

# Impacting the Global Goals by DEGREES

Developing Education for Good with Research Excellence and Engagement



# THE GLOBAL GOALS AT LEICESTER

**At the heart of the UK, Leicester is a leading university committed to international excellence, world-changing research and high quality, inspirational teaching. Celebrating diversity among our staff and students; widening participation in higher education; engaging with local, national and international communities – all of these are part of what we do and who we are.**

The University was founded 100 years ago as a living memorial to those that gave their lives in WW1. Today that ethos of thinking global, acting local is more pertinent than ever. It is only natural then, that the University of Leicester has committed to contributing to the UN Sustainable Development Goals through their inclusion in the Social Impact Strategy and as

one of the first UK HE signatories of the SDG Accord in September 2017.

This report outlines the results of a year-long mapping exercise identifying our current academic contribution to the SDGs. It also highlights our operational and engagement activities aimed at further integrating the SDGs into every day University life.

## THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

### LEICESTER AND THE SDGS

Leicester's contribution to the SDGs has been mapped using a varied methodology (see appendix). The findings presented below give a strong indication of our academic strengths and the focus of each work area.

Whilst we have a clear contribution to each goal through our teaching, research and operations, the top five Goals University of Leicester's combined academic work contributes to are:



**GOAL 3:  
ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES**



**GOAL 9:  
BUILD RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALISATION AND FOSTER INNOVATION**



**GOAL 13:  
TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS**



**GOAL 16:  
PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**



**GOAL 15:  
PROTECT, RESTORE AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE OF TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS, SUSTAINABLY MANAGE FORESTS, COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, AND HALT AND REVERSE LAND DEGRADATION AND HALT DIVERSITY LOSS**



## Engagement & Outreach



# University of Leicester: Impacting the Global Goals by DEGREES

Developing Education for Good with Research Excellence & Engagement

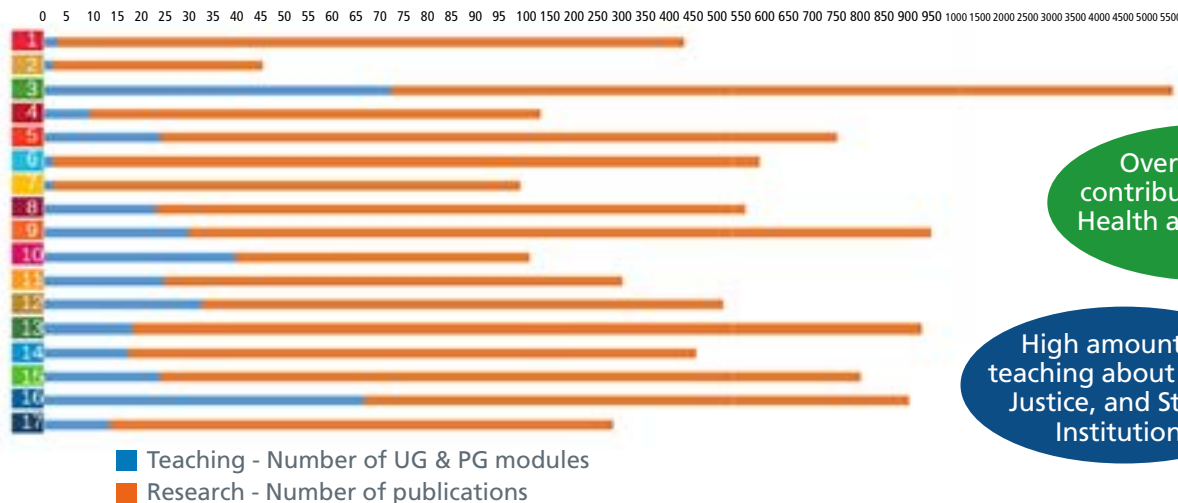
Large amount of public engagement activities in the College of Life Sciences

Many policies and initiatives contributing to Sustainable Cities, such as the Carbon Management Plan and Travel Plan

