



SDG_CAPACities: Integrating the Sustainable Development Goals in Climate Planning in UK and Japan

Record of Information gathered through an online survey

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1.0 Introduction

As part of the networking grant for UK-Japan research collaboration under the grant ES/S013547/1 (Integrating the sustainable development goals into climate planning in British and Japanese cities, SDG_CAPACities for short), primary information was collected from local government authorities, individuals and academics. This document provides the primary information gathered through an online survey conducted in the UK. The information is being shared publicly to facilitate subsequent use by other users for academic research and studies.

2.0 Methodology

The purpose of the questionnaire was to explore the alignment of climate action plans of UK local authorities with sustainable development goals (SDGs) as well as their benefits and barriers.

In accordance with the research governance policy of De Montfort University, the project received ethical approval (1819/514) from the Faculty Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Computing, Engineering and Media. The data collection has complied with the ethical approval given to the project.

The survey used a questionnaire consisting of 13 sections (see the instrument below). The instrument relied on interview questionnaire as the starting point (see Box 1 as an example) but adjusted it to suit the purpose of the survey. The instrument was pilot tested using colleagues as De Montfort University. The final instrument was shared via email on 28th July 2020 and the instrument was open for an initial period of one month but the deadline was extended to 20th September, 2020 to allow for further participation.

Box 1: Sample interview questions

- 1. Please tell me about the climate action and adaption plan of the city?
- 2. Please elaborate on the activities undertaken in your city as a part of the climate action and adaption plan.
- 3. What are all the activities done on the city's climate action plan?

- 4. What type of challenges and barriers were faced in implementing the climate action plan?
 How were these challenges addressed?
- 5. Has the city defined its Sustainable Development Goals? How is the city's Climate Action Plan linked to these goals, if at all?
- 6. Over the past years, tell me about the developments in the city that have surprised you the most in terms of climate action plans or sustainable development goals?
- 7. How effective do you think the actions are to mitigate the climate change effects and adapt to it?
- 8. Have you observed any impacts or effects of city's climate action plans? How has the city addressed any adverse impacts?
- 9. How are the climate action plans covering all populations of the city?
- 10. Do you think there are any benefits of aligning actions on the climate change and sustainability? Why?

3.0 Record of survey data

The survey received 8 responses. The data is anonymised and any reference that could identify the participant has been removed.

- 1) Type of local authority: Unitary authority 3; County council 2; District council 2; and London Borough 1;
- 2) Respondent's department: Environment/ Sustainability 7; other 1;
- 3) Size of the city in terms of inhabitants: between 60,000 and 175,000 2; above 175,000 5; no response 1;
- 4) Geographical location in England: South-east 2; West Midlands 2; East Midlands 3; North West 1;
- 5) Local climate strategies/ plans developed: climate management 1; climate mitigation plan 6; climate adaptation 3; energy strategy 2; sustainable development strategy 3;
- 6) Stakeholder participation in the local strategy plan development

Stakeholder category	Very limited	Limited	Sufficiently	Satisfactorily	Very satisfactorily
Politicians			1	4	3
Other council departments	1		2	3	2
Academia		5	1	2	
Business	2	5		1	
Charities and NGOs		5	1	2	
Community or civil society organisations		2	2	4	
Housing associations		7	1		
Energy or water utilities	2	3	2	1	
Media	2	3	3		

7) Factors facilitating or hindering council's actions

Factors	Not	Substantial	Minor	Not a	Minor	Substantial
	applicable	obstacle	obstacle	factor	enabler	enabler
Financial		8				
resource						
availability						
Conflict/		4	3	1		
convergence						
with other						
budget						
priorities						
Staff		1	1	1	4	1
expertise						
Staff time		2	4		2	
availability						
Information			2	1		5
availability						
Political will					3	5
Community				1	5	2
engagement						
Collaboration			1	3	3	1
with private						

and voluntary					
sectors					
Coordination		1	2	4	1
with regional					
and national					
institutions					
Conflict/		1	6	1	
convergence					
with national					
policies					
Action/	4	1		3	
inaction in					
central					
government					

