

SUMMARY

Roadmap for measurable sustainability indicators for the fire safety community

Activities, services, products, energy use, and other aspects of life are increasingly being appraised in terms of sustainability. This is a very positive trend; however, the desire to assess sustainability has exceeded the development of measurable sustainability indicators (MSI) in some areas. This is the case in many areas of the fire safety sector. From the bottom up, researchers and fire safety engineers are frequently required to place their proposed projects in the context of sustainability but are at a loss about how to do it. Meanwhile, from the top down, municipalities and policymakers are under increasing pressure to make progress toward achieving the very ambitious goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and/or other sustainability targets. From a decision-making perspective, how sustainable is one option compared with another? How much progress is an organisation making toward their sustainability goals? Without MSI it is very difficult to answer these questions in an objective way.

The sustainability landscape was explored for fire safety engineers, researchers, municipalities, authorities, policymakers, fire and rescue services, and fire service product suppliers. A review of the literature, online sources, project reports and numerous interactions

RESEARCH TEAM



Results

The results show that the target groups included in this project had some overlapping and some unique sustainability needs. Fire service product suppliers are content to self-declare their sustainability status. Fire and rescue services would like MSI to help them make tactical and strategic decisions while responding to fires. They are also interested in MSI to help them convey their sustainability value to the communities they serve. Fire safety engineers would like MSI to support their suggestions for improvements in construction design. Researchers and educators will contribute to the development of MSI that serve the needs of the other target groups. Authorities could use MSI to evaluate progress toward improved sustainability in their jurisdictions and transfer data to other levels of government.

One of the goals of this pre-study was to create a foundation for future development of MSI for the fire safety community. Several ideas for future work were identified and are described in Chapter 5 of the report. Additional target groups have been identified that may be a source of future inspiration, resources,



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