## Strategy & Operations



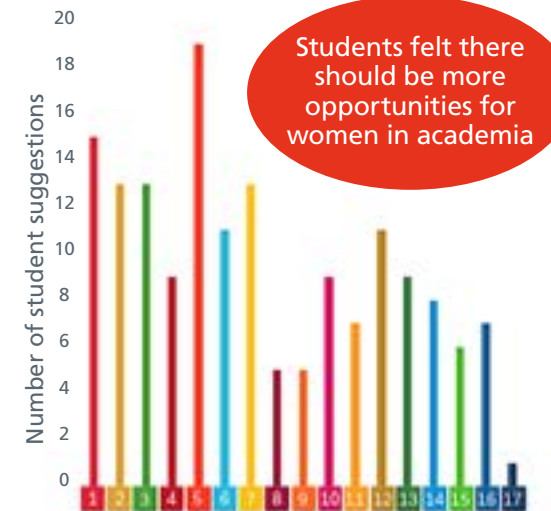
## Teaching & Research



Overwhelming contribution to Good Health and Wellbeing

High amounts of teaching about Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

## Student Voice



Students felt there should be more opportunities for women in academia



# UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

## KEY FACTS

**221** ACRES OF LAND ACROSS **5** SITES,  
INCLUDING RESIDENTIAL & HOSPITAL SITES

URBAN SITE WITH **40%** GREEN SPACE,  
INCLUDING OVER **10,000** TREES

**12,544** HOME STUDENTS

**2,135** INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

**1,222** EU STUDENTS (31% DL)

**3249** DISTANCE LEARNERS

**71%** UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS AND  
**83%** POSTGRADUATES HAVE ACCESS TO  
SDG-RELATED MODULES

**19,150** TOTAL STUDENTS







# END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE



## TEACHING

**3** modules with direct ILOs

**1305** students who could choose modules



## RESEARCH

**413** publications in Scopus 2012-17

**8787** "cited by" in Scopus

## IMPACT EXAMPLE

Prof. Vostanis's research (Psychology) focuses on the impact of trauma on child mental health, with particular focus on low-income countries.



## INSTITUTION EXAMPLE

The University has committed to paying the Living Wage Foundation Rate since 2015.



## ENGAGEMENT EXAMPLE

The Big Sleep raised over £9000 for The Bridge Homelessness to Hope as staff and students from the University of Leicester spent a night under the stars to raise awareness of homelessness.



# END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE



## TEACHING

**2** modules with direct ILOs

**651** students who could choose modules



## RESEARCH

**45** publications in Scopus 2012-17

**1862** "cited by" in Scopus



## IMPACT EXAMPLE

Efforts to improve sustainable crop development are being spearheaded by a collaboration between the University of Leicester, the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and the University of Addis Ababa.

Professor Pat Heslop-Harrison is leading an interdisciplinary project "Modelling and genomics resources to enhance exploitation of the sustainable and diverse Ethiopian starch crop *Enset*" where researchers are helping to enhance crop diversity for vulnerable populations. Their research focuses on the Ethiopian banana in order to better understand the crop species and its genetics. The crop has great potential for improving food security in Ethiopia and other parts of Africa, especially in areas affected by drought.



## INSTITUTION EXAMPLE

The Hungry for Change food growing project at three of our sites aims to change the way students think about what they're eating and why.



## ENGAGEMENT EXAMPLE

Beeutiful Campus: student volunteers in collaboration with Urban Buzz, Buglife planted specific flowers for pollinators to encourage more bees onto campus.







# ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES

## IMPACT EXAMPLE

Prof Sally Singh is directing **RECHARGE** that focuses on developing, testing and delivering suitable pulmonary rehabilitation programmes in low and middle income countries. This low cost, high impact healthcare intervention reverses the disability associated with lung disease by offering supervised exercise training and disease education, which supports patients to manage their condition.

The aim of the Programme is to build on existing expertise within the UK and the wider global health community to support outstanding research that addresses health issues affecting the poorest and most vulnerable people.



## INSTITUTION EXAMPLE

The Staff Health & Wellbeing Strategy provides support and advice including: active/healthy life; emotional wellbeing; health promotion; social events/clubs; benefits and rewards; and positive environment.