8) Agreement/ disagreement with the indicated policies

Policy	Not	Strongly	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly
	applicable	disagree		agree nor		agree
				disagree		
Improve				3	5	
energy						
efficiency in						
homes and						
businesses						
Increase local			1	1	3	3
renewable						
energy						
generation						
Affordable				1	4	3
warmth for						
low income						
Decarbonise	2		2		4	
private and						
public						
transport						
Affordable,	1		1	3	3	
safe and						
quality						
housing						
Access to safe	1		1	2	4	
transport and						

	Т	T	T	T	Т	
other services						
for disabled						
and						
vulnerable						
population						
SME skills and		1	1	4	2	
innovation		-	-	7	_	
Reduce local			1	1	5	1
			1	1	5	1
air pollutants	4	4	2	2	2	
Promotion of	1	1	2	2	2	
sustainable						
business						
practices						
Improve	2			3	2	1
access to	_				_	-
digital						
infrastructure					_	
3R policies for			1	1	5	1
municipal						
solid waste						
management						
Reduction of				4	4	
plastic waste						
Promote local		1	1	3	3	
and						
sustainable						
food						
production						
Reduce food		1	1	4	2	
loss and		_	_	4	2	
waste				4	6	4
Promote				1	6	1
wellbeing and						
healthy-						
lifestyles						
Reduce water	1			4	3	
pollution and						
improve						
water quality						
of river/ lakes						
Promote			3	3	2	
water						
conservation						
CONSCI VALION						

and water efficiency in homes and					
businesses					
Access to				7	1
public spaces					
Awareness			5	2	1
for climate-					
resilient					
communities					
Infrastructure	1	2	5		
upgradation					
Sustainable	2	1	1	3	1
forest					
management					
Support		1		6	1
natural					
ecosystem					
and services					
Support	5		3		
sustainable					
marine and					
coastal					
ecosystem					
management					
Enhance civic		1		4	3
participation					
Participate in	2		2	1	3
international					
collaboration					

9) Factors facilitating/hindering SDG integration in climate policies

Description	Not	Substantial	Minor	Not a	Minor	Substantial
	applicable	obstacle	obstacle	factor	enabler	enabler
Co-benefits at	1			2	2	3
lower cost or						
with enhanced						
impacts						
Interlinkages /	1			1	4	2
synergies						
between SDGs						
Communication/	1		2	2	3	
coordination						

with other						
council						
departments						
Complexity of	1	1	4	1		1
SDG goals and						
targets						
Involvement of a	1		1	3	2	1
wide range of						
stakeholders						
Data availability	1			4	2	1

10) Extent of SDG engagement of local authorities

	Very limited	Limited	Sufficient	Satisfactory	Very Satisfactory
SDG in local	1	5	2		
policy					
frameworks	6	1	1		
Awareness and communication	В	1	1		
campaign					
Priorities based	5	2		1	
on SDGs					
Localised SDGs	4	3		1	
Synergies and	2	6			
links with					
regional/					
national SDG					
strategies					
Actions and	4	3	1		
resources for					
SDG priority					
implementation					
SDG-based plan	6	1		1	
or SDG					
alignment					
Local institution	7	1			
and governance					
frameworks					
Council-level	4	3		1	
collection,					

monitoring and				
analysis of data				
Participate in	6	2		
the national				
level monitoring				
and evaluation				
of SDGs				

Appendix 1: SDG-CAPACities_survey

Page 1

The purpose of this questionnaire is to explore the alignment of climate action plans of UK local authorities with sustainable development goals (SDGs) as well as their benefits and barriers as part of the ESRC project "Integrating the sustainable development goals into climate planning in British and Japanese cities." This project aims to develop an understanding about climate planning and SDG awareness of cities in two countries. By completing this questionnaire, you are helping us to improve this understanding.

