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

FabLab: a community hub boosting local employability

FabLab Coventry is a community maker space set up by the university's centre for Trust Peace and Social Relations (CTPSR) to build community resilience and address specific vulnerabilities in society. FabLab has now been open for five years and is a well-established city-centre community hub.

By combining research from the university with a practical community space, FabLab takes a citizen-driven approach to co-creating and implementing innovative social, economic, and environmental programmes. These are designed to tackle (from the bottom up) the challenges that can both impact and create vulnerability within our communities.

One of FabLab's core activities is developing the skills of local residents and helping individuals face and overcome their challenges relating to employment, isolation, and loneliness. Now an Open College Network accredited centre, 48 different UK accredited courses and qualifications are offered in a range of subjects including Digital Fabrication, Carpentry, Citizen Social Science and Community Health.

The space is open to anyone; from budding entrepreneurs looking to start a making business, school pupils, sculptors, and scientists. FabLab's offers a variety of technology such as 3D printers, CNC, and laser cutters, as well as wood-working tools. Support is provided to run classes and provide help for those who want to become 'citizen social scientists', learn how to use the equipment or test out ideas and develop products.

FabLab has now engaged over 6,000 people and launched a spinout craft company to develop seven new bespoke qualifications. Overall, these have supported over 400 individuals to gain a qualification.

Through extremely strong relationships in the community, FabLab has secured external funding to continue to 2023 and will be developing a new facility for the Eco-Furniture Factory to continue to deliver practical solutions; support skills enhancement and education, tackle inequalities, and form new partnerships.

BENEFITS

1. Creation of community cohesion
2. Benefitting marginalised areas of the community
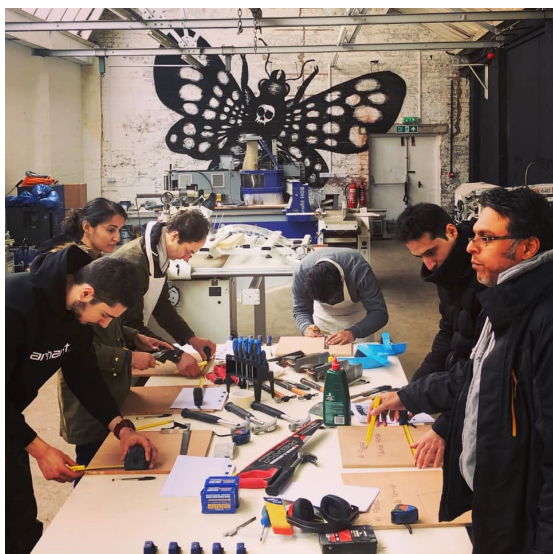3. Enabling skills in 'upcycling' and sustainable consumption

Image from Carpentry Course

CONCLUSIONS

FabLab has been a real life success in creating a greater connection between the university and the community, addressing critical needs in developing skills and supporting marginalised groups.

In establishing FabLab we have been able to bring work opportunities, provide new skills to people in the community as well as having a focus on upcycling and the circular economy. The multiple dimensions of the project enable a range of benefits across a range of the Sustainable Development Goals and we would encourage others, if embarking on similar projects, to consider how best to benefit both people and the planet.

Meet the Team in our 'Earth Day' video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Z8kP0BuYm0

https://fablabcov.coventry.ac.uk/