

The SDG Accord

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



west lothian college



SDG Accord Case Study

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

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Summary:

West Lothian College is working to integrate the UN SDGs into every aspect of the college. This has included participation in the Global Goals Teach-In and introduction of the Inner Development Goals.

At the start of the 2022/23 academic year the College offered students and staff free reusable water bottles and cups. These were branded to promote awareness of the SDGs, encouraging students and staff to "Let's talk SDGs" and were given out in return for completing the College's first Travel Survey.

This project aimed to:

1. Raise awareness of and engagement with the UN SDGs.
2. Encourage participation in the College Travel Survey.
3. Reduce the use of single use drinks containers.

Through the project approximately 1000 cups and 600 metal bottles were given out. Water fountains to refill bottles are available across campus and by using the reusable cups at the Campus Café students and staff also receive a 20p discount compared to using a disposable cup.

By incentivising the Travel Survey in this way, the College gained responses from over half of staff and over 500 students. These results were then used to record the College's commuting emissions for the first time. and to include as part of their mandatory Public Bodies Climate Change Duties reporting. In this way the project has been a great success and both the cups and bottles are now a common sight on campus.

Paula White, Head of Estates & Sustainability: "We are working across West Lothian College to promote sustainability in its many forms and this project has been a great example of how sustainability topics and the SDGs can overlap and combine to achieve important outcomes – by promoting the SDGs with free usable drinks containers also reduced waste and improved emissions reporting."

Outline the 3 key benefits of integrating this theme:

1. This project was part of wider efforts to raise awareness of the SDGs and has helped to familiarise students and staff with these.
2. Replacing single use drinks containers has anecdotally reduced single use container use on campus.
3. Incentivising the Travel Survey lead to a high response rate.

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

1. Procuring bespoke materials was challenging and required time to organise.

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

As this initiative was in support of the College's first Travel Survey, which was considered to be successful, offering incentives was key to this. Students and staff were offered the opportunity to complete the survey on their phones at a dedicated stall at lunchtimes, then being able to take their bottles/cups immediately afterwards. Staff were also emailed the survey and could then collect their bottles/cups later. Being able to claim their rewards immediately, as opposed to incentivising the survey using vouchers or a raffled prize may have helped to raise response rates.

This project is part of much wider efforts to promote the SDGs to both students and staff and the College will continue to explore new avenues for this.