## ENGAGEMENT EXAMPLE

The Leicester Diabetes Centre, a partnership and collaboration between Leicester's Hospitals and the University of Leicester, have developed a course called **A Safer Ramadan**, which is open to everyone with type 2 diabetes across the city who wish to observe the holy month.



## TEACHING

**75** modules with direct ILOs

**3384** students who could choose modules



## RESEARCH

**5128** publications in Scopus 2012-17

**86,601** "cited by" in Scopus





# ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL



## TEACHING

**10** modules with direct ILOs

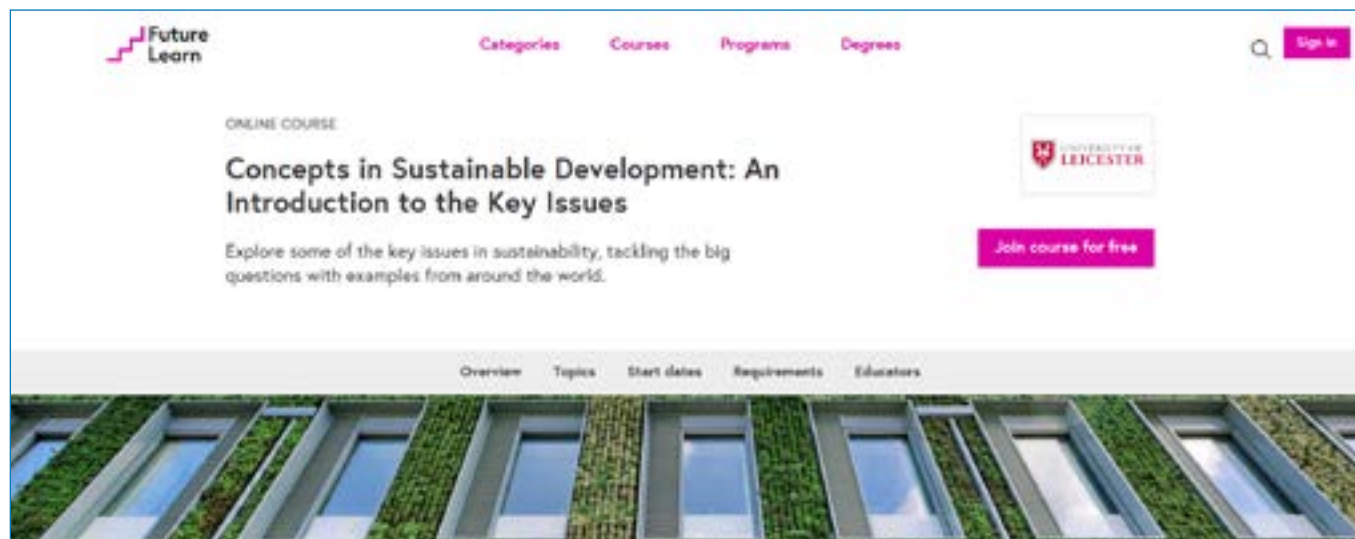
**3022** students who could choose modules



## RESEARCH

**157** publications in Scopus 2012-17

**748** "cited by" in Scopus



## IMPACT EXAMPLE

The London to Leicester partnership scheme has been going over three years with 17 schools and colleges around Greater London based on student Polar3 postcodes. The L2L partners are empowered to select a student who has chosen UoL as their firm choice University to receive a University of Leicester scholarship, a travel grant of £500 to come to our Taster Conference in June and priority access to our information, advice and guidance. The scheme has proved to be extremely popular - we have seen an increase of around 60% in applications and registrations from these schools and colleges.



## INSTITUTION EXAMPLE

The University of Leicester is a selective university with the most consistent commitment to widening participation. Unlike most selective universities we have consistently recruited the expected numbers of students from state education, low participation neighbourhoods and lower socio-economic households.

Every year we welcome thousands of children, young people, parents, carers and teachers onto campus for activities designed to promote higher education and its potential benefits. We proactively visit local schools and colleges in areas of disadvantage to help teachers raise aspirations of young children and prepare older pupils for applying to universities in the near future.



