



# ENABLING PARTICIPATION IN INFRASTRUCTURE

## ABOUT THE INNOVATION SPRINT

If the SDGs are not to be just 'another set of goals' we need to apply a new set of approaches to achieving them. The Innovation Sprint is experimenting with these approaches.

The Innovation Sprint is a multistakeholder, innovation process that is meant to create new forms of collaboration and develop pilot-level solutions to SDG challenges. A cohort of 25 individuals has been assembled from a variety of institutions, disciplines and backgrounds. The cohort has identified four priority action areas - financial system reform, participatory infrastructure, food systems and digital for social.

The sustainable infrastructure team is exploring how citizens and individuals can play a more participatory role in the infrastructure that is around them and enables many dimensions of everyday life. This team is focusing on energy infrastructure and is now testing crucial assumptions identified during the workshop and gathering further background research to inform the next stage of the process which is ideation - creating actionable idea that could be taken forward into projects.



## WHY SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE?

Infrastructure makes up much of the built environment around us and enables various dimensions of an individual's everyday life including energy, water, waste, housing, food and transportation. Infrastructure tends to live in the background but when explored further can be dissected into a number of aspects, including technology, legal, financial, business, and social drivers. Technological and social innovation are starting to be used in infrastructure development which is a promising trend for citizen participation in infrastructure. This is particularly true in energy with smart grids and distributed generation. Infrastructure can be an engine for development if it is developed with people, planet and prosperity in mind.

## DESIGN QUESTIONS

### How can we create better energy infrastructure that improves jobs quality of lives and the environment?

- Infrastructure development is often a top down process carried out by governments or large institutions. Modern technology and more active social participation have the potential to improve how infrastructure is designed, built, operated and integrated into communities. Can the technology and social dimensions of infrastructure be brought together in creative ways to increase participation in energy infrastructure?

### How can we increase participatory engagement in energy infrastructure?

- New developments in connectivity, big data and open source data make information more readily available and can potentially ensure infrastructure is more fit for purpose. Can existing and future data be used to influence how infrastructure is designed, built and operated?
- As naturally social creatures, the social aspects of humans such as knowledge sharing, partnering, advocacy, activism, and capacity building can apply to infrastructure as well. How can these social dimensions be harnessed to enable a grassroots participatory process around energy infrastructure and ownership over infrastructure debate debates.
- Are there institutions that are well positioned to marry the social and technological aspects of infrastructure?

## MEET THE TEAM

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