



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

Summary

When we were developing our new strategic Sustainability Plan at the University of York we wanted to create it around a framework that would clearly define our sustainability goals to all of our stakeholders in manageable chunks .

We needed a framework that had both local and global reach, which would already be familiar across all of our teaching, research, policy and operational activities. As the leading international framework for sustainability the UN SDGs satisfied these requirements perfectly, and also enables us to evidence our overarching University strategic vision of "A University for Public Good".

Rather than using all 17 SDGs we decided to prioritise our focus and identify the frameworks that we could have the biggest impact on as an institution both our positive social impact as well as addressing our potentially detrimental impacts (e.g. waste creation). We chose:

SDG3: Good Health and Well-being

SDG4: Quality Education

SDG11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

SDG12: Responsible Consumption and Production

SDG13: Climate Action

We also decided to have an additional theme for "Sustainable Research" as our research activities cover all of the SDGs.

Once these were identified we coordinated a working group for each of these to create our own applicable goals and targets to support the SDGs, rather than using the exact same targets and indicators stated in the SDGs as some are more overarching and less relevant to our institution.

This framework enabled a structure for governance within the institution, internally assigning specific responsibility and accountability for each of the SDG frameworks. The SDGs timeframe (up to 2030) also aligns neatly with our 2021-2030 Sustainability Plan.

The resources made freely available from the United Nations for the SDGs assist with our promotion of the plan and make it easier to get messages relating to our plan across to our stakeholders.

Outline the benefits of integrating this theme:

- 1.** Internationally recognised framework
- 2.** Established promotional material assists with communication
- 3.** Manageable chunks for global challenges

Conclusions and recommendations

Since the launch of our Sustainability Plan at the end of 2021 the SDGs have noticeably been increasing in prominence across all of our business areas (e.g. research funding requirements and teaching methodology). This already indicates that we have chosen the right framework that has relevant internal and external impact.

We would recommend that institutions / organisations consider how the core elements of their activities can support the SDGs and use it to proactively enhance sustainability or even as a framework to promote what they are doing on sustainability.

UoY Sustainability Plan front cover:

