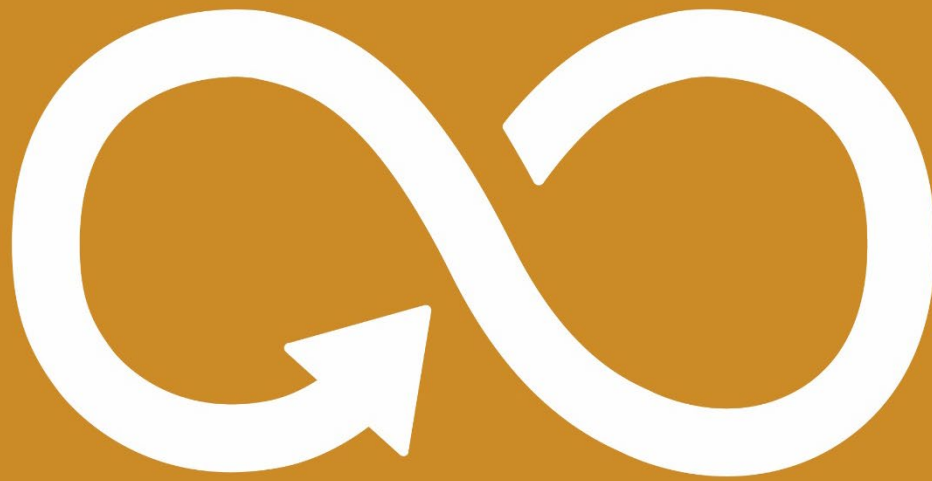




12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



Moderation Team

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SDG 12: Ensure sustainable
consumption and production
patterns

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

Jessica Bertrand	Oonagh Maley
Alaina Boyd	Jack Martindale
Craig Desjardins	Carlyn McQueen (Staff Facilitator)
Na'ama Haklai	Melanie Moede
Myra Hird	Llynwen Osbourne
Sarim Jamal (Student Facilitator)	Avery Webber
Rachel Kuzmich	Jessica Wile
Qingguo Li	Laurence Yang (Moderator)
Jean-Baptiste Litrico (Moderator)	Qian Zhang

Section 1: Discussion of Issues Related to SDG 12

For initial issues brainstorming, the participants were asked: What are the most important issues related to this SDG that Queen's should address?

The SDG 12 group synthesized the issues into four themes. Within each theme further categorizations are made to showcase the range of issues.

Theme One: Move the university towards avoiding consumption.

- In terms of sources of waste, we highlighted issues pertaining to the purchase and life cycle of office supplies and office furniture. We highlighted waste and environmental impact associated with business related travel, and waste generated at undergraduate labs, dining halls, and retail food services.
- In terms of waste management strategy, recycling was presented as an issue itself. Recycling does not incentivize waste generation reduction given the positive overtone that recycling has, however a significant portion of waste does not meet criteria for recycling.
- In terms of specialized waste, electronic gadget-based waste has increased because of the pandemic. Participants highlighted the need to have conduits for refurbishing electronic gadgets, such as an on-campus store which repairs and sells refurbished electronic goods.

Theme Two: Revamp procurement and contracting policy and norms.

- In terms of procurement policy and system, the issues included the decentralized nature of procurement throughout the university, which prevents a common environmentally friendly procurement standard.
- The optional nature of environmental guidelines in evaluating procurement bids are an issue. Also, sustainability is not a factor in the contract award criterion.
- In terms of procurement and contracting norms, the issues highlighted included product life span, moving the focus on repairing rather than purchasing new equipment, and greater transparency with the community about the contracting done by the university.

Theme Three: Enhance coordination among departments, students, staff, and the wider community.

- In terms of coordination, there is a need to establish a methodology to give the members of the Queen's community a common platform to collaboratively address interconnected challenges and waste management strategies.
- In terms of institutional measures, participants noted that the Queen's Energy and Waste Management Unit is underfunded. This limits the unit's ability to have more involvement in the campus' sustainability initiatives and advocacy.

Theme Four: Increase advocacy within the university about sustainability initiatives and advocate sustainable attitudes in external engagements.

- In terms of internal measures, the participants highlighted the need to have mandatory training on climate change and responsible consumption for Queen's staff, faculty, and students.
- In terms of external measures, the participants highlighted the need to utilize the research done in the university regarding sustainability and then create opportunities for greater application to industry and wider society.

Section 2: Actions Brainstorm

To encourage creative thinking, the participants were asked to not limit their brainstorming to just the very short term (12-18 months). Hence, this second section reflects the near and long-term initiatives that the group recommended.

Participants emphasized that enhancing responsible consumption and production practices should **support the Indigenization of Queen's procurement and waste reduction activities**. Queen's has a responsibility to be a careful steward of our environment and to seek input from Indigenous communities on our sustainability practices, contributing to our ongoing reconciliation work.

Conduct an enhanced campus waste audit

Participants noted the importance of the university's existing waste audits. Opportunities should be explored to enhance the audits. This could include a classification of the waste according to a typology, such as electronic, organic, paper-based, etc. which could guide Queen's waste reduction strategy.

Training programs around sustainability

Participants recommended that a mandatory sustainability-oriented training course be designed for staff, faculty, and students. The course should highlight problems, available conduits, and misconceptions associated with waste management.

