



### **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

## *SDG Accord Case Study*

- 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:***

Our Estates team has recently completed a conservation led project to protect and restore historic terrace houses located at University Gardens.

The team replaced over 100 tonnes of natural stone, over 1,000 slates, overhauled and draft-proofed over 450 windows, repaired and rebuilt numerous chimneys and overhauled hundreds of meters of rainwater goods. The project also uncovered unique stonework carvings and hidden decorative terracotta roof details. Our horticultural experts in Facilities Services have already embarked on a programme of planting, with plants specifically chosen to stay true to the period in which the Gardens were created.

Ian A Campbell, Executive Director of Estates, commented: "Completing the University Gardens project marks a key milestone in the Estates 2025 strategy and our Custodianship Theme in particular. As custodians of this beautiful estate, we are investing in protecting, restoring and conserving the built environment of the whole University across our three campuses."

Lynsey Paterson, Chartered Building Surveyor, Conservation & Projects at the University of Glasgow, said: "It has been an absolute privilege working on these buildings, uncovering their secrets and restoring them to their former glory for future generations to enjoy. I hope we have achieved a more pleasant environment for building users and stayed true to the original architects' and tradesmen's ethos by using traditional materials and crafts."

Originally built between the 1880s and 1900s, these listed buildings represent a variety of architectural styles ranging from Italian and French renaissance to what is known as the eclectic Glasgow style, with influences taken from the world-renowned architect Charles Rennie Mackintosh. Originally used as private residences, University Gardens housed prominent figures within society, including shipowners, engineers, professors, and wealthy whisky merchants. Later these buildings were gifted or purchased by the University. Now it is home to the University's College of Arts.

## *SDG Accord Case Study*

### ***Outline the 3 key benefits of integrating this theme:***

- 1.** By investing in conserving these historical buildings, we preserve the heritage of our built environment which can be enjoyed by the University students and staff, but also by visitors and the local community.
- 2.** As part of the work, we have improved the energy efficiency of the buildings
- 3.** The gardens themselves offer an opportunity to create further biodiversity on campus, as well as providing an interesting way to further conserve heritage through the use of era-appropriate planting.

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

- 1.** As listed buildings, and with the delicacy of some of the restoration work needed, we had to ensure we were respecting conservation principles and philosophy at all times, meaning we stayed true to the use of traditional materials and trades.
- 2.** The buildings are occupied, including teaching and office space, so we had to minimise disruption as much as possible. We did this by working closely with the building users, and communicating with them at each step of the project so that they knew what to expect. We held weekly meetings and presented look ahead programmes to ensure disruption and inconvenience was kept to a minimum for both the building users and the project team.
- 3.** It can be difficult to balance energy efficiency with historic listed buildings. We focused a lot of effort on draft-proofing and overhauling the original sash and casement windows, returning them to full operation, as this was something that would represent a substantial improvement but could be done sympathetically in line with the Custodianship ethos of the project.

### ***Please outline your conclusions and recommendations to others (Max 200 words):***

The SDGs have provided us with a framework of wide-ranging goals, to which we are committed to making an impact. This project is an example of an activity which contributes to the Goals in a way that goes beyond environmental sustainability. This project contributes primarily to SDG11, but also to SDG7 and SDG15. At the University of Glasgow, we have over 100 listed buildings – this project illustrates that we can upgrade and improve the energy efficiency of the buildings while also protecting a historic asset for future generations. We have been able to demonstrate this through the use of traditional trades and materials sympathetic to the original character of this terrace. We are planning to continue these conservation projects on other buildings not just those that are listed, and in doing so, continue to have an impact on the SDGs.