**SDG Accord Report Toolkit**

**Introduction**

Global universities, colleges and students have a leading role in the delivery of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Led by a Global Alliance of the world’s university, college and student sustainability networks, the SDG Accord is a worldwide partnership – representing approximately 62 institutions and reaching 1.28 million students. Launched in September 2017, the Accord is a public declaration of an institution’s commitment to sharing and reporting on their progress towards the SDGs – giving rich insight into the actions undertaken by higher and further education and their outcomes in our communities and the world at large. There are four different types of signatory: institution, individual, supporting organisation and students’ organisation.

All signatories are encouraged to follow 5 principles:

• Align all major efforts with the Sustainable Development Goals, targets and indicators, including through our education, research, leadership, operational and engagement activities;

• Aim to involve members from all key stakeholder groups in this endeavour, including students, academics, professional staff, local communities and other external stakeholders;

• Collaborate across cities, regions, countries and continents with other signatory institutions as part of a collective international response;

• Using their own unique ways, inform, share our learning and account to both local and global communities our progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals;

• (Institutions only) Annually report to the UN High Level Political Forum ‘how does my institution contribute to the Goals and what more can we do’.

The report we are launching today at the UN High Level Political Forum in New York is the result of the fifth principle. It provides insight into the global landscape of the SDGs in higher and further education, both institutions as a whole and students. It also shows how they are being supported by global organisations and networks.

This is the first report borne from the SDG Accord institutional signatories and the mandatory reporting process, and it will be presented annually to the UN.

**Details**

***Report title:*** [Global universities, colleges and students leading delivery of the UN Sustainable Development Goals](http://www.sustainabilityexchange.ac.uk/files/the_sdg_accord_un_high_political_forum_doc_-_interactive.pdf)

***Date and time of launch***: 9am (BST) on Wednesday, 11th July 2018.

***Web links:*** <http://www.sustainabilityexchange.ac.uk/files/the_sdg_accord_un_high_political_forum_doc_-_interactive.pdf>

***Launch event***: UN High Level Political Forum in New York

***Social media handles and addresses:***

Twitter –

Handle - [@UN](https://twitter.com/UN) ‏

Hashtag - #SDGAccord

#HLPF

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/TheEAUC/>

LinkedIn - <https://www.linkedin.com/company/environmental-association-for-universities-and-colleges/>

**Communications pack includes:**

1. Press release
2. Newsletter text
3. Suggested tweet
4. Images

Global Alliance press release

Embargoed: 9.00am (BST), Wednesday 11th July 2018

**New report shows post-16 education must shift up a gear in bid to tackle Global Goals**

The Global Alliance – a partnership of the world’s universities, colleges and sustainability networks are today (Wednesday, 11th July) launching a new report at the UN’s High Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York, exploring the global contribution of Further and Higher Education to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This research was borne from the SDG Accord, which has attracted some 600 signatories from over 60 countries since its launch in September 2017. This includes 64 institutions representing c. 1.28 million students andnearly 100 global education sector networks representing c. 6000 institutions.

The report, ‘Global universities, colleges and students leading delivery of the UN Sustainable Development Goals’ calls on the UN to better promote the role of higher and further education in all of the SDGs rather than only Goal 4 and on senior management in universities and colleges to look for innovative ways to increase staff and student capacity to address the SDGs.

Other recommendations to the UN include mandating the embedding of Education for Sustainable Development in higher and further education curriculum and the need for a mechanism to fund international collaborative interdisciplinary research opportunities in and between universities and colleges on the SDGs. Additionally institutions are called on to incorporate the SDGs holistically, particularly in any new processes, and students are asked to be the change they want to see.

The findings highlight the opportunities and challenges for institutions in embedding the SDGs and their commitment to increase their contributions to the SDGs next year. They also show the aspiration of students to learn more about the SDGs in their institutions and the changing focus of young people as they start to prioritise social justice and environmental ethics.

***Iain Patton, Founding Partner of the Global Alliance and Chief Executive at the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC),*** said: “This research identifies the critical first steps that pioneering universities and colleges are taking to play their part in realising the Sustainable Development Goals. It highlights the optimism and commitment within the sector, and the role institutions have in inspiring and showing the world’s 200 million higher and further education students why the Global Goals are so relevant and important to their lives and careers.”

