

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

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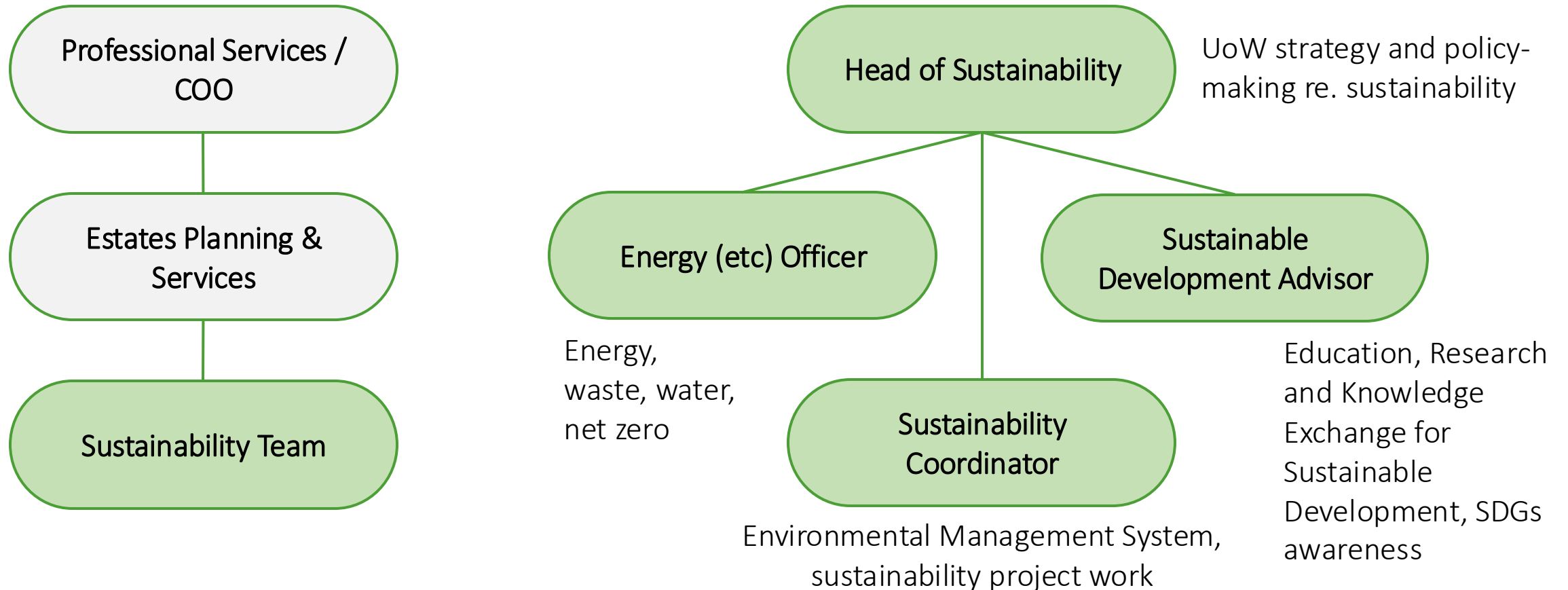
Human Computer Interaction and User Experience, 8 October 2024



Agenda

- What are United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?
- Where did they come from?
- SDGs at Westminster
- Examples of SDGs/sustainable development in practice
 - ... within University of Westminster
 - ...within your discipline

University of Westminster Sustainability Team





WHAT IS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (SD)?

'...meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.'

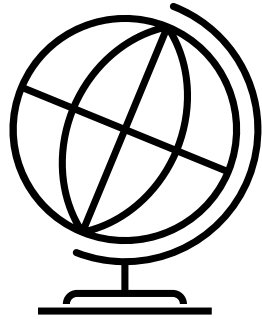
- UN Brundtland Commission, [Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future](#), 1987

'Sustainable development is how we must live today if we want a better tomorrow, by meeting present needs without compromising the chances of future generations to meet their needs.' [United Nations \(UN\)](#)

*'...an aspirational ongoing process of addressing **social**, **environmental** and **economic** concerns to create a better world.'*

- QAA / Advanced HE [Education for Sustainable Development Guidance](#), 2021

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



The [SDGs](#) aim to '*bring the global community together to work towards common solutions to the world's most pressing problems and stimulate action [...] in areas of critical importance for humanity and the planet for achieving 2030 Agenda.*'



They break down the framework of Sustainable Development into 17 **interconnected** goals which can be [measured and reported against](#).

