

What are the SDGs?



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



The SDG Accord

Recognising that we are at different stages in our journey towards a sustainable future, with differing strategic priorities dependant on our strategic ambitions, areas of expertise and organisational culture

This Accord calls upon we, the world's universities and colleges

to embed the Sustainable Development Goals into our education, research, leadership, operations, administration and engagement activities.

We Accord Signatories recognise:

- The indivisible and interconnected nature of the universal set of Goals – People, Prosperity, Planet, Partnership, Peace
- That, as educators, we have a responsibility to play a central and transformational role in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030

And we thereby assert:

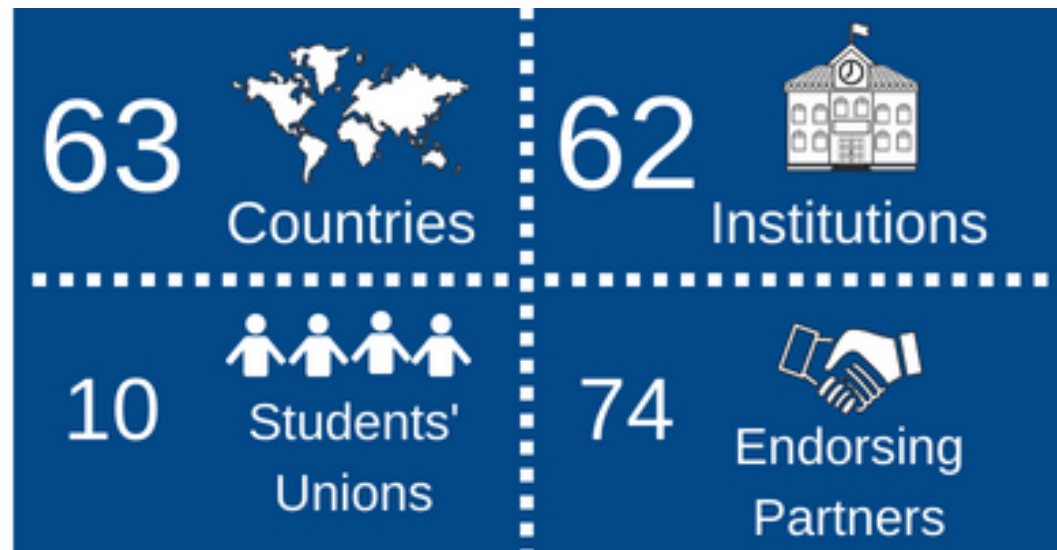
That as leaders or individual practitioners, academics, students or researchers, we will:

- 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 our own unique ways, inform, share our learning and account to both local and global communities our progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals;
- Annually report on 'how does my institution contribute to the Goals and what more can we do'.

The SDG Accord

Post-16 education contributing to the Global Goals

577
Signatories



Progress

- Created a resource hub on the Sustainability Exchange
- Created a Learning Network - over 150 people
- Run webinars
- Created a reporting mechanism and collated findings