## ENGAGEMENT EXAMPLE

3,343 people worldwide registered for the Concepts in Sustainable Development MOOC, a multi-disciplinary look at sustainable development which touches on topics such as complexity, entropy and inequalities. The course ran over 6 weeks with content being delivered by a series of short video lectures, articles and external resources for further learning. The course was open to the general public and was accessed through Futurelearn, which allowed a global audience. This resulted in an engaging discussion in the comments section after every step.





# ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS



## TEACHING

**25** modules with direct ILOs

**5370** students who could choose modules



## RESEARCH

**705** publications in Scopus 2012-17

**12,383** "cited by" in Scopus



## Menopause Policy and Guidance



## IMPACT EXAMPLE

Dr Eugenia Caracciolo di Torella from Leicester Law School has jointly authored a report to the European Commission on the potential impact of the collaborative economy on gender equality.

The study argues that the collaborative economy has the potential to affect the principle of gender equality in many respects, and as it continues to develop, these will become more apparent. It is clearly time to acknowledge and regulate the potential impact that the collaborative economy may have on gender equality.



## INSTITUTION EXAMPLE

Three members of the Business School wrote the Government Equalities Office report 'The effects of menopause transition on women's economic participation in the UK'. This resulted in Leicester becoming the first university in the UK to have a menopause policy.



## International Women's Week

5-9 March 2018

### Events Guide

#PressforProgress



International Women's Day





# ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL



## TEACHING

**2** modules with direct ILOs

**375** students who could choose modules



## RESEARCH

**558** publications in Scopus 2012-17

**12,617** "cited by" in Scopus

## IMPACT EXAMPLE

Dr Harjinder Sembhi and Dr Darren Ghent are working with EarthLinks UK (UK) and The Energy and Resources Institute (Delhi) to develop new datasets on vegetation stress that will provide the evidence base for intervention strategies for better agriculture and water management. This will feed into targeted policy briefs and recommendations required to protect critical zones across the Indo-Gangetic Plain.







# ENSURE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND MODERN ENERGY FOR ALL



## TEACHING

**2** modules with direct ILOs

**453** students who could choose modules



## RESEARCH

**130** publications in Scopus 2012-17

**1775** "cited by" in Scopus



## IMPACT EXAMPLE

The University of Leicester is involved in a number of industrial collaborations that are leading the way in the search for alternative energy sources. One such example comes from our Condensed Matter Physics Research Group, who are developing thin and transparent photovoltaic film that can be applied to large surface areas, including windows.



## INSTITUTION EXAMPLE

The University's Carbon Management Plan demonstrates the University of Leicester's continued commitment towards reducing carbon emissions impact against its 2004/05 baseline. By taking actions as set out in the Carbon Management Action Plan, the University continues in its aim to reduce emissions from its activities and has already reduced by 15% despite growing in size.



The University has been awarded the triple gold Carbon Saver Standard in carbon, waste and water reductions.



# PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL



## TEACHING

**24** modules with direct ILOs

**3079** students who could choose modules



## RESEARCH

**504** publications in Scopus 2012-17

**3485** "cited by" in Scopus



## IMPACT EXAMPLE

Within the study 'Resilient Pastoralism: Towards Sustainable Futures in Rangelands' the University worked with locals and specialists in Kenya and Mongolia to study concepts of resilience in pastoral societies. Contemporary pastoralism supports the livelihoods of 500 million people worldwide and this research contributes toward a stable future for these societies by encouraging effective policy intervention.



## INSTITUTION EXAMPLE

The University's Career Development Service won an award for the 'Best University Employability Service'. Leicester is one of 9 universities that produce the most CEOs.



## ENGAGEMENT EXAMPLE

The Leicester Award is an inspirational personal development programme for all students with a wide range of activities including volunteering and professional mentoring to develop confidence, resilience and decision making skills.