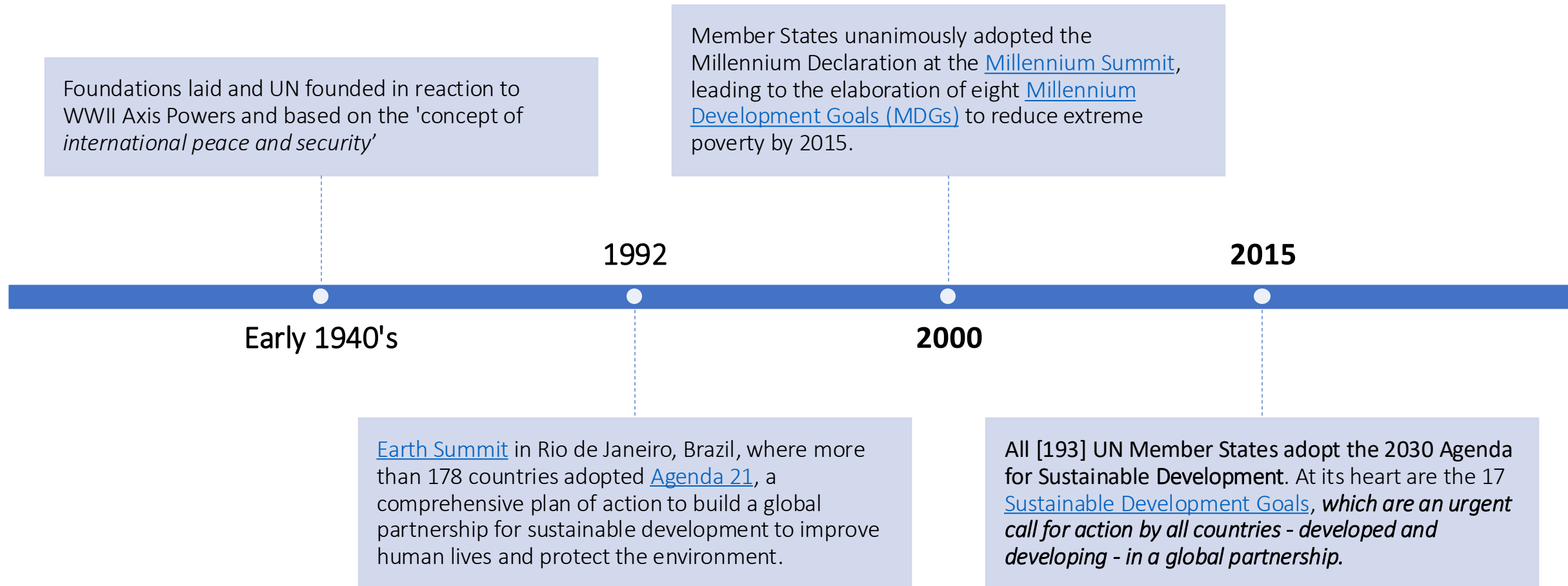
They are the vehicle to articulate delivery and progress against the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), a commitment adopted by all United Nations (UN) Member States in [2015](#) which provides...

‘a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future.’

- UN SDGs as *one* way to articulate sustainability
- The common language used by 193 UN member states, ... as well as by [Westminster](#)!



UN history and Sustainable Development



- [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)
- [2015 Adoption of 17 SDGs](#)

The [SDGs](#) include 17 goals, 169 targets, and +200 indicators





Target 4.7 – By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development

Indicator 4.7.1 – Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education and (d) student assessment





With the [SDGs](#) comes a suite of publications, [progress reports](#), and [data](#) as well as freely accessible [communications materials](#) and infographics.

