



University
of Glasgow

Our Commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals

- Investment Case Guidance

**WORLD
CHANGERS
WELCOME**

**A WORLD
TOP 100
UNIVERSITY**



What are the SDGs, and what have we done so far?



The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership.



The UofG Contribution

- We were the first university in Scotland to declare a **climate emergency**
- We have committed to a plan to achieve **carbon neutrality** by 2030
- We submitted to the Times Higher Education **Impact Rankings** in 2022 – these are currently the only global performance ranking to assess our progress and performance against the UN SDGs
- We came **19th in the world** in 2022
- We have submitted again in 2023, this time our submission covered all **17 SDGs**



Why should we integrate the SDGs into our work?



They are **broad** in scope, covering a range of vitally important outcomes – social, economic and environmental.

We therefore can contribute to the Goals in many ways, through a balanced approach

They offer a **global framework** – an effective, integrated and uniform way to map and communicate our impact.

We can also assess the global appetite for SDG-related education



They are **influential**. We will increasingly see the SDGs become a major influencer on the strategies and actions of global organisations of all kinds.

They provide a **common goal** and shared interest for organisations in all sectors, enabling greater opportunity for partnership.

We can also create an easily accessible body of material using the SDGs as a lens, for campaigns and engagement work



The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Find out more about the SDGs at sdgs.un.org/goals



SDG

UN Target (summarised)

UofG Examples



1 NO POVERTY
End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Reduce proportion of people living in poverty
Ensure equal rights to economic resources
Mobilisation of resources to provide adequate means for developing countries to implement anti-poverty programmes and policies
Create sound frameworks to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions

[Free sanitary products](#)
[Our extensive work in Widening Participation](#)



2 ZERO HUNGER
End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

End hunger and improve access to food
End malnutrition
Increase agricultural productivity and further develop sustainable food production systems and resilient agricultural practices
Address trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets and food commodity markets

[Glasgow Centre for International Development](#)
[UofG and Food Train partnership project 'Eat Well Age Well'](#)



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Reduce maternal mortality; end preventable deaths under five years of age; fight communicable diseases; reduce mortality from non-communicable diseases
Promote mental health; prevent and treat substance abuse
Reduce road injuries and deaths; grant universal access to sexual and reproductive care, family planning and education
Achieve universal health coverage and reduce illnesses and death from pollution and hazardous chemicals
Implement the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control
Support affordable vaccines and medicines; improve early warning signs for global health risks

[The Co-IMMUNicate project](#)
[UofG Sport 'Rising Stars' basketball outreach](#)
[EuroFIT lifestyle change programme harnessing the passion of male football fans for their clubs](#)

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SDG

UN Target (summarised)

UofG Examples

4 QUALITY EDUCATION




Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Free primary and secondary education; equal access to quality pre-primary education
Affordable technical, vocational and higher education
Increased number of people with skills for financial success
Elimination of discrimination in education
Universal numeracy and literacy; and education for sustainable development and global citizenship

We contribute significantly to this SDG as a world-class educational institute – and through our WP and access measures

5 GENDER EQUALITY




Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

End all forms of discrimination against women and girls everywhere
Eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres
Recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work
Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership
Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls

[Women in Physics](#)
[Ada Scotland Festival](#)
Strong POD EDI leadership including support for Athena SWAN and Aurora, and GBV work

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Safe and affordable drinking water, and access to sanitation and hygiene
Improve water quality, wastewater treatment and safe reuse
Increase water-use efficiency and ensure freshwater supplies
Protect and restore water-related ecosystems

[Glasgow Water Cluster](#)
Free drinking water on campus

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Universal access to modern energy
Increase global percentage of renewable energy; double the improvement in energy efficiency
Promote access to research, technology and investments in clean energy
Expand and upgrade energy services for developing countries

[Hydrogen integration](#)
Estates' Technical Services work to reduce [carbon emissions](#)

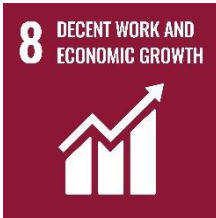
The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

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SDG

UN Target (summarised)

UofG Examples



Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Sustainable economic growth; diversify, innovate and upgrade for economic productivity
Promote policies to support job creation and growing enterprises; promote beneficial and sustainable tourism
Improve resource efficiency in consumption and production
Full employment and decent work with equal pay; promote youth employment and training
End modern slavery, trafficking and child labour; protect labour rights and promote safe working environments

[Macroeconomics Cluster](#)
[Sustainable Procurement GRID](#)



Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation

Develop sustainable, resilient and inclusive infrastructures
Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation
Increase access to financial services and markets
Upgrade all industries and infrastructures for sustainability
Enhance research and upgrade industrial technologies

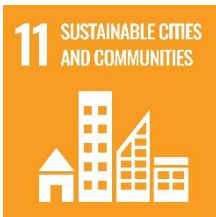
[Nebuliser spinout](#)
[The Living Laboratory Business and Innovation](#)



Reduce inequality within and among countries

Reduce income inequalities; promote universal social, political and economic inclusion
Ensure equal opportunities and end discrimination
Adopt fiscal and social policies that promote equality
Improved regulation of global financial markets and institutions; enhanced representation for developing countries
Responsible and well-managed migration policies

[Good Places, Better Health](#)
[The influential work of CoSS](#)
[Understanding Racism, Transforming University Cultures](#)



Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Safe and affordable housing; affordable and sustainable transport systems; inclusive and sustainable urbanisation
Protection of the world's cultural and natural heritage
Reduction of the effect of natural disasters and of the environmental impacts of cities; to provide access to safe and inclusive green spaces