Fundraising and budget allocations to support sustainability-oriented initiatives

In terms of fundraising, an on-campus sustainability social enterprise-based fund should be established. This would support the scale up of sustainability-oriented innovation and enterprises on campus.

In terms of budget allocation, the participants advocated an increase in the Sustainability and Energy Unit's budget. Furthermore, this increase in budget should be accompanied by an increase in the unit's mandate to advocate for sustainable practices in the university's operations (especially procurement).

Communication and coordination methods

Participants highlighted the need to have a common online platform, with two functions:

- First, a platform that would map all sustainability initiatives at the university and in the broader Kingston community.
- Second, the platform would also have a buy and sell database to facilitate the exchange and refurbishments of goods, especially electronic.

Section 3: Developed Actions

Room 12 brought together 18 individuals from across Queen's University to discuss approaches to addressing SDG 12. The group filtered the solutions and came to consensus on two major areas for action in more detail.

Action 1: Establish a Center for Sustainability at Queen's University

Action Description

The intended outcomes are:

(1) **An institution centered around sustainability** with its initiatives having visibility and catalyzing community engagement. The Centre for Sustainability would assist in reducing waste on campus and include such elements as a Re-Store for used electronics or office furniture, a lending library, and repair café.

	<p>(2) Encourage synergy amongst the various sustainability initiatives happening in Queen’s and broader Kingston area.</p>
<p>Problem Statement/ Issue Summary</p>	<p>The university generates 4,000 metric tons of waste each year, and only ~30-40% of that waste is recycled.</p> <p>The Center will assist in reducing waste generation on campus and address the problem of the disparate nature of student-run sustainability initiatives, which operate in silos.</p> <p>It is proposed that the Sustainability Centre include a Re-Store to encourage offices at Queen’s to share and re-use items such as electronics, office supplies, and office furniture. The Centre should also include a Lending Library and Repair Café. Students interested in waste reduction initiatives could partner with or work for the Sustainability Centre.</p> <p>Participants discussed that sustainability-oriented initiatives, such as recycling programs led by students, are repeated yearly owing to the lack of a conduit for institutional memory. The Center for Sustainability is important for the purposes of scaling up social initiatives.</p> <p>The student community will benefit from having an institution conducive to maintaining partnerships and scaling up social enterprise. Furthermore, the university will gain a location where it can showcase pilot programs for future funding. Participants agreed that the wider Kingston community should be consulted in the institution’s operations, which would generate a positive spillover effect for the City of Kingston.</p>
<p>Resources Required</p>	<p>In terms of resources required, annual operating funding, space and modest staffing would be required for the Sustainability Centre. Participants suggested that the Centre should operate under the Energy and Waste Management Unit in Queen’s Facilities portfolio.</p>

	<p>A City of Kingston representative also stated that supporting sustainability initiatives is a key priority for both the federal and provincial government. As such, government grant funding may be available to support this initiative.</p> <p>As for people-based resources, administrative staff will be required for the Center’s daily operations. Participants highlighted the need for sustainability initiatives to be more inclusive of the wider university community, hence the Center’s operations should follow inclusive decision making.</p>
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Action 2: Reform Procurement Policy with Community Input

<p>Action Description</p>	<p>The intended outcomes are:</p> <p>(1) A mandatory environmental fallout accounting mechanism when ranking bids for procurement.</p> <p>(2) Updating the Queen’s Sustainable Procurement Guidelines and mandate its usage at all stages of University’s procurement processes.</p>
<p>Problem Statement/ Issue Summary</p>	<p>This action aims to address how the current procurement procedures at Queen’s do not strictly mandate sustainable purchasing practices in ranking procurement bids and the non-transparent nature of contracting and procuring.</p> <p>The university should leverage its significant purchasing power to focus on sustainable products and services and reduce Queen’s environmental impact. Queen’s purchasing activities could also be leveraged to support businesses that align with the university’s environmental and social values, such as gender equity and living wages, and thus support all other SDGs.</p> <p>It was suggested that Queen’s should explore opportunities to partner with local public sector institutions like the City of Kingston and local hospitals to expand our purchasing power. A</p>

	<p>collective effort would encourage widescale waste reduction and support the production of sustainable products and services.</p> <p>Participants discussed that the current procurement policy keeps sustainability as an optional priority, with the Sustainable Procurement Guidelines as optional in application and the sustainability aspects of the procurement not a criterion when ranking bids. Enhancing and mandating the use of the Sustainable Procurement Guidelines will allow units at Queen’s to critically evaluate if the product or service is truly needed. If it is determined that a product is needed, the Guidelines can help the purchaser assess the environmental impact of the product’s life cycle, including production, transportation, packaging, expected shelf life, and disposal. This critical assessment will allow units to make informed purchases and significantly contribute to the university’s waste reduction efforts and responsible consumption efforts.</p> <p>Procurement reform must involve inclusive campus and wider community consultations. The community can hold the university’s processes to account and provide valuable insights.</p>
<p>Resources Required</p>	<p>Assess if the review of Queen’s sustainable procurement practices and the enhancement of Queen’s Sustainability Guidelines, including a costs benefit analysis, could be managed internally or if an external consultant would be needed.</p> <p>Participants recommended that the review include a consultation phase to gather input from students, staff, and faculty, as well as from the wider community.</p>