Be sure to use the correct logos *without* the UN emblem!




3 pillars of sustainability:

1. **Social** sustainability
2. **Environmental** sustainability
3. **Economic** sustainability

Aka 3 Ps:

1. People
2. Planet
3. Prosperity / Profit



Environmental sustainability (Planet)

Goal 6: Clean Water & Sanitation

Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

Goal 11: Sustainable Cities & Communities

Goal 12: Responsible Consumption & Production

Goal 13: Climate Action

Goal 14: Life Under Water

Goal 15: Life on Land

Goal 17: Partnership for the Goals

Social sustainability (People)

Goal 3: Good Health & Well-Being

Goal 4: Quality Education

Goal 5: Gender Equality

Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities

Goal 16: Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions

Goal 17: Partnership for the Goals

Economic sustainability (Prosperity)

Goal 1: No Poverty

Goal 2: Zero Hunger

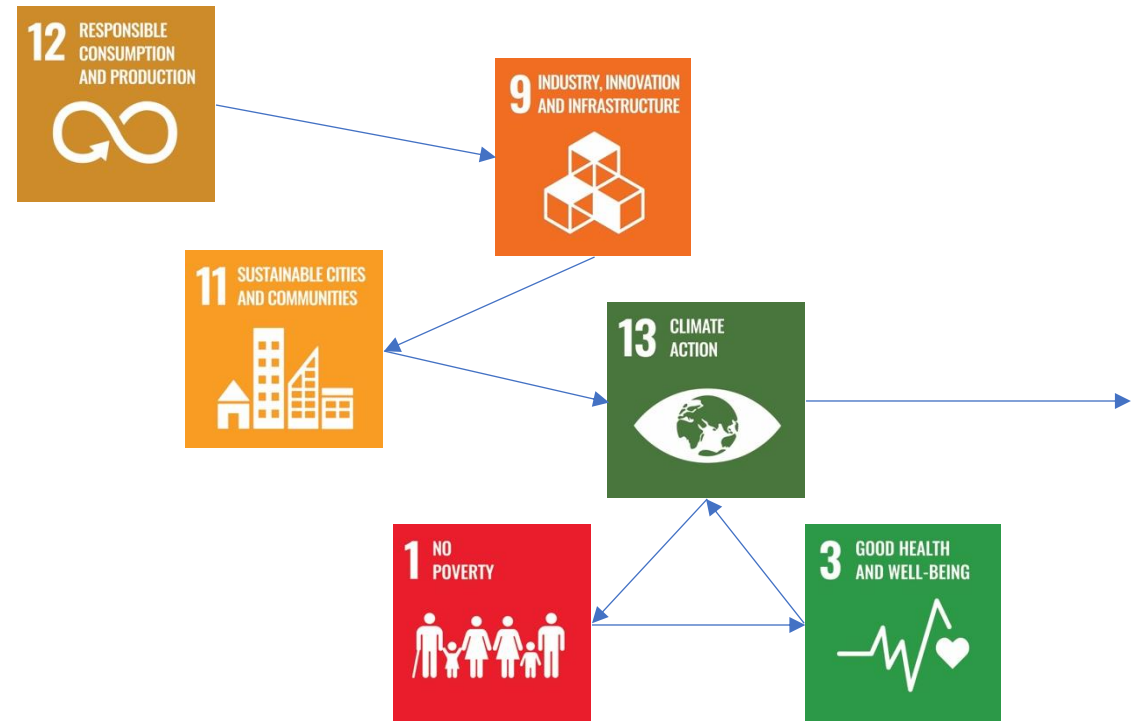
Goal 8: Decent Work & Economic Growth

Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

Goal 17: Partnership for the Goals

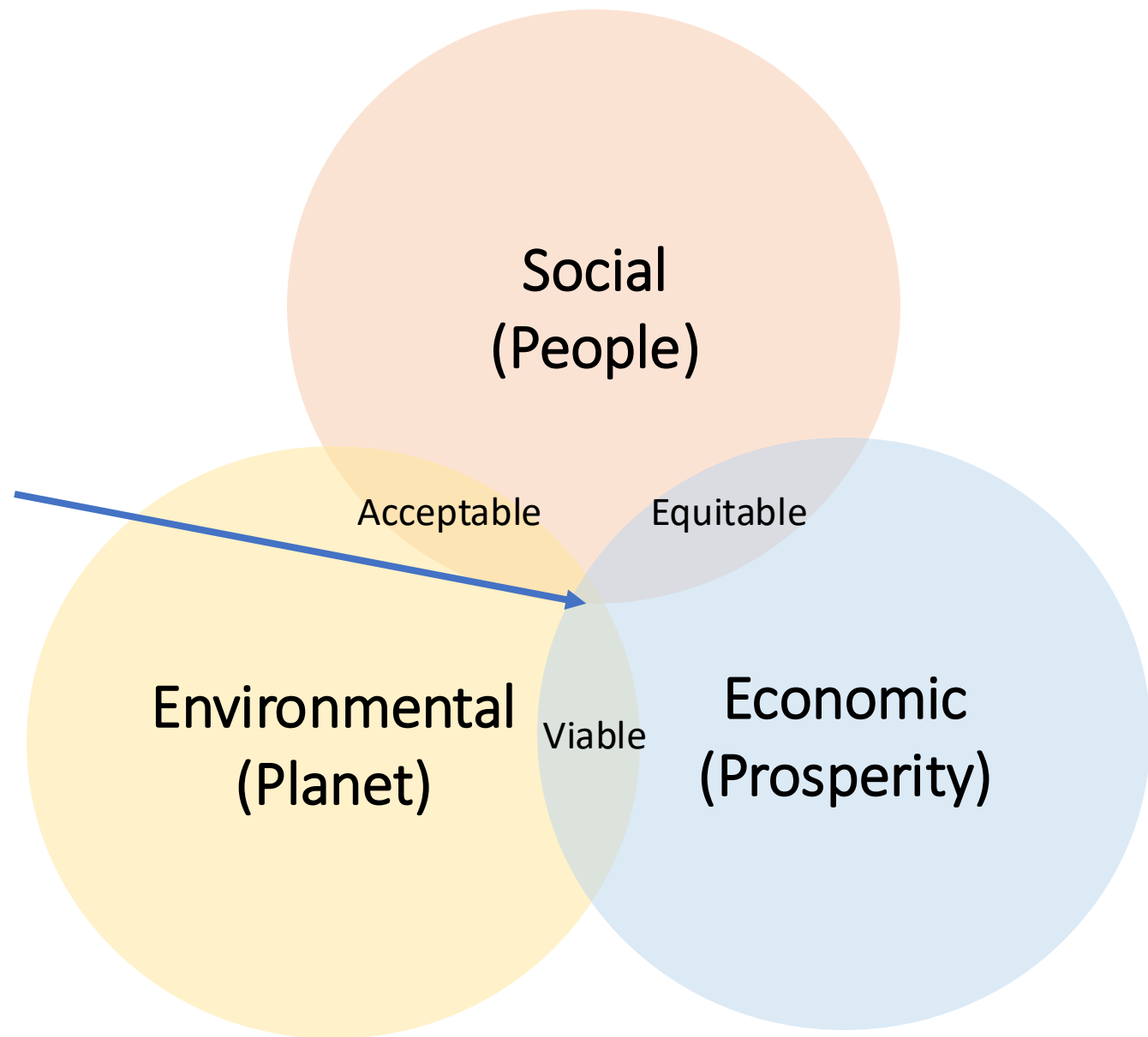


While it can be helpful to identify specific Goals for certain purposes, don't forget to consider the impacts of action on one goal on the other Goals – *embrace the 'pinball' effect!*



Sustainable
Development =

(at the intersection of
the three pillars of
sustainability)



