The SDG Accord

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



Integration of SDGs in

- $\hfill\square$ Institutional governance/strategic level
- $\hfill\square$ SDGs in research
- $\hfill\square$ SDGs in campus operations
- \Box SDGs in curriculum development
- \boxtimes SDGs in student engagement activities
- \Box SDGs into community activities
- $\hfill\square$ SDGs at a whole-institution level

Focus on

- \Box Goal 1 No poverty
- ⊠ Goal 2 Zero hunger
- \boxtimes Goal 3 Good health and wellbeing
- ⊠ Goal 4 Quality education
- □ Goal 5 Gender equality
- $\hfill\square$ 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
- \boxtimes Goal 12 Responsible consumption and production
- □ Goal 13 Climate action
- □ Goal 14 Life below water
- $\hfill\square$ Goal 15 Life on land
- $\hfill\square$ Goal 16 Peace, justice and strong institutions
- $\hfill\square$ Goal 17 Partnerships for the goals

Summary

The Student Sustainability Project Group (aka the Green Bubble) is a collaboration between student societies, the University Social Impact team and the Students' Union (SU). The societies collaborate on University-wide sustainability projects and run the Go Green Week events and campaigns.

This year students have run campaigns such as a 'caddy campaign' to reduce food waste in halls and an 'ethical investment petition' to University management. During <u>Go Green Week</u> the students raised awareness on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), for example;

- A seminar run by Sustainable Medicine Society to examine the future of healthcare and what it means for our planet (SDG3)
- A stall with the University's waste contractor to raise awareness avoiding food waste (SDG12)
- A workshop ('ThinkTank') run by Law on climate justice and incorporating the SDGs in the curriculum (SDGs 10 and 4))
- A problem-solving workshop where participants created practical solutions to real world problems surrounding food packaging in the industry (SDG9.)
- Community Kitchen launch (originally created by students) in the SU, where volunteer students collect wasted food from canteens across campus and give it to the community (SDG2).

The collaborative and student-led approach resulted in 9 <u>SEED projects</u> that the University has agreed to fund (total £2K) for projects as diverse as rewilding the main entrance, producing fertiliser from our paper towels to building recycling and reuse apps and even a robot recycler!

Outline the benefits of integrating this theme:

1) Whilst the Sustainable Development Goals are included in all UG modules at UoL, the student-led activities provide an opportunity for all students to learn about the SDGs in a different format.

2) Student societies are supported to plan and run events and projects based on their own passions, this allows for a variety of activities across a range of issues and has led to some strategic and operational University changes.

3) The focus on applying the SDG's in different contexts, such in their curriculum, on campus, in their homes and their lifestyle, allows for fellow students to understand how the SDG's play out in every aspect of student life.

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

1) Engaging and scheduling student volunteers can be challenging, for example the community kitchen as it involved students agreeing to volunteer to a set time. We recognised that it is important to schedule volunteering activities to coincide with student and exam timetables to allow for as many students as possible to volunteer. We are now working on developing a better volunteering schedule with some flexibility to allow more students to volunteer.

2) Stalls at events, such as Go Green Week, tend to maintain good engagement levels with great conversations between students, however, we found that physical workshops or seminars didn't have the same level as engagement, although online events were well attended. With this reflection, we are keen to plan future physical events around other University activities and to invite more societies to take part and also to incorporate more online and hybrid events as part of our annual calendar.

3) Supporting the students requires significant staff resource, especially with ensuring correct and consistent information is being shared amongst students and supporting where necessary. We recognised that it was essential to allow staff to have time to guide the students in the right direction.

Conclusions and recommendations

It is brilliant to use a working group format to bring together the student union, University's Social Impacts team and students that are passionate about sustainability. It allows for staff and students alike to share enthusiasm and information. Allowing students to plan their own events and projects that address several of the SDG's not only raises awareness of the goals and the framework that the University uses for sustainability but also provides students with an opportunity to develop their skills for a successful career after graduating.

It is important to expect and accommodate for a lack of engagement from students especially during busy periods of the academic year. Scheduling activities around student timetables and offering a mix of online and physical opportunities is invaluable.

Allowing students to use their own ideas and initiative allows for their passions to come through; leading to better and more in depth engagement and some projects that we would never have dreamed up. It also gives them a voice to influence University leadership.

SDG Accord Reporting 2022 CASE STUDY

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Go Green Week				
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
Food Waste Documentary Attenborough LT 3 15:30 - 17:30	Campus Litter Pick Percy Gee 11:00 - 13:00	The Allotment Seminar Gee's, SU 10:00 - 11:30	Law School Think Tank Online 12:00 - 13:00	SDG Stall Percy Gee 11:00 - 14:00
Climate Change Seminar Online 19:00 - 21:00	Digesting Digestion Library 11:00 - 14:00	Green Bubble Blog Online	Vintage Clothes Sale O2 Academy 10:00 - 14:00	Packaging Workshop Tbc 14:00 - 15:00

The promotion poster used to advertise the events during Go Green Week, this shows the list of events written above. <u>https://www.instagram.com/p/CZhgeprsRad/</u>

A photo of two stalls that took place in Go Green Week. The photo on the left is the stall that rose awareness of food waste and addressed Goal 12. Photo on the right displays a stall held during that week to provide information about the 17 sustainable development goals.