The SDG Accord

Post-16 education contributing to the Global Goals

Reporting



Institutions

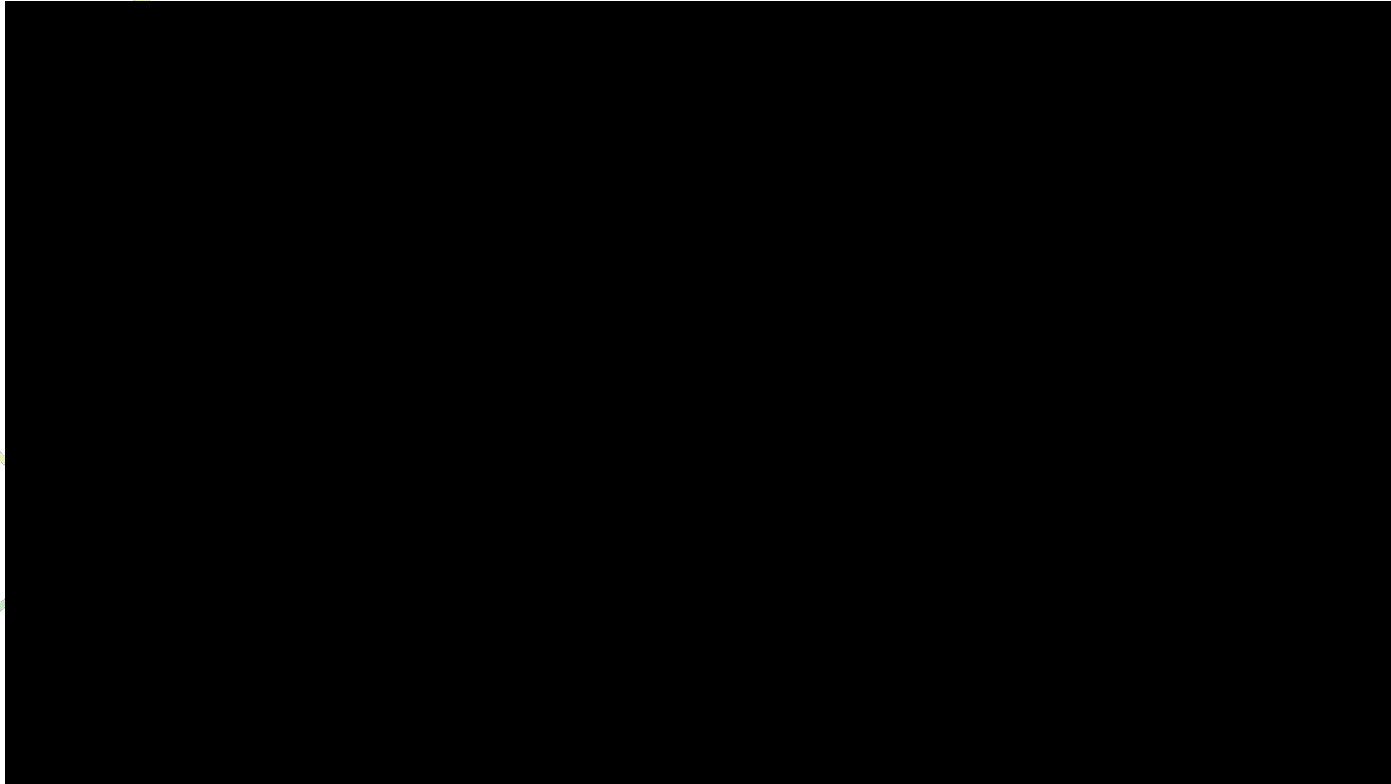
- **Key findings**

- Just under two thirds (62%) said their institutions commitment to the SDGs was either Good or Very Good.
- However, only a quarter (24%) formally report on their SDG work.
- Of those that do not yet formally report on the SDGs, over half (51%) plan to next year and nearly three quarters (72%) can supply informal evidence of the work they are doing towards the SDGs
- The SDGs that these institutions have committed to the most at this stage, are Education (Goal 4), Gender Equality (Goal 5) and Climate Action (Goal 13). On the other end of the scale, the Goal mostly likely not to have been addressed yet was Life Below Water (Goal 14) and Zero Hunger (Goal 2).
- The most common area that institutions had started to embed the SDGs was teaching and curriculum, and engagement activities, while the least likely area for the SDGS to be embedded was in research.
- In the next 1-2 years, the most commonly outlined step for institutions to take was to engage students with the SDGs
- By far, the biggest challenge institutions reported was a lack of staff capacity. Only one institution said they had no issues at all with embedding the SDGs.

Endorsing partners

- We asked 21 of our Endorsing partners about why they are supporting the SDG Accord.
- Most commonly, they said:
 - ☐ To ensure post-16 education had an initiative that brought focus and shared learning on the SDGs
 - ☐ To demonstrate collective support for the SDGs
 - ☐ To participate in a platform that promotes sustainability and the common good
 - ☐ Because we believe that the SDGs will not be achieved without the commitment of the education sector.
- A huge majority (88%) of Partners said having the SDG Accord as a collaborative global approach to the SDGs for post-16 education was either 'extremely important' or 'very important'.
- An even bigger majority (94%) said the potential impact of a collaborative global approach like the Accord was 'High' or 'Very High'.
- Recognition that it was important for SDG Accord signatories to share their learning on the SDGs was unanimous.

UN High-Level Political Forum



We want to know your thoughts on the SDGs!

1) Go to **slido.com**

2) Enter the code **#SDGAccord**

Speakers

- Emily Mason - Sustainability Assistant - University of Kent
- Dr Sandra Lee - Social Impact Lead - University of Leicester
- Meghan Fay Zahniser - Executive Director - Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)



Emily Mason

University of
Kent

Panel

- Our panelists will now take part in a 15 minute panel debate.
- We have some questions that members have sent in already - but please raise your hand if you have an SDG question or topic for debate.

Thank-you

To sign the SDG Accord, visit:

www.SDGAccord.org