

The SDG Accord

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



During International Development Week in February 2023, Be World Ready shared social media posts highlighting how different BWR trips and support different SDG's – this post features SDG #11 Sustainable Cities and Communities and the trip Dominican Republic: Coffee, Co-Operatives, & Community, where NC students participated in the construction of a steel framed greenhouse and crop planting alongside the small community of 1,700 people.

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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:

Be World Ready (BWR) is a signature learning program at Niagara College that focuses on international field studies (IFS), semester exchanges, and work/volunteer abroad opportunities all around the world. This program offers the opportunity to experience culturally diverse learning environments, understand different perspectives and practice new skills to develop global competencies. BWR collaborated with NC Sustainability to map all historic and planned BWR trips, incorporate sustainable practices into trips themselves and recruitment activities for the trips. This included providing training materials that help students better understand the SDGs and tips to be socially, economically, and environmentally responsible while travelling abroad. BWR also incorporated the SDGs into a Community Call to Action called *Love in Transit*, that collects gently used adult and children's travel gear (backpacks, duffels, totes, and suitcases) to support citizens who are transitioning from shelter life to independent living, as well as International Development Week, sharing social media posts about different trips and trip activities and the SDGs they support.

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"Collaborating with NC Sustainability to incorporate the SDG's into Be World Ready has been incredibly rewarding. The entire team has taken on a heightened passion and commitment to supporting each of these goals as we plan for upcoming initiatives and experiences. The excitement and pride NC students express upon learning that the IFS they have signed up for supports multiple SDG's is both heart-warming and encouraging. Additionally, asking students to reflect on their experiences has proven to be a great way to spread awareness and encourage students to think about their actions both locally and globally." – Elisabeth Vint, Study + Work Abroad Advisor

Outline the 3 key benefits of integrating this theme:

- 1.** Promote learning opportunities related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and environmentally responsible practices.
- 2.** Enhance education and awareness regarding efforts to reduce the impacts of climate change.
- 3.** Promote internal and external partnerships to share knowledge and skills related to SDGs and sustainable practices.

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

- 1.** Integrating the SDGs into the Be World Ready program was enthusiastically welcomed, but the additional workload was a concern, so we hired a dedicated student to support the on-going mapping, engagement activities and events, and training development.

Please outline your conclusions and recommendations to others:

Be World Ready offers students' immersive global experiences and skill building opportunities that focus on building SDG-related skills and competencies into all trips for all students, regardless of the destination and academic program the students are studying in. Utilizing a variety of mediums online and in-person increase the reach of information about the BWR program as well as the SDGs to different internal and external stakeholders will continue to be a priority. The on-going partnership between Be World Ready and NC Sustainability will work to continually improve training opportunities, trip itineraries and activities, and utilize the feedback from student reflections in a meaningful way to shape future activities.

Include **TWO** images (max) that are relevant to your SDG case study – **ONE** should be your institutional logo. These will be used as part of your case study submission, so please ensure you have permission to use the images. *Please add a brief description of the image.*