To sign the SDG Accord, visit [www.sdgaccord.org](http://www.sdgaccord.org)

ENDS

Note to Editors

1. List of Endorsing Partners:

Youth Research and Development Forum

Learning for Sustainability Scotland

European Students' Union

European Association for International Education

United Nations Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development, Georgetown, South Carolina, USA

ICMA NSU Student Chapter

Advanced Procurement for Universities & Colleges

Sustainable University Network (SUN) of Thailand

One Planet Education Networks

Center for a Sustainable University (KNU), Universitat Hamburg

Institute of Environmental Engineering

Kent State University College of Business Administration

IT Schools Africa

Nordic Sustainable Campus Network

WHO Collaborating Centre for Healthy Urban Environments, UWE, Bristol

IEMA - Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment

GIESD (Global Internode for Education and Sustainable Development)

ASRAD-Mali

Alianza de Redes Iberoamericanas de Universidades por la Sustentabilidad y el Ambiente

Association of University Directors of Estates

University Educators for Sustainable Development (UE4SD)

SEEd, Sustainability and Environmental Education

Institute for Sustainable Entrepreneurship

English Learning and Sustainability Alliance

The Hope Spring Water Charity Foundation

ARIUSA - Alianza de Redes Iberoamericanas de Universidades por la Sustentabilidad y el Ambiente

Strategic Development Worldwide

Swedish International Centre of Education for Sustainable Development (SWEDESD)

netzwerk n e

AIM2Flourish at the Fowler Center for Business as an Agent of World Benefit, Weatherhead School of Management - Case Western Reserve University

PRME Chapter UK & Ireland

PSS.Educational Development Society

Youth Foundation of Bangladesh

RAPA

Sulitest

Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges

International Sustainable Campus Network

International Association of Universities (IAU)

Istituto per l'Ambiente e l'Educazione - WEEC Network

Conference des grandes Ecoles

rootAbility

Society for the Environment

RCE Brittany, France

Intentional Endowments Network

AASHE

China Green University Network

Sustainability Education Research Institute

The Sustainability and Education Policy Network

Entrepreneurship Educators' Association of the Philippines

Institution Of Environmental Sciences

National Union of Students

Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability

Campus Responsables

Globally Responsible Leadership Initiative

CAS-Net JAPAN

US Partnership for Education for Sustainable Development

Disciplinary Associations Network for Sustainability

Greater Portland Sustainability Education Network

Foundation for Environmental Education

1. The Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC), [‘Global universities, colleges and students leading delivery of the UN Sustainable Development Goals’](http://www.sustainabilityexchange.ac.uk/files/the_sdg_accord_un_high_political_forum_doc_-_interactive.pdf), 11th July 2018.
2. More information can be found on the SDG Accord website – [www.sdgaccord.org](http://www.sdgaccord.org)
3. [The EAUC](http://www.eauc.org.uk/) is the founding partner of the SDG Accord and the Global Alliance. It is a not-for-profit, member based charity, run by members for members and empowers its’ members creativity and dynamism to lead the sustainability agenda within Further and Higher Education in the UK and Ireland.From starting out as a voluntary organisation in 1996, the EAUC has grown to represent over 2 million students and nearly 400,000 faculty and staff with a spending budget of over £25 billion. The EAUC helps leaders, academics and other professionals to drive sustainability to the heart of their post-16 education institutions.

**Newsletter copy**

A global alliance of the world’s universities, colleges and sustainability networks have today (Wednesday, 11th July) launched a new report; ‘Global universities, colleges and students leading delivery of the UN Sustainable Development Goals’. Presented at the UN High Level Political Forum in New York, the research calls on the UN to better promote the role of higher and further education in all of the SDGs rather than only Goal 4 and on senior management in universities and colleges to look for innovative ways to increase staff and student capacity to address the SDGs. This research was undertaken by the EAUC and you can find the report here and sign up to the SDG Accord here.

**Suggested Tweets**

New report launched today: ‘Global universities, colleges and students leading delivery of the UN Sustainable Development Goals’. Based on #SDGAccord mandatory reporting and presented to the @UN at the #HLPF https://bit.ly/2KRXxXU

Find out more about how further and higher education are contributing to the #SDGs in the new #SDGAccord report https://bit.ly/2KRXxXU

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) reflect a powerful global ‘Call to Action’. Find out what higher and further education institutions are doing to contribute to the SDGs in the new #SDGAccord report <https://bit.ly/2KRXxXU>

**Images**