



The SDG Accord

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

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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BLACK OUT! GREEN IN!

Prior to signing the SDG Accord in 2020, DLSU-D has been integrating the sustainable development goal (SDG) targets into its operations as early as 2002 when it institutionalized its comprehensive solid waste management program. Over the years, the integration of sustainable initiatives into its operation and the curriculum has enabled the University to engage not only members of the DLSU-D but also the local and provincial government as well. In particular, the University's Ecological Solid Waste Management (ESWM) program is aligned with the SDG goal on *Responsible Consumption and Production, Sustainable Cities and Communities and Partnerships for the goals.*

Through its tagline **BLACK OUT! GREEN IN!**, the flagship program captures the essence of the sustainable programs of DLSU-D -- promoting best practices that create positive impact on the environment while eliminating negative practices that affect the planet negatively. Amid the global health crisis resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, DLSU-D continues to respond to the continuing ecological crisis resulting from human-induced activities such as climate change, plastic pollution, and now, COVID-19-related wastes. Despite the new challenges, the University still upholds its Lasallian core values of faith in God, zeal for service, and communion in mission which can be translated into teaching minds, touching hearts, and transforming lives in a new pandemic way.

The University's institutional goals continue to be responsive and resilient in order to achieve overall sustainability in strengthening the campus environmental goals in terms of safety, security, and eco-friendly features.

DLSU-D also leads the community's initiatives in sustainable practices that promote caring for our common environmental home by utilizing simple, low-cost, and low-technology innovations that can be manifested through adopting greener lifestyles and cascading sustainable practices and policies to partner communities. In this case study, the sustainability of our ESWM program could be attributed to collaborative works among the multi-sectoral level of the university and partnerships between the local groups sharing common goals and environmental actions.

BENEFITS

1. Behavioral change from the individual's perspective up to the sectoral level that are cascaded down to the partner communities by sharing and promoting best practices (green) creating beneficial impacts to the environment while reducing or eliminating worst practices (black) creating harmful impacts to the environment.
2. The support of the Administration is crucial in implementing such policy/program.
3. Proliferation of initiatives from various offices and student organizations in alignment with the existing DLSU-D Environment Policy and other sustainable programs. Apart from the BLACK OUT! Green In! flagship program, the University has also come up with engagement activities specifically on disaster risk reduction, greenology, climate education, food security through backyard farming, environmental awareness, and research targeted towards sustainability. The programs seek to sustain the momentum of sustainable initiatives amid the new normal trends in education in the Philippines owing to the pandemic.

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BARRIERS

1. The initial resistance from the concerned sectors were gradually overcome when education, information and communication campaigns set to institutionalizing the programs.
2. Creativity in implementation is essential in changing the mindsets of all sectors and stakeholders in the university.
3. The hidden curriculum of practicing what we preach model should be consistent and a constant reminder for everyone on ownership and stewardship of the sustainable programs.



The 'green' innovation on solid waste management that utilized a very simple technology with minimal implications to the University's finances is the Vertical Drip Ecological (VerDE) garden: a modified set-up with four-in-one approach which advocates for urban gardening and food security; segregation-at-source using recycled materials such as plastic bottle and composting using food waste/left-over food; water conservation due to its vertical connecting drip; and lastly, creation of green space.



Segregation-at-source is being practiced by the University through its ESWM policy. Recyclables are sorted through a Materials Recovery Facility while food waste are turned into compost which are sold at a low price to partner communities. Plastic bottles are used as coin banks for raising funds for the poor but deserving Lasallian students.

CONCLUSIONS

Conclusion: There is power in sharing one vision-mission among and between the university's sectors and between external partners in creating sustainable solutions towards concrete and doable action in achieving the target goals for sustainability. Recognition and awards will follow for every possibility created from incorporating SDGs in the campus operations as well as in the partner communities/organizations.

Recommendation: Consistency is crucial in institutionalizing the programs as well as the support of the administration.