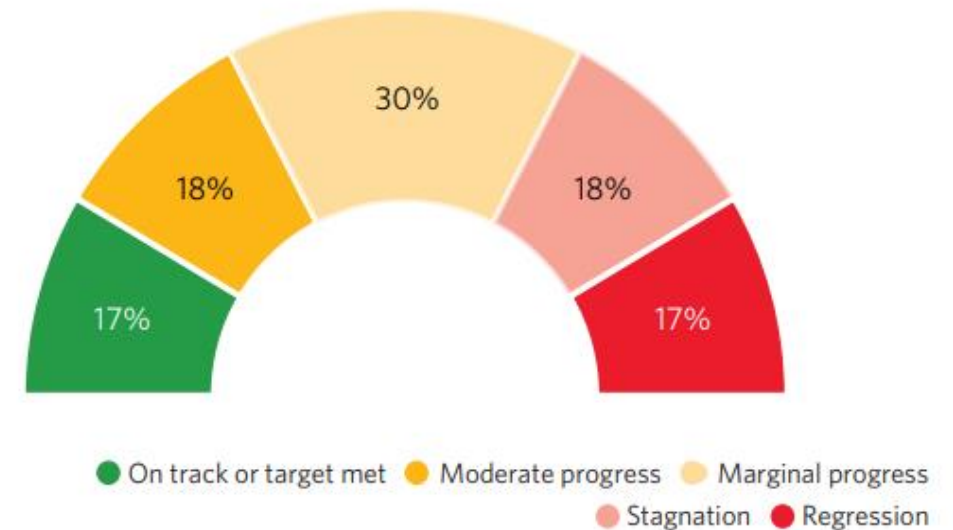
SD can be achieved only when environmental protection, social equity, and economic profitability coexist without one area taking over any of the others.

SDGs Global Progress?

"We have a rescue plan before us, in the [SDG Summit] political declaration. Now is the time to lift the declaration's words off the page, and invest in development at scale like never before."

António Guterres
Secretary-General, United Nations

Overall progress across targets based on 2015–2024 global aggregate data



[The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024](#)

Westminster's Sustainable Development journey



OUR PRIORITIES



Wellbeing, inclusion and sustainable development are our priorities and guide us in all we do

Wellbeing

Working and studying together at Westminster as a community of students and colleagues is a big part of our lives - doing so in an environment that places our wellbeing front and centre helps us to be safe and feel safe. We care for the safety, health and wellbeing of those around us as well as ourselves.

We believe that everyone has the right to feel fulfilled at work and study, connected to a community of colleagues and students who are passionate about making a positive impact on themselves, our workplaces, study spaces and those around us.

Inclusion

Westminster will be known as a place where everyone can bring their whole self to work or study and know they belong - our commitment to equality, equity, diversity and inclusion is at the core of how we engage with everyone.

All Westminster colleagues and students will be in a supportive and safe learning and working environment which is equitable, diverse and inclusive, is based on mutual respect and trust, and is a place where harassment and discrimination are not tolerated.

As a responsible institution, we strive to ensure and to champion equality. As a progressive institution, we take pride in our diversity. As a compassionate institution, we commit to an inclusive culture that allows students and colleagues to reach their full potential.



Sustainable Development

We take inspiration from the 17 United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in how we drive our actions, activities and governance across our University, in line with our progressive, responsible and compassionate values.

As a community, we bring together our collective energies to play our part in addressing the climate crisis and inequalities to enable a more sustainable and socially just world.

OUR EDUCATION STRATEGY

Our strategy identifies priorities for education at the University of Westminster. By 'education' we mean the ways in which we help students to learn. This includes teaching; assessment and feedback; academic support; and the ways we develop, organise and support our courses. It also includes the extra-curricular opportunities that enhance students' educational experience at Westminster.

Our Core Principles

Our strategy is underpinned by three core principles:

- Our education is **inclusive**, accessible and challenging. We are committed to removing the barriers to success and contributing to social justice.
- The **wellbeing** of our students and colleagues is our priority and underpins our student and colleague support structures, curriculum design and learning environment development.
- We lead change. Taking inspiration from the UNESCO Education for **Sustainable Development** programme, we support our students to become changemakers who can tackle interconnected global challenges to people, planet and prosperity.