# BUILD RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALIZATION AND FOSTER INNOVATION

## IMPACT EXAMPLE

The Universities of Leicester and Nairobi jointly hosted a 2-day **workshop** in Nairobi, looking at ways to **enhance the contribution** of science, technology and innovation to the delivery of the United Nation's 2030 Global Goals.



## INSTITUTION EXAMPLE

### Library LED Project

When a group of students analysed lighting in a number of main campus rooms, they presented the University with a proposal to save thousands of pounds and hundreds of tonnes of CO2. This led to a large scheme including a £1.3M project to replace lighting in the library that saved a fantastic 93% in energy costs.



## ENGAGEMENT EXAMPLE

**The Leicester Innovation Hub** is a £5.1m programme invested in by the University of Leicester and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and is a long term strategic University project.

Leicester Innovation Hub is the 'front door' to launching great ideas and also provides a dedicated incubation and innovation space, making it easier for companies to utilise innovation support, expertise and facilities.



## TEACHING

**31** modules with direct ILOs

**3015** students who could choose modules



## RESEARCH

**906** publications in Scopus 2012-17

**10,394** "cited by" in Scopus



# REDUCE INEQUALITY WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES



## TEACHING

**41** modules with direct ILOs

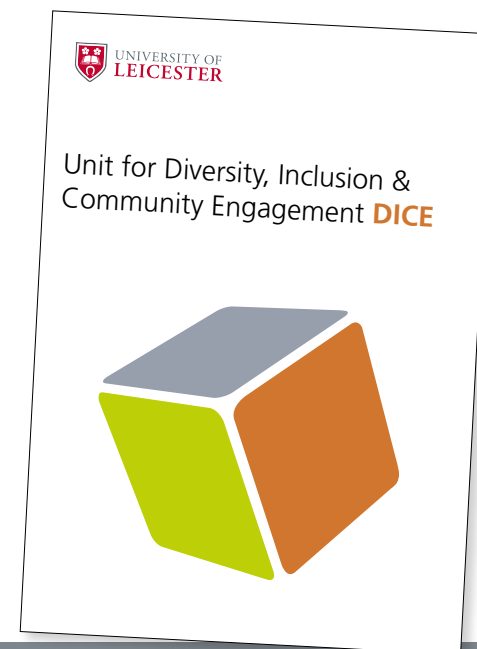
**6729** students who could choose modules



## RESEARCH

**106** publications in Scopus 2012-17

**3732** "cited by" in Scopus



## IMPACT EXAMPLE

The Centre for Black and Minority Ethnic Health acts as a centralised and coordinated repository of resources to support individuals and organisations undertaking research and healthcare delivery in partnership with black, Asian and ethnic minority (BAME) communities to help reduce health inequalities.



## INSTITUTION EXAMPLE

We are proud to be recognised as a top 100 employer in Stonewall's Workplace Equality Index, which showcases the most inclusive UK workplaces for lesbian, gay, bi and trans staff.

We have been a Stonewall Diversity Champion since 2013.



## ENGAGEMENT EXAMPLE

The Unit for DICE promotes diversity, inclusion and community engagement within the University of Leicester and on a local and national level.

DICE, in the School of Media, Communication and Sociology, is at the very heart of debates about promoting inclusion and making positive benefits out of diversity.

This prioritises promoting an audible public voice by acting as a hub for intelligent debate, routinely connecting community members, practitioners and policy makers to leading academics on campus and local and national media outlets.





# MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE



## TEACHING

**26** modules with direct ILOs

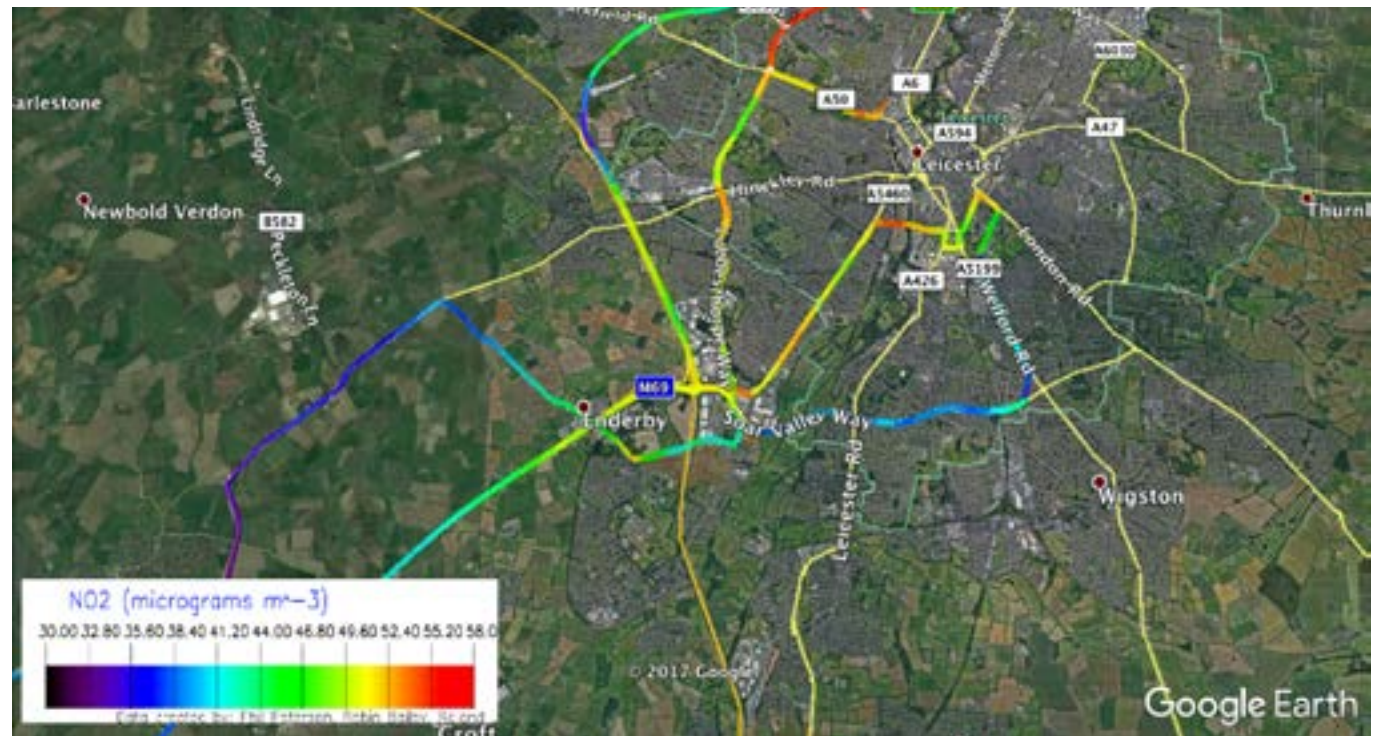
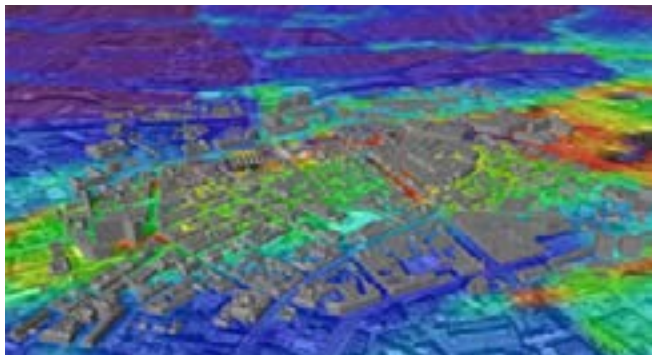
**4703** students who could choose modules



## RESEARCH

**283** publications in Scopus 2012-17

**6746** "cited by" in Scopus



## IMPACT EXAMPLE

Working with aerial specialists, the University was able to calculate exactly **how trees improve urban air quality**. This has informed government policy through the **DEFRA Air Quality Expert Group** (chaired by a UoL Professor).



