

Schulich x CityStudio CEL Project

Medical Sciences 4300

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Preface

Executive Summary

The goal of our project was to map the City of London Plan to the UN's Sustainability and Development Goals. An aim of the project was to present the contents in the City of London Plan in a more understandable and accessible way for London citizens and city councillors to be able to engage with. Another aim was to measure the similarities and discrepancies of the London Plan and the UNs SDGs in a quantifiable way that could be easily examined by the city when creating future city plans. Our deliverables were a 1-minute video pitch, an excel spreadsheet that maps the items in the London Plan to the SDGs, and infographics showcasing key results. A table of contents was created highlighting the sections of the London Plan that we covered including city building policies, rural place types and city-wide place types. We found that the three most aligned SDGs were Goal 9 industry innovation and infrastructure, Goal 11, sustainable cities and communities and Goal 13 climate action. The most common targets were 9.4, 9.1, 11.2, 11.2, 11.3 and 13.2. The least aligned were Gender equality, Life below water and Partnerships for the goals. We found that a lot of targets in the UN SDGs that were least used were designed for developing countries. The impacts of our project included making the city of London Plan more accessible to London citizens so they can be more informed of what the city is working on. The mapping of the London Plan to the UN SDGs helps create more long-term goals as the London Plan is contextualized to the goals of the SDGs which are set to 2030.

Perspective-Taking and the Philosophy of Ubuntu

Perspective-taking involves looking at a concept, situation, or idea from a point of view other than your own. Engrained in perspective-taking is the practice of empathy, where through understanding an alternative point of view, it becomes possible to share and understand the *feelings* of others. The same focus on empathy resides in the philosophy of Ubuntu as described by Henri Boyi: "I am because you are." This human-centered philosophy views humanity as a

social being with a connected consciousness, rejecting discrimination and viewing the actions of individuals as something not only influenced by society but also as an influence on society. As our project has a diverse target audience of stakeholders, from city officials to citizens across the socioeconomic spectrum, understanding the experiences and reality of those individuals through perspective-taking was an important part of our motivation and influenced the communication of our deliverables. The poster to be used at CityStudio Hubbub and simplified infographics were all developed with a human-centered approach and various perspectives in mind. The poster was developed respecting perspectives of city officials, so we included detailed analysis and explanation of our motivation, ensuring that we communicated our findings using encouraging language rather than criticism and blame. Infographics are easier to understand and cater to the general population in London who we understand may not have the literacy skills or time to read the London Plan, but still deserve to know this information. We hope that through the dissemination of information to these individuals, the social being of London can grow and improve.

Socioeconomic Status and Health

When undertaking this project, we placed high emphasis on the equity of in-city mobility. Upon familiarizing ourselves with the UN SDGs and the purpose of the London Plan, mobility became central to our discussions while mapping the plan. The *In Sickness and in Wealth* class video framed disparities in health outcomes in relation to socioeconomic status in Louisville by highlighting neighbourhood average household income and the health statuses of these neighbourhoods. Lower income neighbourhoods had worse health outcomes. For our project, this finding was substantiated by in-class analysis of the Sunningdale and East London neighbourhoods. Compared to Sunningdale, a visual observation of East London reveals that with its lower average household income, has lower built recreational infrastructure. Further, East London is lined with fast food and other establishments reminiscent of the low income “ninth street” described by Dr. Troutmann in the *In Sickness and in Wealth* video. The specific lack of active mobility-supporting infrastructure motivated our analysis of related city building policy. The London Plan envisions increased bike lanes, neighbourhood connectivity, and redesigned distances between recreational and commercial spaces. These visions are outlined such in clear alignment to the SDG, Sustainable Cities and Communities, which is the plan’s

most represented SDG; however, we believe developing neighbourhood-specific approaches could better uphold the SDG, Good Health and Wellbeing. We will present these findings of SDG distribution to city councillors at CityStudio Hubbub, with emphasis on the implications of current city policy in relation to mobility and health across neighbourhoods, with the goal of inspiring future municipal improvement projects.

Homelessness

A section we focused on in our evaluation of the London City plan was the “homelessness prevention and Housing” policies section. As mentioned by the homelesshub website, there are only 5 shelters in London Ontario with 372 beds to accommodate 2,670 individuals facing homelessness. These statistics show the extreme need for advocating for increased accessibility to housing in London. The UN SDGs we mapped to these policies aimed to achieve “No poverty” and “Reduced inequality” for individuals facing homelessness. One policy states that neighborhoods should be planned to have mixed types of housing. This policy could help in reducing the stigma towards individuals facing homelessness because it ensures that individuals facing homelessness are not isolated to certain areas of the city and viewed as “different”, because as Dan Turner said, the humanity aspect that is lost is one of the biggest issues faced when experiencing homelessness. Our project’s results identified that only 1.1% of policies aim to reduce poverty and 6% of policies address reducing inequality. With our deliverable (statistical analysis of policies) we are able to show that more needs to be done for individuals facing homelessness and the injustices they face, such as the inequalities in receiving medical care, and employment as mentioned by Dan. In our presentation at the Hubbub event, we will be able to use information from Dan’s lecture to advocate with our deliverable for policies to help reduce inequalities faces by individuals facing homelessness as well as policies for reducing homelessness in London.

Future Directions

A good place to start with the continuation of the project would be mapping the documents we did not analyze in the London Plan to the SDGs. The totals can be added on to the totals we found in our results section to give a more comprehensive overview of the London

Plan. Another place for continuation of this project is examining other city documents outside the London Plan to see if the three least aligned SDGs, Gender Equality, Life Below water and Partnerships for the Goals, are found elsewhere. We were discussing with a community stakeholder, Luis Patricio who is the SDG cities project lead and he had mentioned that the Gender equality SDG was heavily related to a different city plan called the city strategic plan. If the 3 lowest aligned SDGs are found elsewhere, it can be referenced to in our table of contents so citizens and those who use our project are aware that the city is still working on these areas.