### SDG Accord Reporting 2021 CASE STUDY



# The SDG Accord

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

#### Integration of SDGs in

- □ Institutional governance/strategic level
- $\Box$  SDGs in research
- $\square$  SDGs in campus operations
- $\boxtimes$  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
- oxtimes Goal 3 Good health and wellbeing
- 🛛 Goal 4 Quality education
- 🛛 Goal 5 Gender equality
- $oxed{M}$  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

### Manchester Access Programme

The University of Manchester has integrated the SDGs into our curriculum development in numerous ways. We're committed to empowering students with the knowledge, skills and opportunities to understand and address all of the SDGs. We provide an accessible education for our local, national and international communities through our widening participation schemes. For example, our Manchester Access Programme helps local year 12 students, with no experience of higher education in their family, attain a place at university.

Additionally, our Equity and Merit Scholarships fully fund a Master's Programme for 30 young professionals from the Global South, empowering them make a significant contribution to sustainable development in their home countries. We have a Stellify initiative and Ethical Grand Challenges programme which we encourage all students to take part in. The various tasks and challenges within these address a variety of social and environmental challenges covered within the 17 SDGs. We also have an online, interdisciplinary module that is available for all students to take: Creating a Sustainable World: 21st Century Challenges and the Sustainable Development Goals. This module uses the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to critically examine sustainability.

Dr Jen O'Brien, Academic Lead for Environmental Sustainability: "By seeing students as partners on our work towards the SDGs, universities can be a positive force for change."

### BENEFITS

- 1. By engaging students in the SDGs, we can create a 40,000-person force for change
- 2. By linking action to learning on the SDGs, we have helped our students as future citizens and leaders gain practical experience in making impact on the global goals
- 3. As new generations of students take more interest in environmental sustainability, this work can support the University's student recruitment objectives



A contribution map we produced showing the number of student engagements on modules linked to the SDGs, at our university.



Logo for our interdisciplinary module 'Creating a Sustainable World: 21st Century Challenges and the Sustainable Development Goals' which covers the 17 SDGs.

### CONCLUSIONS

Using the curriculum and engagement of students is an obvious way any university can make impact on the SDGs. We recommend doing this through the formal curriculum, co-curricular activities and extra-curricular activities.

- Formal curriculum: through staff training and development, aspects of the SDGs can be embedded into more degree programmes
- Co-curricular: to provide opportunities for students from different disciplines to come together to address the SDGs in an inter-disciplinary way we have made a module on the SDGs available to every student in the University through our interdisciplinary college
- Extra-curricular: we have linked volunteering and actions of sustainability to each of the SDGs through our action platform

In addition we are looking to develop ways to engage prospective students with the SDGs as part of our recruitment/conversion/transition of students, which could be replicated by many universities.