

City of Kingston: Scenario Planning with Social Co-Benefits

Project Overview

To advance City of Kingston's climate goals, the City of Kingston needed a practical way to compare climate actions by emissions reduction, cost-effectiveness, and social co-benefits. By engaging the Bard MBA team, City of Kingston sought to identify a decision-support tool for scenario planning and define the social priorities that the Climate Smart Kingston Commission determines should be prioritized in shaping local climate action.

Methodology

- Benchmarked municipal climate planning tools against six criteria: cost, social co-benefits, GPC compliance, scenario projection, credibility, and multi-sector applicability.
- Assessed Kingston's local data foundation and reviewed how tools could model buildings, transportation, and other sector pathways.
- Conducted a structured survey with the Climate Smart Kingston Commission to rank co-benefit priorities and preferred forms of community engagement.

CURB was the strongest tool fit

Use CURB as Kingston's primary planning tool to compare pathways across sectors and quantify cost, emissions, and energy impacts.

Better data is essential

Collect additional local data to reduce reliance on default assumptions and improve scenario accuracy for future planning decisions.

Community priorities are clear

Apply survey findings to prioritize housing affordability, resilience, green jobs, and community voice when evaluating climate actions.

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