



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 Case Study

Summary:

Supported by the University Executive, the Energy and Environment (EE) team has set up and works closely with our 'Green Team' - a group of enthusiastic staff and students who are engaged in sustainability activities on- and off-campus. These activities support Cranfield's environmental targets including: 'Net zero carbon emission by 2030'; 'Zero avoidable waste by 2030'; and 'Net environmental gain - including biodiversity to be increased by 20%'.

Green Team members have freedom to support initiatives they feel most passionate about, including energy saving as part of the 'Energy Champions network' or being involved in tree planting or gardening events to support biodiversity action on campus. Wherever their interest lies, Green Team members act as leaders of sustainability on campus. They get involved in annual events run by the Energy and Environment team such as Green Week, Fairtrade Fortnight, tree planting/biodiversity focused events including monitoring and surveys, and end-of-year student Charity giveaways. Often, their activities address University Values, including wellbeing, financial sustainability, student experience and community support and outreach.

The EE Team works collaboratively with local councils, external charities and other sustainability organisations, for example, working with Central Bedfordshire Council to improve transport links into campus and encourage use of sustainable travel methods. The team has recently worked with Forest of Marston Vale to plant trees on campus, and with Earthwatch Europe to plant a Miyawaki (tiny) forest. Work is also undertaken with Wildlife Trust as part of community outreach and Hedgehog Friendly Campus, having recently attained Silver certification. In 2022, we were finalists in the 'Sustainability Champion: Staff Category Supporter' for Green Gown Awards.

Some of these projects such as the Miyawaki forest, will be integrated into ongoing research efforts as part of our campus-wide Living Lab project, thus benefiting the campus environment whilst providing research opportunities.

Outline the 3 key benefits of integrating this theme:

- 1. Empowers staff and students to take community action*
- 2. Supports community outreach objectives and improves partnerships with charities and other organisations*
- 3. Gives students experience which will benefit future employment options*

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

- 1. Maintaining staff/student engagement- can be an issue with the demands and pressure of work or studies. Therefore, need a plan of action to carefully engage staff and students in tasks which won't take up too much time.*
- 2. Budget- some of the solution suggested by the Green Team were beyond our allocated budget. Therefore, focus on low-cost solutions with high benefits. Also engage with senior management and set up a business case for funding.*
- 3. Staff/student fatigue- staff and students may become disengaged if they do not see immediate benefits to their actions. It is therefore important to keep them motivated by promoting the 'benefits' of their actions.*

Please outline your conclusions and recommendations to others:

- Promote your sustainability offer to prospective students and staff as well as your existing staff and student base from when they first arrive on campus, make them aware of the existence of the Green Team and ways to get involved. Appoint voluntary Green Team leaders if possible.
- Communication and organisation are key - make sure you set out a plan of events and campaigns for the next 6 months and let the Green Team know. Set up regular, annually re-occurring events and campaigns such as Green Week, tree planting and Fairtrade Fortnight.
- Seek to form partnerships with the wider community such as charities, local schools or councils and work together to achieve common goals.
- Keep Green Team interested by hosting different events every year.