



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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

MPact 2025

The University of Minnesota's (UMN) Board of Regents approved MPact 2025, the University's new System Wide Strategic Plan, in June 2020. MPact 2025 is the culmination of a multi-year process, beginning in 2016, and noteworthy for its high degree of consultation with stakeholders. The Plan is also noteworthy for including within its metrics a commitment to measure UMN's progress toward the SDGs, as well as committing UMN to advancing natural resources and agro-food systems to elevate human security and potential, building a fully sustainable future, driving innovation for next-generation health, advancing diversity and equity and other actions directly related to the SDGs.

Specifically, the plan commits the UMN system to demonstrating state and worldwide leadership in sustainability and environmental teaching, research, and convening power. This includes the establishment of SDG metrics for submission to the Times Higher Education ranking system, with a goal of collecting baseline data this year to submit for SDGs 2, 3, 13, and 17.

BENEFITS

1. Integrating a commitment to measuring SDG work into the UMN System Wide Strategic Plan commits the entire University of Minnesota system (five campuses) to the same specific and measurable targets. The plan has clear goals and action items. It is a guidepost for the kind of institution we want to be.
2. Having SDGs integrated into the strategic plan also promotes knowledge of and understanding about this framework across the institution and the system. Along with the clear targets outlined in the metrics, UMN teams can now share common goals and best practices for measuring progress toward achieving the SDGs, and do so within a set timeframe. As part of this institutional commitment, a high-level system wide Sustainability Committee is being constituted to support campus sustainability work related to the SDGs, and campus-specific Sustainability Committees will support day to day direction on each campus. In order to facilitate progress toward the SDGs identified in the Strategic Plan, the University is also forming SDG Metrics Teams for each SDG to coordinate data collection and SDG Innovation Teams to foster research, education and partnerships related to each SDG.

BARRIERS

1. In order to accomplish integration of the SDGs in the Strategic Plan, University leadership and the University's SDG Initiative provided information and education related to the SDGs in several formats (individual and group meetings, presentations in University fora, and an SDG webinar series).

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CONCLUSIONS

For large-scale, multi-institution systems of higher education, like the University of Minnesota, it is crucial to have a formal plan and shared metrics for initiatives like advancing work related to the SDGs and creating a system to monitor progress in this area. The MPact 2025 plan reflects the university's commitment to world-class research, teaching, and service as well as to work to address pressing community issues at local and global levels.

It is also noteworthy that it was developed across three phases of planning, and the final plan is a result of broad and ongoing consultation with faculty, staff, and students, as well as alumni supporters and partners in the legislature and around the state. This ensures broad buy-in for these goals.