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

New Sustainability Website Launched

In November 2021, Ulster University launched a new sustainability website using the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) icon grid as its home page.
The new website was designed to clearly illustrate the university's contribution to environmental, social, and economic sustainability for each SDG across teaching, research, operations, and partnership activities.

SDG Case Studies
To collate content for the website a call for SDG related case studies was circulated to all staff across teaching, research, professional services, and community engagement portfolios as well as to the Students' Union.
The quality of case studies and their relevance to the SDGs exceeded expectations. The number of case studies collated presented a pleasant challenge – how to present so many great examples of partnership working across the SDGs.

'At a Glance' Format
Each SDG page was designed to include an 'at a glance' approach listing Ulster projects that gave a flavour of the excellent work within each individual SDG and to provide links out to additional project-specific resources including additional websites, infographics, and key contact details.

Ulster's Director of Brexit and Sustainability, explains:
"*Our new sustainability website illustrates the breath and value of our sustainability contributions from health and wellbeing, equality, through to social justice, inclusion, economic growth as well as the areas relating to the environment, climate change and net zero."*

Partnership Working
The great strength of the project was how willingly colleagues collaborated. In this one exercise we engaged across portfolios and increased capacity and understanding of sustainability within the context of our organisation. Ongoing and new initiatives and projects by staff and students help us to keep the website fresh and relevant.

Outline the benefits of integrating this theme:

1. Creating the new sustainability website **stimulated engagement and discussion** around sustainability, for some colleagues seeing the SDGs was the first time they had visualised and understood the breadth of sustainability and that their area of work supported delivery of the SDGs. A great benefit of the website has been colleagues learning how each other's area of work supports the sustainability focus and commitment of the university, that equality, diversity, and inclusion as well as industry and innovation are as much a part of sustainability as climate and biodiversity action.
2. Through the project we have developed a **network of internal contacts**, goal leaders or 'go to' people. These are colleagues that partner on SDG related steering groups, working groups, internal and external projects, and consultation exercises.
3. The website has become **a resource** accessible by a wide variety of stakeholders including staff, students and external partners highlighting examples of world-leading research and award-winning teaching undertaken at Ulster.

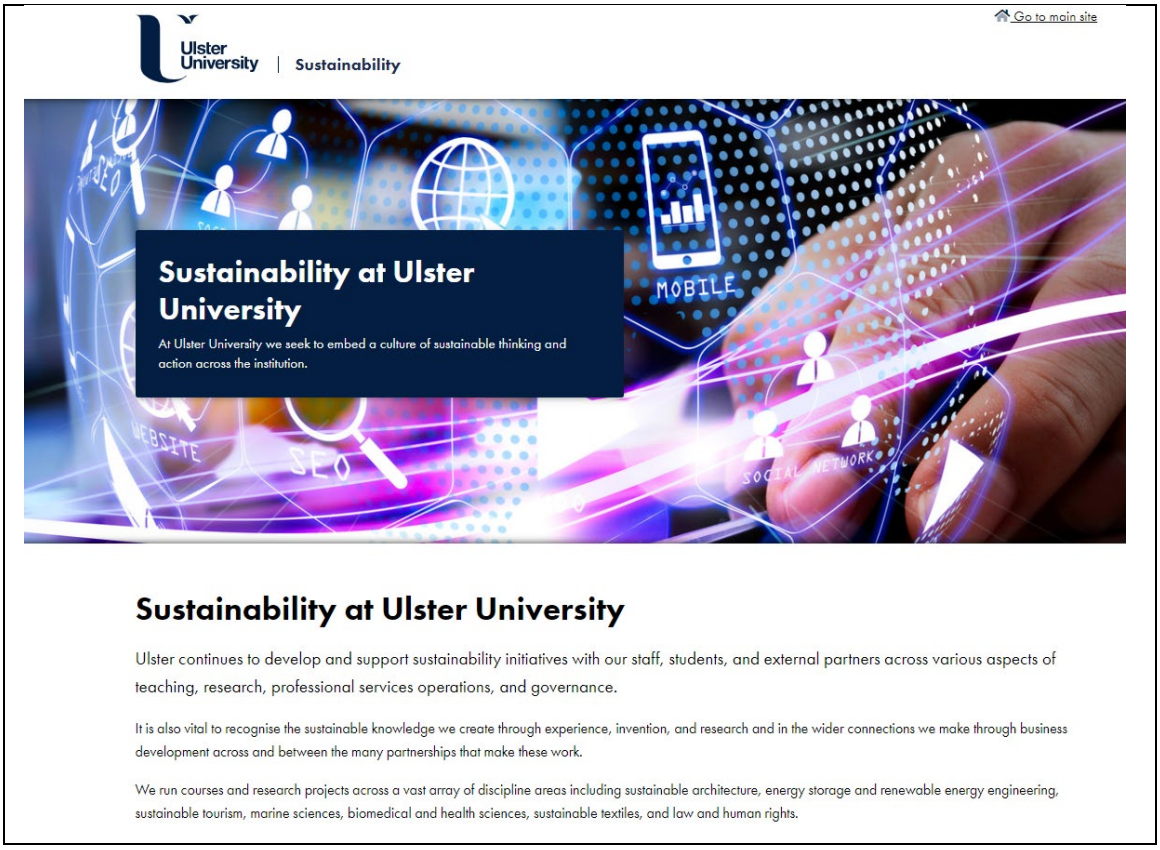
Outline the barriers or challenges encountered in integrating this theme and how you overcame these:

1. At times it was challenging to assign a project under a single SDG page as inevitably the interrelatedness of sustainability and the SDGs was highlighted. For projects that spanned multiple SDGs we either picked the strongest SDG that the project related to or added the project under two or more SDGs.
2. The sustainability team was in the fortunate position of receiving **numerous SDG case studies** that could be highlighted on the website. Project owners were contacted to assure them their projects would be added to the website during content refreshing and in other formats such as internal new stories and the annual sustainability report.
3. Launching the new website stimulated queries from colleagues too. An internal intranet article and question and answer function was used to highlight and respond to queries.

Conclusions and recommendations

The levels of engagement and interaction with both the information collation process and the completed website has been excellent. The website has illustrated to colleagues and external partners that our organisation is on a journey of understanding that – every person, department, course, and research on every campus does and can contribute to local and global sustainability issues.

The new website provides a snapshot of these contributions, and it is a living document designed to develop and grow just as our commitment to sustainability will extend and develop over time.

This exercise has shown that there are further opportunities to extend our partnership working and collaboration to deliver against the SDGs through working with students and academic and professional services staff as well as our wider stakeholder community and alumni body. Our hope is to develop and extend the sustainability impact and influence by playing a critical role in shaping tomorrow's world, educating global citizens, and delivering new knowledge and innovations into society.

This decade of action will be a disruptive yet exciting period and a time for all colleagues at Ulster to work together in partnership to be an engine of societal transformation.