



Why we do what we do and the impact we believe we can make

If we...

- Are guided by our values and principles
- Demonstrate the efficacy of integrating a sustainability lens to pre-existing community agendas and projects
- Explore with community groups multiple future pathways to normalizing sustainability across systems and at the neighbourhood scale
- Model an approach to research and sustainability planning that adds value to both community agendas and urban sustainability.
- Introduce the Connected Community Approach and the KGO example into theory and research spaces
- Inject the concept of centring communities into climate risk discourse
- Use the context of transdisciplinary knowledge co production to codify, formalize and share processes that integrate sustainability and backcasting of desirable futures with the Connected Community Approach

We expect that we will see an increase in

- Researchers working effectively and meaningfully with and in community led/ centred projects, adding value to on the ground priorities
- Resources flowing to KGO to support projects that advance desired KGO future(s) as articulated by community members themselves
- Increased support by KGO community members to sustainability agendas

- Examples, stories and evidence of how a sustainability agenda can advance local priorities
- Understanding of the intersection of community development and sustainability agendas both at the local and systems level
- Desire among researchers, policy makers and systems level project leads to build their capacity to use the Connected Community Approach and Transdisciplinary Knowledge Co production to centre communities in their strategies and projects
- Recognition of the important role intermediaries play in bridging sectors and scales

Which will result in...

- Tangible benefits for the KGO community over time
- Sustainability and climate action increasingly included as a core component of community based projects
- Systems level players (including the academics and City of Toronto staff) developing climate related and sustainability strategies that start with community priorities and agendas (mindset and process shift)
- Centring communities in sustainability policy, planning and actions increasingly becoming the norm
- Normative futures work that roots itself in community values, aspirations and priorities
- Alignment of systems level processes and funding with community agendas
- Communities most impacted by climate are seen and treated as critical players in generating both mitigation and adaptation strategies, and broader sustainability planning
- Funding programs being developed to enhance the role of community intermediaries (shift in resource flows)
- Closer connections between community-scale aspirations and priorities and urban scale plans and strategies

So that... Sustainability and climate action strategies, plans and actions gain momentum and become more effective over time