The SDG Accord

The University and College Sector's Collective Response to the Global Goals

nscc

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

Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) is in a unique position with 13 campuses across Nova Scotia. Due to this, the College faces exceptional opportunities to act as a changemaker across Nova Scotia, but also faces challenges due to its decentralized structure**.**

At the beginning of 2022, NSCC had the opportunity to hire two ImpAct Interns through partnership and funding from Colleges and Institutes Canada (CICan). These interns were hired into different departments and collaborated on the development of SDG knowledge building and engagement across the College through an inter-departmental approach. This Inter-departmental approach allowed the College to make great strides in tackling the decentralization that occurs at institutions of higher education and especially at an institution as widely dispersed as NSCC.

The Interns with the support of the Facilities department, the International office and the Entrepreneurship office created and delivered a series of SDG workshops which were delivered to students staff and faculty. The intent of the workshops was to create foundational knowledge of the SDGs, share local initiatives advancing the SDGs and engage participants in College initiatives for the SDGs.

To support the workshop the interns also created a campaign of SDG resource sheets for each of the 17 Goals. Each sheet features national and local context for the goal as well as NSCC actions that are working to advance the goal. These sheets were delivered to staff and students on all campuses to increase knowledge and awareness of the UN SDGs.

This outreach work has created a platform for sustainability staff and champions at the College to form collaborative action and partnerships for the goals. NSCC is continuing to foster interest and opportunities to support other departments in the integration of the sustainable

Outline the benefits of integrating this theme:

1. Interdepartmental collaboration: Forming interdisciplinary partnerships is vital in our College's performance toward the goals. Through the delivery of our SDG workshops and campaign, there was increased knowledge sharing between departments and areas of synergy were highlighted.

2. Increased awareness and engagement: NSCC received reoccurring feedback from our staff and faculty that despite their interest in the UN SDGs they didn't feel they had the knowledge or resources to act on the goals. Through this work, participants reported higher knowledge and awareness of the goals that we feel will lead to greater engagement and ownership of the goals among the staff.

3. Building competencies for future opportunities: NSCC has plans to focus on future SDG action that will encompass more departments across the college. These foundational learning and engagement opportunities help to create competencies that will lead to smoother transitions when expanding this work

Outline the barriers or challenges encountered in integrating this theme and how you overcame these:
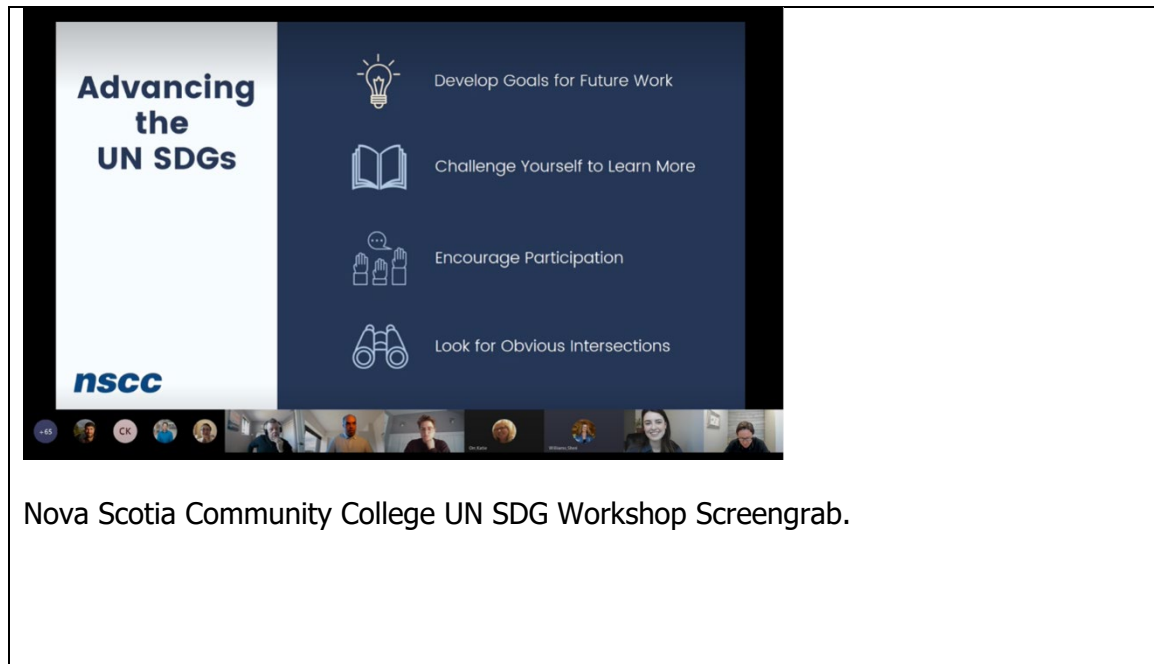
1. Covid-19 Gathering restrictions: Nova Scotia has managed the COVID-19 Pandemic by implementing strict gathering and travel restrictions. Due to this, all sessions held were done so virtually. Although there are benefits to virtual sessions including capturing a more geographically diverse audience, however, some activities and discussions are more effective when delivered in person.

2. Different audiences: The SDG relate to different audiences in different ways. To address this challenge, we developed multiple workshop formats for different audiences and worked to tailor the material in a way that was relevant and interesting to each group while remaining interdisciplinary.

Conclusions and recommendations

Through the delivery of this work, NSCC has significantly increased institutional engagement with the UN SDGs. Requests for the continued delivery of the workshop series have been submitted from different corners of the organisation and the reach of this information continues to grow. As a result, we share three key takeaways from our learnings. Firstly, don't lose sight of capacity building and foundational learning. Long term progress and improvement towards the goals will require the involvement and inclusion of the majority of the organization. Equipping these individuals with the capacity to engage on sustainability topics is important. Secondly, create opportunities for different groups and departments to collaborate. Partnerships and interdisciplinary actions are required to advance the goals and by fostering these relationships we can create the momentum to do this. Finally, share resources throughout the institution. Create valuable and convenient resources that the community can access to further their own knowledge and interest.

Nova Scotia Community College UN SDG Workshop Screengrab.