This work is conducted by researchers at the Institute of Energy and Sustainable Development (IESD) in De Montfort University. The data will be used in reports to the project funders, academic papers, and conference presentations.

What does it involve?

We would like you to complete this online questionnaire. Completing this survey should take 15 to 20 minutes of your time. Your name and personal details will not appear on any material arising from this research.

Voluntary participation

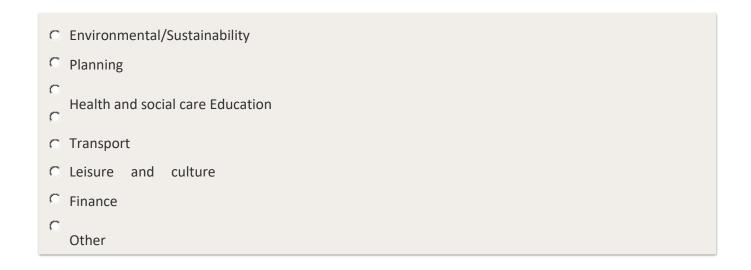
You may decide to drop out from this study at any time. To do so, simply stop answering the questions and close your Internet browser. If you would like that your answers are removed from this study after you have completed the questionnaire, please contact the researcher at the Institute of Energy and Sustainable Development using the details below.

If you have any questions about this study, please feel free to discuss them with Leticia Ozawa-Meida (lozawa-meida@dmu.ac.uk).

We can assure you that the methodology for the data collection has been reviewed and approved by the De Montfort University Human Research Ethics committee (Research Ethics Application Approval 1819/514). Only the researchers at De Montfort University will have access to the collected data.

Do you agree to participate in this study? Required
O Yes
C No
About your local council
Please provide the name of your local council:
Please indicate the type of local authority of your council:
C Unitary authority
C County council District
Council Metropolitan
C district London
^C borough

Please indicate the department where you work in your local council:



What is the size of your city in terms of inhabitants?

```
C Less than 7,500

Between 7,500 and 24,999

Between 25,000 and 59,999

C Between 60,000 and 174,999

More than 175,000

C Considered as a major population and economic centre
```

Where is your city/council located?

C Scotland Wales C Northern Ireland South C west of England South
east of England West Midlands
East Midlands (includes East Anglia) North west of England
North east of England
About climate planning in your local authority
Regarding to climate policies, which of the following local strategies or plans have been developed and published by your council? Please tick all options that apply.
☐More info
☐ Carbon management plan ☐ Climate mitigation plan Climate ☐ adaptation plan Energy strategy ☐
Sustainable development strategy
Does your local authority have a greenhouse gas emissions reduction target? Please provide details of the absolute or relative emissions reduction target, by when, baseline year.

To what extent are the following stakeholders involved in the formulation and monitoring of climate mitigation and adaptation policies?

	Very limited	Limited	Sufficiently	Satisfactorily	Very satisfactorily
Politicians (MPs, Counsellors)	П	Г		Г	Г
Other Council departments	Г	Г		Г	Г
Academia		Г	Г	Г	Г
Businesses	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г
Charities or NGOs	Г		Г	Г	Г

Community or civil society organisations	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г
Housing Associations	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г
Energy or water utilities	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г
Media	Г	Г	Г	Γ	Γ

To what extent do you think that the following factors facilitate or hinder the ability of implementing local climate mitigation or adaptation actions...?

	Not applicable	Substantial obstacle	Minor obstacle	Not a factor	Minor enabler	Substantial enabler
Financial resource availability	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г
Conflict/convergence with other budget priorities	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г
Staff expertise		Г	Г		Г	
Staff time availability	Г	Г	Г		Г	Г
Information availability (e.g. data, modelling tools, etc.)	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г
Political will in decision-making	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г
Community engagement	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г
Collaboration with private and voluntary sectors	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г
Coordination with regional and central institutions		Г	Г	Г	Г	Г

Conflict/convergence with regional or national policies	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г
Action/inaction in central government	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г

Regarding the council's climate mitigation and adaptation policies, to what extent do you agree or disagree that these policies have been effective to...