## INSTITUTION EXAMPLE

We have already met our waste management 2020 targets:

- Achieve 50% on-site segregation of waste for recycling (by weight) – current rate 55%
- Achieve 95% diversion from landfill (by weight) – current rate 97%



## ENGAGEMENT EXAMPLE

The University of Leicester is among 30 universities to **sign a new "Civic University Agreement"** to reaffirm its role in contributing positively to the local community.



# ENSURE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTIVE PATTERNS

## IMPACT EXAMPLE

The **Sustainable Procurement Guidance** provides a menu of sustainability risk mitigations and added value options for including in tenders/contracts, including in relation to demand management and product efficiency, as is relevant and proportionate to the contract in question.



## INSTITUTION EXAMPLE

As part of Go Green Week, the Plan-It Change Student Society ran a successful **zero waste store** on campus and hope it to become a regular thing.



## ENGAGEMENT EXAMPLE

The **Ethical Investment Policy** commits the University to investing our endowment funds on a responsible basis, taking into account the concerns of the Social Impact Strategy.

In addition, the University has allocated 11% of the endowment funds to impact investments across the themes of resource efficiency, clean energy, financial services, healthcare and education.



## TEACHING

**34** modules with direct ILOs

**5153** students who could choose modules



## RESEARCH

**449** publications in Scopus 2012-17

**5973** "cited by" in Scopus







# TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS

## IMPACT EXAMPLE

Prof Hartmut Boesch is using Earth Observation to measure greenhouse gas exchange from space. At the COP-21 in Paris in 2015, the need for a supporting tool to assess international climate commitments on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions became evident, and we are now moving towards an operational, space-based system that will provide information on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions on a national scale relevant for policy makers and governments.



## INSTITUTION EXAMPLE

We have built the UK's largest non-residential project built to the ultra-energy efficient Passivhaus standard. The new £42m George Davies Centre includes a 1.6km-long ground-to-air heat exchanger, inter-slab cooling and a highly insulated and airtight building envelope.

The building brings together the schools of medicine, health sciences and psychology under a single roof and achieved a DEC 'A' rating in its first recorded year, demonstrating its very low carbon emissions to help the University achieve its ambition to be recognised for 'environmental and sustainability excellence'.



## TEACHING

**19** modules with direct ILOs

**5976** students who could choose modules



## RESEARCH

**897** publications in Scopus 2012-17

**17,419** "cited by" in Scopus



# CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



## TEACHING

**18** modules with direct ILOs

**3889** students who could choose modules



## RESEARCH

**418** publications in Scopus 2012-17

**4706** "cited by" in Scopus

## IMPACT EXAMPLE

The River Monster Project is a city-wide collaboration where plastic waste from the River Soar has been collected and made into a Loch Ness style monster to illustrate the problem of plastic pollution in the city.

As well as providing volunteers, academics from the University are researching the impact of plastics on water quality.



## INSTITUTION EXAMPLE

The Geography student society successfully bid for **SEED funding** to run an awareness raising campaign using metal water bottles as a reward for staff and students to pledge to behave more sustainably.







# PROTECT, RESTORE AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE OF TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS, SUSTAINABLY MANAGE FORESTS, COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, AND HALT AND REVERSE LAND DEGRADATION AND HALT DIVERSITY LOSS



## TEACHING

**25** modules with direct ILOs

**5766** students who could choose modules



## RESEARCH

**757** publications in Scopus 2012-17

**8830** "cited by" in Scopus

## IMPACT EXAMPLE

Raising awareness of and reducing the climate impact of land uses on peat soils. Professor Sue Page's [research](#) includes a particular emphasis on the impacts of land-use change and fire on the carbon cycle of tropical peatlands. By developing engagement opportunities with external organisations and businesses, her expertise has been crucial to science-based approaches to peatland management that, when implemented, support the mitigation and management of peat carbon and greenhouse gas emissions.



## INSTITUTION EXAMPLE

With 88 acres of green space hosting a plethora of species, the University's [Biodiversity Action Plan](#) seeks not only to 'do no harm' but also instigate projects and strategies that make a positive contribution for all life on our sites.



