

Comments from 5th Global Climate & SDG Synergy Conference

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As the [Synergy Solutions for Climate and SDG Action: Bridging the Ambition Gap for the Future We Want](#) makes clear, climate action and SDGs are fundamentally linked and that there are multiple ways to enhance ambition through actions that engage with both of the goals. However, it is also clear that the next steps are shifting from more generalized findings to contextualization and localization, and specifically bridging the “last-mile” implementation.

“Last mile” implementation issues are critical to leaving no one behind and it also brings into focus decision-making and fiscal structures which are the closest to people. For example, budgets at these levels from community to municipal scales represent one of the most direct expressions of local priorities, and they are more directly tied to the projects and services that comprise our everyday activities. It is at this level that employing considerations of synergies between SDGs and climate action can build coalitions and foster cooperation across diverse interests on local priorities, ensuring that the finance has a meaningful impact.

Transdisciplinary and transformative research efforts can play an important role in enhancing access to information, generating data and information of higher salience to the issues that are identified by communities, and has a higher potential for building trust in both the data and the process by knowledge is formalized. There are opportunities for engaging with university-based researchers, research funding agencies and foundations to generate opportunities for research efforts that are directed by the community partners. This can also provide educational and capacity building opportunities for students and youth within these communities as part of data gathering, allowing for opportunities that capacity and training building on synergies. This is also a call to restructure academic practices and incentives to “researching communities” to “researching with community partners”.

Even more importantly, in addition to improving the trust in the data, these approaches can also open opportunities for leadership and advocacy on sustainable development and climate action within communities to guide their own development and climate priorities, fostering new entry points for bringing science out of the reports into action.