	Not applicable	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree, nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
Improve energy efficiency in homes and businesses	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г
Increase local renewable energy generation		Г	Г	Г	Г	Г
Support low income and vulnerable households for affordable warmth	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г
Decarbonise public and private transport in the city		Г	Г	Г	Г	П
Provide access to affordable, safe and quality housing		Г	Г	Г	Г	Г
Provide access to safe public transport and other services for disabled and vulnerable people	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г
Improve skills and support innovation in SMEs related to renewable energy, energy efficiency or climate protection		Г	Г	Г	Г	Г
Reduce local air pollutants, such as particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, etc	Г	Γ	Г	Г	Г	Γ

Promote business sustainable practices (eco-friendly processes and technologies, circular	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г
and technologies, circular						
economy)						

Improve access to digital infrastructure	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г
Decrease municipal solid waste through reduce, reuse and recycling	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г
Reduction of plastic waste	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г
Promote local and sustainable food production	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г
Reduce food loss and food waste	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г	П
Promote well-being and healthy lifestyles	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г
Reduce water pollution and improve water quality of rivers and lakes within the council		Г	Г	Г	Г	Г
Promote water conservation and water efficiency at homes and businesses		Г	Г	Γ	Г	Г
Improve access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces		Г	Г	Г	Г	Г
Raise awareness to strengthen community resilience to climate- related hazards and natural disasters		Г	Г	Γ	Γ	Г
Upgrade infrastructure to become more resilient to climate change impacts		Г	Г	Г	Г	Г
Support the sustainable management of all type of forests in the council		Г	Г	Г	Г	Г

Support the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of natural ecosystems, their services and their biodiversity	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г
Support the sustainable management and protection of marine and coastal ecosystems		Г	Г	Γ	Г	Г
Enhance civic participation in local climate policy development		Г	Г	Г	Г	Г
Participate in cities' international collaboration projects and initiatives related to climate protection		Г	Г	Γ	Г	Г

Integration of Sustainable Development Goals in local policy

To what extent do you think that the following factors facilitate or hinder the ability to integrate Sustainable Development Goals into climate action plans...?

	Not applicable	Substantial obstacle	Minor obstacle	Not a factor	Minor enabler	Substantial enabler
Co-benefits at lower costs or with enhanced impact	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г
Inter-linkages/synergies between SDGs	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г
Communication/coordination with different council's departments	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г
Complexity of SD goals and targets	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г
Involvement of a wider range of stakeholders	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г

Availability	of re	elevant					
economic,	social	and	Г	Г	Г	Г	
environmenta	I local data	a					

Please indicate to what extent your local authority conducts the following activities in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals:

	Very limited	Limited	Sufficient	Satisfactory	Very satisfactory
Include the SDGs in the council's own policy frameworks	Г	Γ	Γ	Г	Γ
Carry out SDG-related awareness-raising and communication campaigns	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г

Establish priorities relating to the 17 SDGs based on local contexts, needs and resources	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г
Develop a set of localised SDG indicators, specific to the council	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г
Identify and build on synergies and links with regional and/or national SDG strategies	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г
Identify the actions and resources needed to implement local priority areas of the SDGs		Г	Г	Г	Г
Draft an ad-hoc SDG- based plan for the council or align existing plans with the SDGs	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г
Set up local institutional arrangements and governance frameworks to support the implementation of the SDGs	Г	Γ	Γ	Γ	Г
Collect, monitor and analyse SDG-related data at the council level	П	Г	Г	Г	Г
Participate in the monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs at national level	Г	Г	Г	Г	Г

For more information about the project, please visit https://www.sdg-capacities.net/

Final page

Thank you very much for completing this questionnaire. Your input will help us to understand better the opportunities and challenges faced by local authorities in integrating SDGs with local climate plans.