

CY PLAN 119: Planning for Sustainability
Department of City & Regional Planning, UC Berkeley
Group Project Assignment (Fall 2015)

Background

This semester we will explore what the concept of sustainability means at the global scale and implications for planning practices that promote sustainability in the Bay Area. The United Nation's newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals represents consensus among member nations about the global development agenda through 2030, and the recognition that meeting development goals must be built on a foundation of sustainability. The group project is part of an ongoing course project focused on real world practices around sustainability planning. It builds upon the work of students in prior classes, where local and regional sustainability planning in the Bay Area were evaluated using both (1) the new American Planning Association accreditation process to review comprehensive plans for sustainability criteria (<https://www.planning.org/sustainingplaces/compplanstandards/>) and (2) Plan Bay Area (<http://onebayarea.org/plan-bay-area.html>), the region's "sustainable communities strategy" (SCS) as required by the California Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008 (SB 375). SB 375 supports the State's climate action goals under AB 32 to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through coordinated transportation and land use planning.

Description

This year, the class will be divided into groups based on 11 Bay Area cities and assigned one issue addressed by the UN sustainable development goals (The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/> with a focus on Goal 11: Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable). Each group will be asked to consider how the Bay Area fits into global sustainability efforts and will be assigned a case study to evaluate how a city outside of the US is tackling global sustainability (based on your group's assigned topic). Each individual will be responsible for writing up a specific portion of a 10 page memo addressed to the planning director of their assigned city, as well as contributing to the overall deliverable for the project. The project consists of three parts:

1. Investigate how local cities have been integrating global sustainability initiatives in planning practice at the local and regional level. (There has been a lot of political controversy around UN sustainability initiatives, such as Local Agenda 21 See <http://www.planbayarea.org/pdf/Agenda21mythsfacts.pdf> and Dr. Karen Frick's lecture on 11/17). Have local cities and the region engaged explicitly in global sustainability efforts? How so?
2. Evaluate and map out the implications of Goal 11 for local and regional sustainability planning goals. Your core material for this will be the targets under Goal 11 of the SDGs and the work done by two previous CP 119 classes evaluating your city's sustainability planning against the American Planning Association (APA) sustainability accreditation criteria and Plan Bay Area. (See <http://iurd.berkeley.edu/blog/measuring-urban-sustainability-evaluating-the-apas-new-sustainability-accre>) and material in bCourses).
3. Analyze one key sustainability challenge the city is facing and how it has been and is addressing that challenge (see below). In this work, you will be expected to gather data from publicly available datasets and draw from a framework we have discussed in class (storying institutions, landscape literacy, land use planning, ecological planning, justice frameworks (environmental justice, climate justice, food justice), the planner's triangle or livability prism, etc.
4. Use a comparison case study from the UN Habitat's "Compendium of Inspiring Practices" to explore how a global city is addressing a particular sustainability challenge faced by your city, and how the city embodies the UN's International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning (see <http://unhabitat.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/IG-UTP-Flyer-English.pdf>).
5. Key Takeaways for Practice. Based on the analysis in #s 1-4, what recommendations would you make to the planning director with respect to using the SDGs for sustainability planning in your city?

Requirements

To do this, students are required to review, become familiar with and use resources posted in bCourses (including the work of previous projects, posted resources, the Sustainable Development Goals, the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning, Plan Bay Area, APA sustainability criteria, online data (e.g. food desert locator, urbandisplacement.org, etc.), all publicly available documents online, additional independent research, and contact with at least one planning professional (ideally with a planner in your city). Students should plan on visiting their city to view project areas or areas identified as the key sustainability challenge (e.g. port areas, waterfronts, industrial zones, food deserts, etc.)

Project Deliverables

Final deliverables include a poster (to be presented in class on 12/8 and 12/10) and a 10-page memo plus appendices:

1. **Policy memo** written to the Planning Director of your city, with recommendations on additional steps the city might take to address the Sustainable Development Goals to support and amplify local and regional sustainability planning. 10 page report, including 1 page cover memo with report overview and recommendations summary; appendices with list of authors (indicating sections you were primarily responsible for), acknowledgements, references, and any additional material (data, maps, tables, charts, resources), and at least one analytical map and one table are required in final report.
2. **Poster** should be printed for display in class and a digital version uploaded to bCourses containing the following:
 - a. project title, group members, class, year
 - b. Results of findings #1-4
 - c. Summary recommendations to the Director of Planning
 - d. Acknowledgments
3. **Peer Evaluation** There will be a final, required peer evaluation where you will grade yourself and each other on group participation and performance.

Presentation Guidelines

Each group should plan for a 10 minute presentation with 5 minutes Q&A. Presentations are scheduled for 12/8 and 12/10 (RRR week) from 2 pm (not Berkeley time) – 3:30 pm. We are working with Northern California APA to invite Bay Area planners to the final presentation. You should also invite your city contact to the final. **(Everyone is expected to be in attendance as this is the Final for the class)**. Take advantage of the medium: Don't fill your poster with text. Use images, maps, charts, tables, links to video). You can also embed charts, maps, and figures in your report to help illustrate your main points and findings.

Final Notes

The best projects will be professional (neat, well-formatted, edited) and cohesive, reflecting your work as a group to develop your project, recommendations and deliverables. As a group, you should spend time discussing how you will allocate your work load and check in with each other's progress and findings along the way. The presentations will focus on your specific recommendations as an opening for discussion. For this project, we are also interested in the process of carrying out the assignment itself (How difficult or easy was it to find information about your comparison case study, the UN documents, data? How well do global sustainable development goals sync up with regional and local sustainability planning?) Use your resources! Reach out to the instructors for advice or guidance on any of the criteria noted above.

List of Cities, Comparison Case Studies and Suggested Topics

Berkeley - Niassa, Mozambique: Intermediate Cities

Dublin – Shenzhen: Sustainable Economic Development

Emeryville – Norwegian cities: Climate Change Adaptation

Fremont – Santa-Fe, Argentina: Intermediate Cities

Mountain View Ahmedabad: Inclusion through Transport

Oakland-Belgium: Dealing with Port Pollution (or Toronto: Food Security)

Petaluma - Yangtze River Delta: River Management

Richmond – Melbourne: Greening the City

San Francisco – Greater Cairo: Brownfield Regeneration

San Jose – Brazil: Sustainability through Participation

San Rafael – Lyon: Planning for Inclusion and Quality of Life