



University of Kent



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

SDG Accord Case Study

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:

To celebrate World Toilet Day, the Sustainability Team and Estates Department came together to raise awareness of the global issues around access to clean water and sanitation and to save money and reduce wastage of this precious resource.

We have over 3000 toilets and urinals across our Canterbury and Medway campuses and each one can use upwards of 100l of water per day. With that many toilets, It is impossible for our maintenance teams to check them all so we rely on staff and students reporting faults such as continuously flushing. If left unfixed, each of these can waste 100s of cubic meters of water a year costing upwards of £2000!

To encourage more people to report faults, the Estates department pledged to sponsor a toilet through the 'Twin your Toilet' scheme when faults were reported. Staff were even able to nominate their favourite toilet to be twinned!

The [Twin your Toilet](#) scheme helps fund projects across the world supporting communities to build safe and clean toilets as well as providing access to clean water. 3.6 billion people globally are still living with inadequate access to clean water and sanitation which leads to poor health outcomes, groundwater pollution and decreased opportunities, particularly for women and girls who can be forced to drop out of education due to no access to safe toilets.

The University of Kent is a signatory to the [Sustainable Development Goal Education Accord](#) and this work forms part of our response to [Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation](#).

So far 2 toilets have been twinned under the scheme and we have published a number of staff and student focused news stories to raise awareness of this important issue.

This World Toilet Day, let's make the invisible visible

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Outline the 3 key benefits of integrating this theme:

- 1.*** Reduce water wastage and contribute towards our water reduction targets (2% per annum)
- 2.*** Raise awareness of issue of access to safe and hygienic toilet facilities globally
- 3.*** Funded projects in communities that will enable families to build a basic toilet, have access to clean water and learn about hygiene

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

1. Getting toilets on the agenda at senior management meetings! Water and sanitation are not topics that people are very keen to talk about and we initially struggled to get people to talk about developing a project for world toilet day. We initially proposed toilet twinning during the AOB section of a sustainability meeting and once we explained the project people actually got quite excited about it. The estates department came up with the idea to fund the toilet twinning when people report faults as a way of improving the reporting rate of faults.

2. It's "somebody else's problem". Often, especially in office areas, people tend to assume that someone else has reported it so faults are often left unreported for weeks or even months. Even following this project, this is still an issue but by publicising the twinned toilets and steady comms stories around this people are starting to understand that the responsibility lies with everyone.

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

This project has been a good example of a win-win for us and at least cost neutral when the potential saved water is taken into account.

We would have liked to have a social media competition/campaign for people to nominate their favourite toilets on campus to further raise awareness but competing comms priorities at the time prohibited this.