[The vision and work of The Hunterian](#)
Free access to our campuses, Library and most Museums
[The work of the Centre for Sustainable Solution \(inc GALLANT\)](#)



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SDG

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UofG Examples

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Implement the 10-year Framework of Programs on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns
 Achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources
 Reduce by half the per capita global food waste
 Achieve environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes; reduce waste generation through prevention, production, recycling and re-use
 Encourage companies to adopt sustainable practices; promote sustainable public procurement practices
 Ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development

- [The Warpit recycling scheme](#)
- [Sustainable Food practices in our Catering outlets](#)
- [Increased recycling](#)

13 CLIMATE ACTION



Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters
 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning
 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

- [The Digital Twin initiative used to reduce energy use in our buildings](#)
- [Sustainable Laboratories SOLSPACE](#)

14 LIFE BELOW WATER



Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Reduce marine pollution; protect and restore ecosystems; reduce ocean acidification
 Sustainable fishing
 Conserve coastal and marine areas
 Increase the economic benefits from sustainable use of marine resources
 Increase scientific knowledge, research and technology for ocean health; support small scale fishers; implement and enforce international sea laws

- [Clyde in the Classroom](#)

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SDG

UN Target (summarised)

UofG Examples

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LIFE
ON LAND



Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

Conserve and restore terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems
End deforestation and restore degraded forests; end desertification and restore degraded land; ensure conservation of mountain ecosystems
Protect biodiversity and natural habitats; prevent invasive alien species on land and in water
Eliminate poaching and trafficking of protected species
Integrate ecosystem and biodiversity in governmental planning

[Compostable Crop Sensors](#)

[Biodiversity Working Group](#)

[International Green Academy](#)

16

PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Reduce violence; protect children from abuse, exploitation, trafficking and violence
Promote the rule of law and equal access to justice
Combat organised crime and illicit arms flows; substantially reduce bribery and corruption
Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions
Ensure responsive, inclusive and representative decision-making
Strengthen participation in global governance
Provide universal legal identity
Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms

[The work of our School of Law including GO Justice](#)
[Our robust and inclusive governance structure](#)

The influence of our academic colleagues on local and national government

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PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development

This Goal reflects the need for international cooperation in achieving the previous 16 Goals and is intended to ensure that countries and organisations cooperate instead of competing. Developing multi-stakeholder partnerships to share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial support is critical to the overall success of the SDGs.

[CIVIS](#)
[Our membership of the UK Universities Climate Network](#)
[Climate Ready Clyde](#)
[The interdisciplinary, cross-sectoral work of the Centre for Sustainable Solutions](#)

Examples of Investment Case alignment to SDGs

These are generic examples and not linked to real investment cases – included for illustration purposes

Enhancements to student-facing services

- Depending on the specific enhancement these might contribute to SDG1 and/or SDG2 – No Poverty and Zero Hunger if the investment will provide resources to students in need (e.g. subsidised food; equipment)
- It may also be linked to SDG3 if focused on mental or physical health (e.g. counselling, sexual health, sport)

University public spaces and facilities

- The Hunterian contributes significantly to SDG11 through protection of the world's cultural heritage in an inclusive way, as does the University as a whole by providing free access to events on our campuses, and to the campuses themselves
- Investments in support of these areas could contribute to SDG11

Campus Development

- Our campus development activity also contributes to SDG11 through sustainable construction practices and by enhancing public green spaces (e.g. St Mungo Square at the ARC)
- New features like PV panels, rainwater harvesting and sustainable drainage also contribute to SDG12

Catering operations ongoing sustainability initiatives

- Investment in electric food trucks and alignment with suppliers with strong sustainable credentials contributes to SDG12
- Elimination of single use plastics contributes both to SDG12 but also SDG14 in respect of the reduction in marine pollution
- Any affordable food options may also contribute to SDG1 and/or 2 along with healthy food options.

Forming partnerships with third parties to enhance courses

- Partnerships with other organisations, depending on the partnership, is a valuable contribution to the SDGs. In the context of a course delivery enhancement, this is likely to contribute to SDG4, especially where the partnership will provide education on sustainable development
- SDG17 reflects the acknowledgement that to achieve the Goals, organisations need to partner and share knowledge.
- Depending on the context of the partnership, it could support a number of the Goals

Economic Development and Innovation

- Our Economic Development work, such as GRID, contributes to SDG8 as it should create economic growth, and is also closely linked to SDG9 due to the focus on innovation
- Innovation and Economic Development work can also contribute to a number of other SDGs depending on the initiative – SDG5 if we are providing support specifically for women and girls; SDG3 if the innovation is a health-based one; SDG7 if it relates to clean energy etc.



Dear Green Bothy

This is an example of how the UN SDG alignment may be illustrated, in the context of the 'best practice' business case



The Dear Green Bothy contributed successfully to COP26 and we wish to continue to build upon that legacy. DGB is aligned with the following SDGs:

SDG4 – Quality Education: Through the provision of free, accessible events open to the public. This includes talks, outdoor events, music performances, and online events in the theme of sustainability.

SDG13 – Climate Action: Through the development of a research and teaching network in critical areas of climate change, sustainability and the environment. This includes collaboration with students, academics and external communities

SDG17 – By building DGB as a platform, we will support connectivity for a sustainable future through collaborations between CoA researchers and communities across and beyond the University. By sharing our skills, knowledge, and resources with others we can contribute more impactfully to the SDGs.