen's should address,
- Connections and common themes amongst these issues,
- How their SDG connects with reconciliation/conciliation, decolonization, and Indigenization,
- How their SDG connects with other SDGs.

Each room had two hours to brainstorm ideas before presenting their recommended actions to all participants. Following the event, each room's moderation team authored a summary report.

Room Participants

Jordan Carlson

Arik Collins

Michael Darling

Kevin Daub

Jennifer Day

Mark Daymond

Kayla Dettinger (Staff Facilitator)

Mark Green

Mengnan Guo

Stephen Harrison

Nicholas Lorroway

Warren Mabee (Moderator)

Brant Peppley

Suraj Persaud (Moderator)

Nathan Splinter

Balie Walker

Priscilla Yohuno

Action Summary

Room 7 brought together 17 individuals from across Queen's University to discuss approaches to addressing SDG 7. The group identified one central area for action.

Action: Establish an Energy Hub at Queen's University with a mandate to advance research, teaching, and engagement.

Action Description

Guided by the university's [strategic framework](#) and the [targets for SDG 7](#), we recommend the establishment of an Energy Hub housed at Queen's. The Hub's focus on research, teaching, and engagement reflects their interdependence and provides a structure for Queen's to make meaningful advances in these areas.

Critical to the Hub are community and stewardship, recognizing that partnerships and collaborations are key to success and that impact and innovation in clean energy can be had at all levels, including on Queen's campuses and properties. The Hub would have many stakeholders and interested parties, but within the Queen's community it would support core collaborations between faculty, staff, students, and alumni.

Research

Establishing the Hub will support collaboration among researchers at Queen's and at partner institutions, leveraging their unique expertise and providing a bridge for established research centres, institutes, labs, and groups to work together in addressing the multi-faceted components of SDG 7.

Teaching

The Hub would undergo a comprehensive review and assessment of all existing energy-related curriculum with a goal to identify opportunities to develop new courses, micro-credentials, certificates, specializations, professional education, mentorship, and experiential learning programs with a multi-disciplinary and inclusive lens on SDG 7, enhancing student learning and equipping them to implement change as alumni.

Engagement

Bringing together and communicating with researchers, community partners, industry, and institutions will champion subject-matter expertise, raise public awareness, create experiential learning opportunities, reframe curriculum and professional development, and mobilize innovation for real-world implementation as part of a community of practice in Eastern Ontario working towards global impact.

**Resources
Required****Partnerships and multi-disciplinary collaborations.****Within Queen's**

Researchers and faculty across the university are currently working and teaching in areas relevant to affordable and clean energy. Students and staff are also exploring and advancing energy initiatives through their own research, extracurriculars, or campus implementations.

The Hub would provide a structure to support expanding research at all levels of study and to implement research innovations into existing and new Queen's energy initiatives.

Regional

Royal Military College and St. Lawrence College support research and educational programs related to SDG 7 that would strengthen the expertise and available opportunities for an Energy Hub based at Queen's.

Municipalities and community groups such as the City of Kingston and Sustainable Kingston are strategic partners to champion and implement energy innovations locally, such as retrofitting heritage buildings, building on current town-gown partnerships for sustainability, providing experiential learning opportunities, and identifying energy priority initiatives such as improving access, affordability, future-proof building standards, etc. in which the Energy Hub could assist.

Partnerships with Indigenous communities, both regionally and through organizations such as [Focus Forward for Indigenous](#)

[Youth](#), are central to not only Queen's but Canada's success in advancing SDG 7.

For example, we propose situating Indigenous perspectives on sustainability as a guiding principle, partnering with communities on energy initiatives, engaging in sustained conversations to incorporate Indigenous ways of knowing, and building reciprocal relationships to support experiential learning, professional development, and skills enhancement opportunities to empower individuals and communities are some of the ways the Energy Hub could advance [Queen's Truth and Reconciliation Commission Task Force](#) and ensure equal partnership and benefit.

National

[NSERC](#), [CFI](#), [Mitacs](#), [NRCAN](#), and [ISED](#) are key federal/national and political stakeholders who could advance the Energy Hub's success. Funding opportunities for research infrastructure, community research partnerships, and experiential programs, such as NSERC CREATE, could be explored as resources and profile-building initiatives.

Provincial and federal governments, as well as groups such as [Council of Ontario Universities \(COU\)](#), [U15](#), and [Universities Canada](#), would be key stakeholders to consult and with which to foster relationships to position the Energy Hub as a community of expertise. Focusing on government relations will help advance SDG 7 innovations and implementations with broader impact, raise profile for the Hub and Queen's, and demonstrate the interdependence of research and teaching at Queen's, particularly in supporting student and professional education.

Partnerships with industry would also be a strategic focus. Like government relations, industry relations help advance SDG 7 innovations with broader impact and provide experiential learning opportunities for students across all levels of study. Partnering with industry could help accelerate Queen's knowledge mobilization and amplify the university's work in supporting innovation (ex. [Queen's Partnerships and Innovation](#),

	<p>Dunin-Deshpande Queen's Innovation Centre, etc.) through spin-offs, patents, future Superclusters, etc.</p> <p>Global</p> <p>Working with our existing international associations and building new partnerships would expand the Queen's Energy Hub's global impact. Starting with opportunities at the Bader International Study Centre (BISC), understanding how an Energy Hub could contribute to global partnerships and position Canadian expertise among groups such as the Matariki Network of Universities (MNU), Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU), etc. would be important to developing the Hub's international outreach and participating in global conversations.</p>
<p>Actions in Next 12- 18 Months</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiate an exploratory process to understand institutional support, stakeholder and partner engagement, structure and core competencies, and funding opportunities for the Energy Hub. • Host an Energy Summit as part of a stakeholder engagement strategy to assess faculty, staff, student, and alumni support for an Energy Hub and foster connections across the university related to SDG 7 innovations and implementations. • Develop a communications and outreach strategy based on the SDG framework to raise both internal and public awareness of current Queen's energy initiatives and goals, research, teaching, and student engagement to champion and encourage increased SDG 7 activity supported by current and new collaborations and partnerships with the university. • Review recruitment processes and opportunities to address SDG 7 core competencies, maintain expertise, and fill retirements at Queen's with a focus on diversified and multi-disciplinary faculty, comprehensive and holistic approaches to research and teaching, and EDII.