



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

SDG Accord Reporting 2021 CASE STUDY

The Research Excellence Framework

The University of Manchester has integrated the SDGs into our institution’s research, collaborations and partnerships. We’ve contributed 21,571 research publications across all 17 SDGs over the past five years – representing 4% of the UK’s research on the goals. Our five research beacons – advanced materials, cancer, energy, global inequalities and industrial biotechnology – are examples of our pioneering work tackling the world’s biggest challenges. We have created a campaign for the Research Excellence Framework that cross-references each piece of research to the SDG(s) that they address. This has resulted in our current research clearly signposting what SDG it is relevant to, helping both internal and external audiences to both become aware of the SDGs and also recognise how our work is addressing the global goals. We are also undertaking advanced bibliometric searches to understand and assess our absolute and relative contribution to each of the 17 SDGs.

Our director of Communications and Marketing, Claire Brown said: “Our SDG campaign was our most successful to date in engaging external audiences with the impact of our work.”

BENEFITS

1. Raised awareness of SDGs for internal audiences
2. Researchers consciously thinking about what SDG their work addresses
3. Ensuring best practice in understanding of bibliometrics and the SDGs
4. Communicating SDG impacts to external audiences
5. We’ve discovered some interesting new ways to think about research impact, e.g. using alt-metrics of media coverage relating to SDGs and non-academic publications relating to SDGs

BARRIERS

1. Bibliometrics on the SDGs can be complex for lay audiences to understand

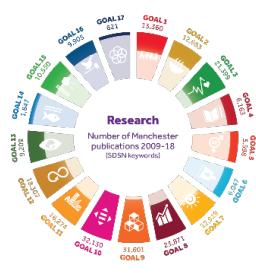


Image description: A contribution map we produced showing the number of our university’s research outputs linked to each of the SDGs. (Based on SDSN keyword search)

Research Institute	Sustainable Development Goal																	Website
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute																		
Carlisle Marsh Institute for Social Research																		
Dalton Nuclear Institute																		
Data Science Institute																		
Digital Futures																		
Global Development Institute																		
Henry Royce Institute																		
Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute																		
John Rylands Research Institute																		
Lipshie Becker Institute of Immunology and Inflammation																		
Manchester China Institute																		
Manchester Environmental Research Institute																		
Manchester Institute for Collaborative Research on Ageing																		
Manchester Institute of Biotechnology																		
Manchester Institute of Innovation Research																		
Manchester Urban Institute																		
National Graphene Institute																		
Photon Science Institute																		
Public@Manchester																		
Sustainable Consumption Institute																		
Thomas Ashton Institute																		
Work and Equities Institute																		
Research beacons																		
Advanced materials																		
Cancer																		
Energy																		
Global inequalities																		
Industrial biotechnology																		

Image description: A table we produced showing which SDGs our Research Institutes and Research Beacons address.

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CONCLUSIONS

We have developed two things that we recommend could be undertaken by other universities:

1. There are a wide range of new ways of thinking about research impact by universities towards the 17 UN SDGs. As a research-intensive university we have been experimenting with new ways of assessing our contribution to the SDGs. These include looking at:
 - Employing SCOPUS keyword searches linking our research to each of the SDGs
 - Measuring absolute outputs over a 5 and 10 year period to look at how we are improving our contributions to key SDGs
 - Measuring our relative market share of outputs towards the SDGs
 - Measuring our impact on non-academic audiences – particularly in public policy
 - Assessing which SDGs are taken up by media organisations to communicate with the public.
2. We have also used our submission to the UK's Research Assessment Framework (REF) to generate 17 compelling new case studies of impact towards the SDGs that are understandable to lay audiences and embarked on a three month campaign to communicate these.