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

As a signatory to the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges' (EAUC) [Sustainable Development Goal \(SDG\) Accord](#) and the [London Higher sustainability pledge](#), we are committed to integrating the United Nation's 17 SDGs into our teaching, research and operations.

Our [Being Westminster strategy](#) outlines our commitment to being progressive, compassionate and responsible to help students and colleagues from different backgrounds fulfil their potential and contribute to a more sustainable, equitable and healthier society.

We adopted the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\) framework](#) to support this core mission and to record, measure and improve our contribution to a range of social, environmental and economic outcomes.



Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) at Westminster



ESD... is the process of creating curriculum structures and subject-relevant content to support and enact sustainable development, focusing on the connections between economic, social, and environmental factors.

ESD is developing ways of thinking, ways of practicing, and ways of being more sustainably by...

- Learning about sustainable development,
- How it connects to your discipline – its role in a more sustainable future and its role up until now contributing to an unsustainable world –,
- and giving students the space and tools to practice and be a global sustainable citizen and, indeed, lead towards a sustainable world.

A few Ways to Get Involved in SDGs activity within Westminster

- Apply for the [Sustainability Fund](#) to carry out sustainability-related projects and interventions which are co-created, designed, and implemented by students and University colleagues working in partnership.
- Attend the [University's Annual SDGs Workshop](#).
- Get involved in the [Cavendish Living Lab](#).
- Become **Carbon Literate Certified** through Carbon Literacy Training (see following slide for dates).
- Participate or become a student presenter in the [London Student Sustainability Conference](#).
- Join the **University's SDG Network**.
- Complete the SDG-related activities within the **Westminster Employability Award**.
- Participate in the **SDG Prize**.
- Check out the [Students' Union](#) to join an existing sustainability-related society or start your own.

Become Carbon Literate Certified through Carbon Literacy Training:

Date(s)	Location	Booking link
23 rd October 2024 (one-day course)	115 NCS	https://buytickets.at/universityofwestminster14/1407435
13 th & 20 th November 2024 (two-part course)	Online	https://buytickets.at/universityofwestminster14/1411889
5 th February 2025 (one-day course)	Harrow	https://buytickets.at/universityofwestminster14/1411914
13 th & 16 th March 2025 (two-part course)	Online	https://buytickets.at/universityofwestminster14/1411909
22 nd May 2025 (one-day course)	Marylebone	https://buytickets.at/universityofwestminster14/1411916



2024/25

SUSTAINABILITY CALENDAR

September	October	November	December	January	February
Bike session	Gardening Workshop	Climate Action Session	Second-hand Swap	Veganuary Event	Sustainability Week
Meditation in Green Space	Food Waste Pop-up	Water/Energy Event			
Lavender Bag Making	ESD Café Series	Student SDG Brief	'Buy Nothing For a Day' Pledge		London Student Sustainability Conference
March	April	May	June	July	August
Gardening Workshop	Gardening Workshop	Gardening Workshop	SDG All-Colleague Workshop	Gardening Workshop	'SDGs within Operations' Workshop
Bike Session	SDG Prize Event		Bike Week Session		
Seasonal Produce Pop-up	ESD Café Series	Carbon Roadshow	Gardening Workshop		

Concluding Thoughts

Every brain in everybody, every way of thinking and problem solving is needed. It is not only up to our world leaders. Every person can benefit from a more prosperous, inclusive and resilient world. **We can all do something about it.**

