Integration of SDGs in

☐ Institutional governance/strategic level
☐ SDGs in research
☐ SDGs in campus operations
☐ SDGs in curriculum development
☒ SDGs in student engagement activities
☐ SDGs into community activities
☐ SDGs at a whole-institution level

Focus on

☐ Goal 1 - No poverty
☐ Goal 2 - Zero hunger
☐ Goal 3 - Good health and wellbeing
☐ Goal 4 - Quality education
☐ Goal 5 - Gender equality
☐ Goal 6 - Clean water and sanitation
☐ Goal 7 - Affordable and clean energy
☐ Goal 8 - Decent work and economic growth
☐ Goal 9 - Industry, innovation and infrastructure
☐ Goal 10 - Reduced inequalities
☐ Goal 11 - Sustainable cities and communities
☐ Goal 12 - Responsible consumption and production
☐ Goal 13 - Climate action
☐ Goal 14 - Life below water
☐ Goal 15 - Life on land
☐ Goal 16 - Peace, justice and strong institutions
☐ Goal 17 - Partnerships for the goals

Summary – SDGs in student engagement activities

We incorporate the Global Goals into our student engagement programme and activities. This case study highlights our approach within the London Student Sustainability Conference 2022.

The fourth London Student Sustainability Conference took place in February 2022. Building on past successes, and partnerships forged through previous events, this year's Conference was a collaboration between six London universities; City, University of London, Imperial College, King's College London, London School of Economics, UCL and the University of Westminster. A Student Delivery Group was set-up to advise on and support delivery of this year's conference. It provided a great engagement and learning opportunity for the students involved and brought innovative ideas which enhanced the event.

The online Conference saw 32 students, from London universities present their academic research and extra-curricular projects which support one or more of the Global Goals and help tackle some of the world's most critical issues. Following the Conference an evening event at University of Westminster provided opportunity for in-person conference poster exhibition and networking.

The Conference was structured around the Goals and student presenters were encouraged to consider their impact on the Goals throughout the process (e.g. through the application, presenter workshops, guidance and delivery). The Conference sessions provided an opportunity for delegates to hear presentations themed around individual Goals and participate in workshops exploring their inter-relatedness.

Outline the benefits of integrating this theme:

1. Integrating Global Goals into our student engagement (specifically the LSSC) encourages students to consider their academic work and extra-curricular projects within the context of the Global Goals, highlighting how their activities contribute to progress.
2. It allows us to reach new audiences by broadening the definition of sustainability for many students. The Global Goals framework incorporates many social sustainability issues which are important to our students.
3. Using the Global Goals supported the collaboration with the University partners for the LSSC. It provided a common framework, language and visual identity which was already in use across the partner institutions and helped us communicate effectively as a group, as well as within our own communities.

Outline the barriers or challenges encountered in integrating this theme and how you overcame these:

1. Incorporating all the Goals into any single event can be difficult, due to the size and scope of the Goals. We partially overcame this through the LSSC event, by encouraging a wide variety of student contributions.
2. Communicating the message of interconnectivity between the Goals is also challenging within engagement activities, but it was a priority for the university partners to promote and explore this throughout the LSSC. We used guidance and support to encourage student presenters to reflect on all of the Goals they were supporting through their presentations. The programme included workshops for delegates to highlight the Global Goals framework as a whole and provide context for the rest of the event.

Conclusions and recommendations

Recommendations:

- The Global Goals can be used as an effective framework to align projects and work collaboratively with others in your institution and externally. A focus on the Goals provided a common language and aims between the organisations involved in this year's Conference.
- Our experience with the Student Delivery Group and their involvement in the planning and delivery of engagement activities ensured it meets their needs. With appropriate support, the Group enhanced our event, made it more relevant to our audience and provided fantastic learning opportunities and experiences for the student members.

LSSC networking event photo: