



### **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

## *SDG Accord Reporting 2022 CASE STUDY*

Green Consultants has a ten year history of training students in the skills and knowledge required by consultants in the green sector.

The Green Consultants extra-curricular programme is composed of three elements. Online training , which covers 1) sustainability working as consultants, 2) soft skills (networking, persuading, influencing and negotiating, and problem solving) 3) Project Management and auditing and 4) Technical skills such as Environmental Impact Assessments, BREEAM, ISO14001 and BCorps. During the second stage, the on-campus projects (OCPs), students work in groups for the Environment and Climate Emergency Team on real projects related to the University's own Net Zero policy. Recent OCPs have included 'Anthropogenic impact on biodiversity and wildlife on campus' and 'Devising a methodology for monitoring sustainable transport provision'. These projects have a real impact on the operation of the institution. The third element is a week-long Internship with an external organisation, e.g. SageTech Medical Equipment, ClearLead Consulting and Optix Solutions. These internships are designed to improve the sustainability of the host organisation and vary according to need.

As a result of the success of the programme, two credit-bearing modules have been developed utilising the training package. One for Geography undergraduates at our Penryn Campus and one within the MSc Global Sustainability Solutions.

So far, over 300 have engaged with the training and 70 have completed the training in 2021-22.

Recent graduates from the Green Consultants programme have gone on to work in roles such as a Graduate Sustainability Consultant, Solar Specialist and Regeneration and Sustainability Assistant.

*If you have a flexible and creative mind, a passion for sustainability and the environment, and want to be involved in developing strategies which have a real impact on the way a business conducts itself you're gunna [sic] love it.*

**Kari Webb**, BSc Biological Sciences (Internship - South Devon Care)

Outline the benefits of integrating this theme.

- 1.** The move to online training increase has enabled us to increase capacity so that more students can engage with this element. We have been able to increase student awareness of roles in this sector, and whilst approx. half of students on this programme go on to work in the sector all of the graduates will take their learning with them into whatever role they chose to pursue.
- 2.** By training a significant pool of students who undertake substantial projects on campus, we are directly contributing the Net Zero ambition and improving sustainability within the university.
- 3.** Students who undertake internships work with our community to improve sustainability in local organisations. This strengthens relationships and is fundamental to the Civic University Agenda [Civic University Agreements | Regional Engagement | University of Exeter](#). We are supporting making our cities and communities more sustainable through knowledge transfer from within the university to the community.

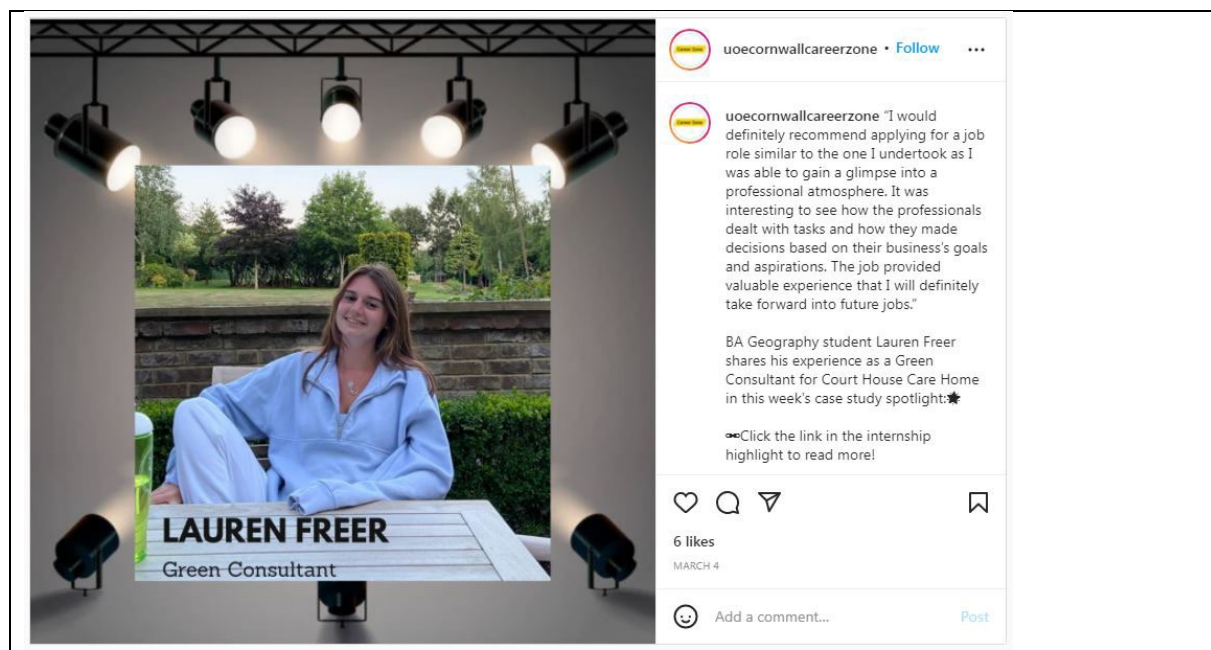
Outline the barriers encountered in integrating this theme and how you overcame these.

- 1.** Students have a general lack of awareness of what sustainability consulting is, so we are operating from a low base point. Students are not aware of the opportunities that are available to work in the sector, and that these opportunities are open to all students regardless of discipline studied.
- 2.** Because of the skills shortage of skilled workers in the local economy, the expectations on our students undertaking internships can be too high – they are over-desirable to organisations and our students cannot always meet these expectations. We need to manage expectations of internship providers so that the projects they want students to work on can realistically be delivered.
- 3.** Some internships are based with organisations in rural locations. These can be difficult for our students to access due to the lack of public transport, which makes it hard for us to engage with these organisations in a meaningful way.

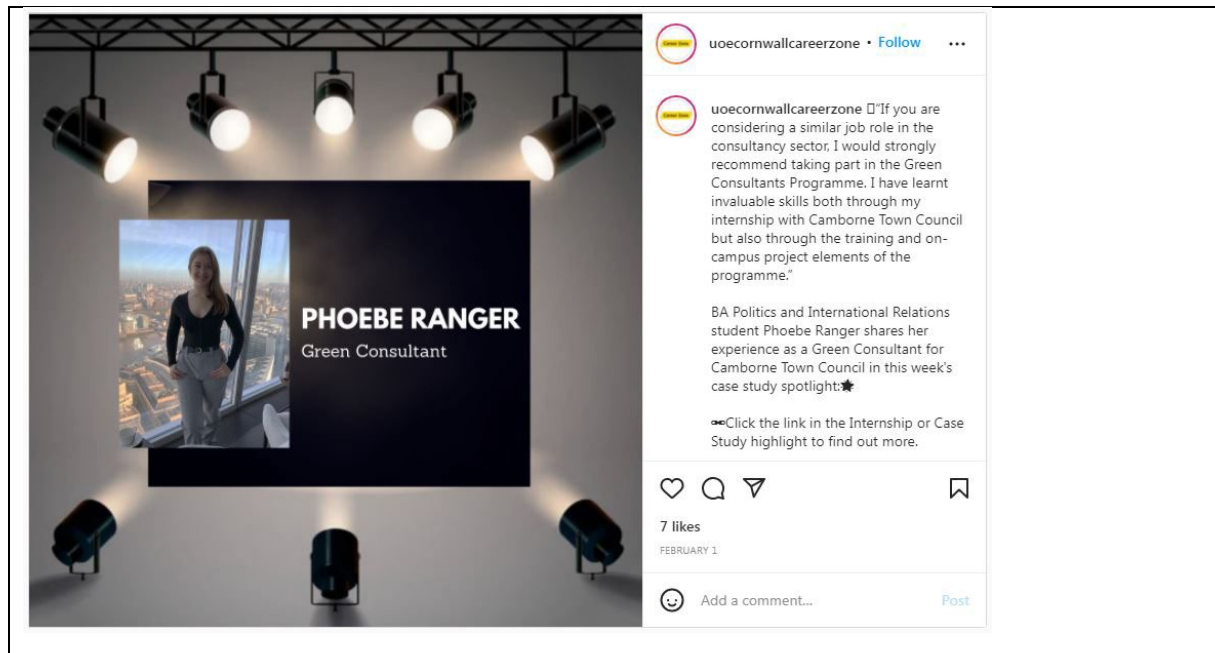
### Conclusions and recommendations to others

- There is a prevailing belief that young people are the experts in sustainability and will solve the climate crisis, this can put unfair and unwanted pressure on young people to be the experts within their sphere of influence. This programme helps to upskill students and enable them to respond to the challenges they are faced with.
- There is a huge need for graduates who have these skill sets and knowledge, we currently have far greater demand from organisations for student interns in sustainability than we have students ready to do internships.
- Changing to a roll-on roll-off programme where students can now take as long as they like to complete each stage of the programme has made management more complex than a single point of entry as every student is now at a different point in engagement; but the benefit is that this model is more responsive to the needs of all stakeholders. Students can engage at the point it is most beneficial to them. External organisations and the University itself can have their projects completed at a time that best suits their business needs, as opposed to the whole extracurricular programme being driven by a rigid, antiquated academic calendar.

The image is of an Instagram post, with a photo of a student who participated in the Green Consultants scheme. The student's photo is surrounded by images of stage lighting focused on the student. The Instagram caption includes a quote from the student.



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