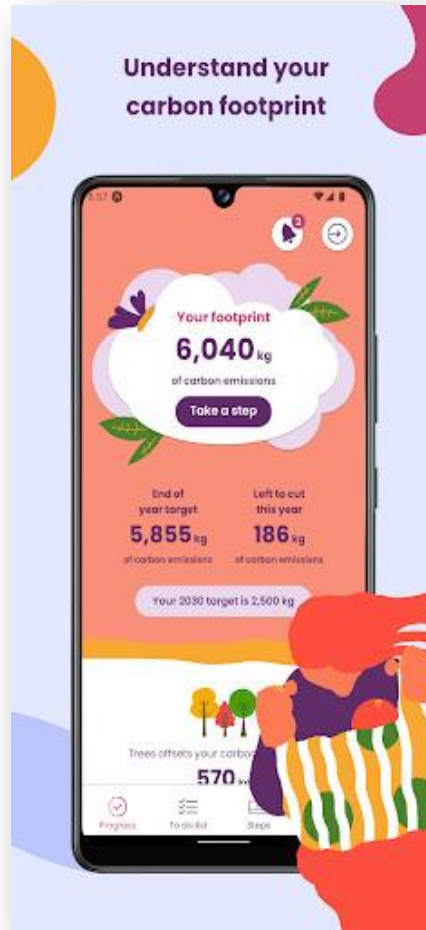
Use the University as a safe space to explore sustainability and practice being a sustainable citizen.

Explore and get involved in the various events, projects, initiatives and resources that the University offers around sustainability.

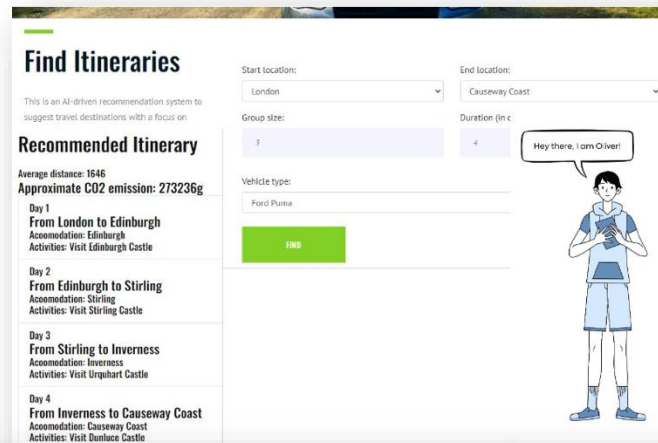
Sustainability as second-nature will be a big string in your employability bow upon graduation!



How could we use technology to advance progress towards these Goals?



[Giki Zero App](#)



ECOESCAPE

AI-Powered Sustainable Tourism Mini-Tool

Meet the organizations we're supporting through AI for the Global Goals

GUATEMALA

Wuqu' Kawoq | Maya Health Alliance

Guatemala has one of the highest neonatal mortality rates in Latin America, especially among the country's indigenous Maya population. While many problems leading to fetal distress during delivery and poor fetal growth can be addressed when identified early, the technology needed to detect them isn't readily available everywhere. Wuqu' Kawoq and safe+natal are developing a toolkit that leverages machine learning to help midwives in rural settings detect complications in real time. The toolkit—a low-cost ultrasound and blood pressure monitor connected to a smartphone—will eliminate preventable deaths and complications by enabling mothers to get the help they need when they need it.

GLOBAL

RAD-AID

Millions of people die every year due to lack of access to medical care. Doctor and health worker shortages in low- and middle-income countries mean that even when people do get radiology scans and X-rays, qualified professionals aren't available to read them. RAD-AID will support low-resource hospitals to use AI to triage and interpret X-rays and scans and communicate test results, with a focus on respiratory disease and breast cancer. This grant will help RAD-AID improve diagnostic technology and the experience for more than 30 million patients in 20 countries.

INDIA

Rocket Learning Foundation

About 35 million low-income children in India lack access to early education and are falling behind their higher-income peers in literacy and numeracy. Rocket Learning mobilizes digital communities of parents and teachers to support early childhood education. Using generative AI models and machine learning, Rocket Learning will develop an AI coach that can create localized academic content, automate grading, and offer personalized learning paths to increase education opportunities and improve learning outcomes for children across India.



Thanks for having me! Any questions?

Please don't hesitate to reach out to the University's Sustainability Team at sustainability@westminster.ac.uk



[Sustainable Development |
University of Westminster,
London](#)



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