## ENGAGEMENT EXAMPLE

We carry out a number of tree planting sessions with local schools each year. For example, in November 2018 420 saplings, donated by the Woodland Trust, were planted by children from local schools to improve the biodiversity habitat and helped to engage young people with their environment.



# PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL, ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS



## TEACHING

**69** modules with direct ILOs

**4184** students who could choose modules



## RESEARCH

**819** publications in Scopus 2012-17

**13,109** "cited by" in Scopus



## The Leicester **HATE CRIME** Project

Findings and  
Conclusions

**Executive Summary**

## IMPACT EXAMPLE

The Leicester Hate Crime Project is Britain's biggest ever study of hate crime victimisation – uncovering new insights into the nature and forms of these acts and their impact upon victims, families and wider communities.



## ENGAGEMENT EXAMPLE

The University is proud to be a principle partner of Leicester Citizens, a large and diverse alliance of active citizens and leaders from local institutions who are committed to working together for common good.







# STRENGTHEN THE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND REVITALIZE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

## IMPACT EXAMPLE

Leicester was one of the first UK HE institutions to sign the **SDG Accord**, the University and College Sector's Collective Response to the SDGs.



## INSTITUTION EXAMPLE

As one of the first UK institutions to embrace the SDGs strategically and to develop rigorous mapping of our activities, the University has run several webinars and sector workshops to assist other HE institutions in their SDG journeys.



## ENGAGEMENT EXAMPLE

The University hosted the **14th biennial international Conference on Communication and Environment** in 2017 where the theme was 'Democracy, Borders and Public/Political Engagement: Challenges for Environmental Communication'. This brought together leading environmental communication scholars and practitioners from around the world for four days of presentations and discussions about how best to address the key challenges facing the environment and environmental communication in these times of rapidly shifting political landscapes.

## The SDG Accord

*The University and College sector's collective response to the Sustainable Development Goals*



[www.sdgaccord.org](http://www.sdgaccord.org) #SDGAccord



## TEACHING

**14** modules with direct ILOs

**3064** students who could choose modules



## RESEARCH

**279** publications in Scopus 2012-17

**6773** "cited by" in Scopus

# METHODOLOGY

Data were collected at the end of the 2017/18 academic year in four categories; teaching, research, strategy & operations and community & public engagement. Due to data constraints, only teaching and research results have been fully reported here.

Work will continue to improve data collection and methodology design to improve our reporting for future years.

## TEACHING

As part of a wider Curriculum Transformation (CT) project, an audit was carried out to identify existing sustainability-related teaching and opportunities to incorporate more Education for Sustainability (ESD) within the curriculum. Intended learning outcomes (ILO's) were specifically used to identify what students should know or be able to do by the end of the module. The ILOs had to engage with any of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals or with our transferable skills network (TSF).

Modules have been identified that contain teaching relating to the UN's 17 SDGs – both core and optional modules. We have only been able to use the ILO's as a reference to see whether the module contains the SDGs and, as they are brief, it is hard to ascertain which

specific ones they contain. For example, when the environmental issues are mentioned we assumed that SDGs 13, 14 and 15 are included but this could include elements of renewable energy etc.

## RESEARCH

Mapping the institution's research was difficult as there is no current or standardised method to capture all the related research. Firstly, lists of keywords relating to the 17 different SDGs were created using keywords and query codes from Aurora Network<sup>1</sup> and from Monash University and SDSN Australia/Pacific<sup>2</sup> as reference. The aim was to use these keywords to match words in publication titles through the use of Excel, however this proved to be very difficult so we changed our method.

Research publications from the last 5 years (2013-2018) were mapped using query codes, including keywords relating to each SDG, to search for keywords within publication titles, abstract and keywords in the Scopus online database. Some lists had to be adapted during the exercise, as some keywords had different meanings for different subjects (e.g. for SDG11 (Sustainable Cities) "transport" was used when searching for transport systems research, however transport can be used in other contexts, such as the transport of molecules around the body).

<sup>1</sup> Aurora Network – Initial Query Codes - SDG Analysis: bibliometric of reference

<sup>2</sup> Monash University and SDSN Australia/Pacific – Compiled keywords for SDG mapping









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