

The SDG Accord

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

Embedding Sustainability through an Institutional SDG Framework



SDG focus

- ☒ Goal 4 - Quality education
- ☒ Goal 7 - Affordable and clean energy
- ☒ Goal 11 - Sustainable cities and communities

What did you do?

Nehru Institute of Technology (NIT) developed and implemented a comprehensive Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Plan and Framework to embed sustainability across its curriculum, research, campus operations, and community outreach. The initiative involved integrating SDG themes into academic programs, establishing solar energy systems, promoting green infrastructure, launching student-led SDG clubs, and setting up mechanisms for monitoring and reporting. Through this initiative, sustainability was institutionalized as a core value in all functional areas of the college.

What were the benefits and outcomes?

1. Academic Impact: Over 80% of UG and PG programs now include SDG-related content. Students engaged in over 100 project-based learning initiatives aligned with real-world sustainability problems
2. Environmental Impact: Installation of solar photovoltaic systems led to 30% of campus energy coming from renewables by 2024, and water-efficient systems reduced consumption by 20%.
3. Community Engagement: Outreach programs benefited 10+ rural communities with initiatives like solar electrification, clean water drives, and SDG awareness campaigns

What barriers or challenges did you encounter in embedding sustainability into your learning and teaching practice and how did you overcome them?

1. Lack of initial awareness among students and staff — Overcome through workshops, SDG Day observances, and interactive training sessions.
2. Limited funding for infrastructure upgrades — Resolved by partnering with industry and applying for government/NGO sustainability grants.
3. Resistance to curriculum change — Addressed by conducting faculty development programs and showcasing successful interdisciplinary teaching models.

What are your conclusions and recommendations for others?

To successfully embed SDGs in an educational institution, a holistic and participatory approach is key. Start by creating a strong vision and governance structure, provide SDG training, and make sustainability part of every academic and operational activity. Celebrate small wins, encourage student leadership, and establish transparent reporting mechanisms. Collaboration with community and industry partners amplifies the real-world impact and fosters innovation.

Web link to further information:

<https://www.nehruinstitute.com/the-sustainable-development-goals/>