



## 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

## *SDG Accord Reporting 2021 CASE STUDY*

### **Greenspace Calendar**

As a large thriving higher education community Durham University has significant energy use, water use and environmental impact. The Energy & Sustainability Team at Durham University leads the 'Greenspace Movement' an initiative designed to mitigate the impact of our education, research and student experience activities. Durham used 105 GWh of energy in 2019/20, we generated 0.3 GWh of renewable energy making Durham a top 30 UK University for renewable power production. All new building projects achieved a BREEAM excellent or higher rating. We have an extensive energy monitoring system with over 1,111 meters connected to our SystemLink platform. An increasing diversity of renewable energy Technology includes solar PV, solar thermal, ground and air source heat pumps, voltage optimisers and CHP system contribute to this and provide valuable experience in developing sustainable approaches to energy management. A ring-fenced carbon budget has so far funded 104 projects to replace energy intensive equipment with more efficient systems and has saved 3,967 tonnes of CO2 since 2011.

A detailed survey of the estate has identified 416 plant species, 99 bird species, 23 mammal species, 5 amphibian species and over 439 insect species. The University is developing a detailed plan to ensure there is no net loss of biodiversity. The team at the University Botanic Garden engage with the local community and schools to raise awareness of biodiversity issues and educate on biodiversity.

The Energy & Sustainability team organise the 'Greenspace Calendar', which has specific focus months, including initiatives to engage the University community and raise awareness of sustainability issues. Examples include: December's Power Down Challenge, March out Waste and Walking Month of May.

An Environmental Sustainability Strategic Planning Group has oversight of all activity related to the biodiversity, energy, environmental compliance, University engagement, travel and waste. The group reports to the University Executive Team.

## *SDG Accord Reporting 2021 CASE STUDY*

Outline the barriers (*if any*) encountered in integrating this theme and how you overcame these.

1. Navigating University policies and procedures can slow down the implementation of ideas.
2. The age and complexity of our estate makes retrofitting renewable technologies complicated and more expensive.
3. Covid-19 and the resulting 'emergency budget' meant that for 2020/21 our sustainability budgets were limited.



Please outline your conclusions and recommendations to others – max 200 words

Energy and Sustainability is well established at Durham, with initiatives dating back to 2005 still in place today. Success has been achieved by giving colleagues who are passionate about this topic the freedom to implement their ideas. The Greenspace Movement is supported by colleagues from across the University, from Marketing and Communications who steer the imagery and branding, Estates who monitor and report on energy/carbon consumption and Academic staff who lend their expertise. Bringing all of this together is the Environmental Sustainability Strategic Planning Group, who track progress against our 110 KPIs.