# Tool: SDG Framework

## Examples of Application of SDG Framework in Sustainable Entrepreneurship for Universities

## MMS, Ireland

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# Examples of Usage & Implementation

By using the SDG Framework, universities, departments, and faculties effectively incorporate SDG alignment into their sustainable entrepreneurship strategies, enabling a culture of innovation and impact.

The next section covers examples of how this was done by two universities in Ireland.



**Image Credit:** University College Cork, Ireland
SDG Toolkit and Resources

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# Examples of Usage & Implementation

**University College Cork (UCC) and University of Galway Ireland** have both integrated the SDGs into their business practices through a combination of sustainability-focused policies, strategic planning, and collaborations.

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# Examples of Usage & Implementation

❖ **Education:** Develop a course or module on sustainable entrepreneurship linked to SDGs, featuring real-world case studies.

❖ **Research:** Encourage faculty and students to pursue research that innovatively addresses sustainability challenges.

❖ **Community Projects:** Partner with local businesses or NGOs to co-create SDG-focused entrepreneurial initiatives.

❖ **Competitions and Incubators:** Host SDG-themed hackathons or establish an incubator program supporting startups that address sustainability goals.

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## Example 1: University College Cork (UCC), Ireland

**What UCC did:**

- UCC became one of the first universities in the world to receive the **Green Flag for Sustainability**. They integrated the SDGs across all aspects of university life, from teaching and research to campus operations.

**How they did it:**

- **Curriculum Integration**: UCC has made sustainability a core part of its curriculum across multiple disciplines. They offer dedicated courses and modules related to sustainable development and environmental responsibility, ensuring that students are equipped with the knowledge to engage with global challenges.

- **Sustainable Campus Operations**: UCC implemented energy-saving initiatives, waste reduction strategies, and sustainable procurement policies. They also created an on-campus biodiversity plan and aimed for carbon neutrality by 2030.

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- **Research**: UCC focuses on SDG-related research, particularly around environmental issues like climate change, and sustainability solutions. They created interdisciplinary research centers that directly align with the SDGs, including the **Environmental Research Institute**.

- **Community Engagement**: UCC actively engages with the local community to promote SDG-related initiatives, such as food security and health programs, in partnership with local organizations.

## Why they did it:

- UCC integrated SDGs into their business practices to align with global sustainability efforts, improve their environmental and social impact, and promoted a culture of responsibility among students, staff, and the wider community.

# University College Cork (UCC) SDG Framework & Report

## UCC Framework Contribution of UCC to SDGs

Sustainability is a key focus at UCC, considered in all aspects of their operations. They published their first Sustainability Strategy in 2016 and have been tracking our sustainability initiatives on an annual basis since the publication of our first Sustainability Report in 2018. In 2021, they launched an SDG toolkit to help teaching staff to embed the SDGs into their teaching practices, efforts that are further aided by the recently launched Digital Badge on Learning and Teaching with the SDGs.



32 SDGs workshops

27 No. of participating Schools

8 No. of participating Research Centres

477 No. of researchers that attended SDGs workshops

UCC Research and the SDGs

119 SDGs impact case studies

497 No. of researchers that completed mapping

5,128 No. of SDGs-related publications

2.68 Average Field-Weighted Citation Impact per SDGs topic

Click to access UCC's SDG Report
https://www.ucc.ie/en/media/research/sdgs/SDGsinUCCResearchReport.pdf

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# UCC SDGs Framework and Roadmap

**01**
**LITERATURE REVIEW**

Detailed literature review to establish best practice

**02**
**PUBLICATIONS MAPPING**

UCC publications 2017 - 2021 mapped onto the SDGs using SciVal / Scopus. Analysis undertaken of key publications metrics

**03**
**SDGs CHAMPIONS**

University-wide SDGs Champions Network established to help with rollout of SDGs workshops

**04**
**SDGs WORKSHOPS**

90-minute workshop developed and delivered in all 27 Schools and 8 key Research Centres within the University. All researchers invited to map their own research

**05**
**IMPACT CASE STUDIES**

All researchers invited to submit detailed case studies describing the impact of their research on the SDGs

**06**
**SHOWCASING OUR IMPACT**

Website and report developed to showcase the impact UCC Research is having on the SDGs

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# **University College Cork (UCC)** SDG Toolkit & Framework for Teaching and Learning

Future proof your curriculum by embedding sustainability into your teaching practice or further integrating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into your curriculum. The SDG digital toolkit project will give you concise actionable resources to achieve this result while providing insights into the underpinning theories. Enriching your teaching with SDGs advances the Irish national goals in Education for Sustainable Development and your institutional strategic objectives.



Click to watch the video above to see President of University College Cork John O'Halloran discuss the SDG Toolkit in an academic context.
https://youtu.be/iB7UnWarwrw
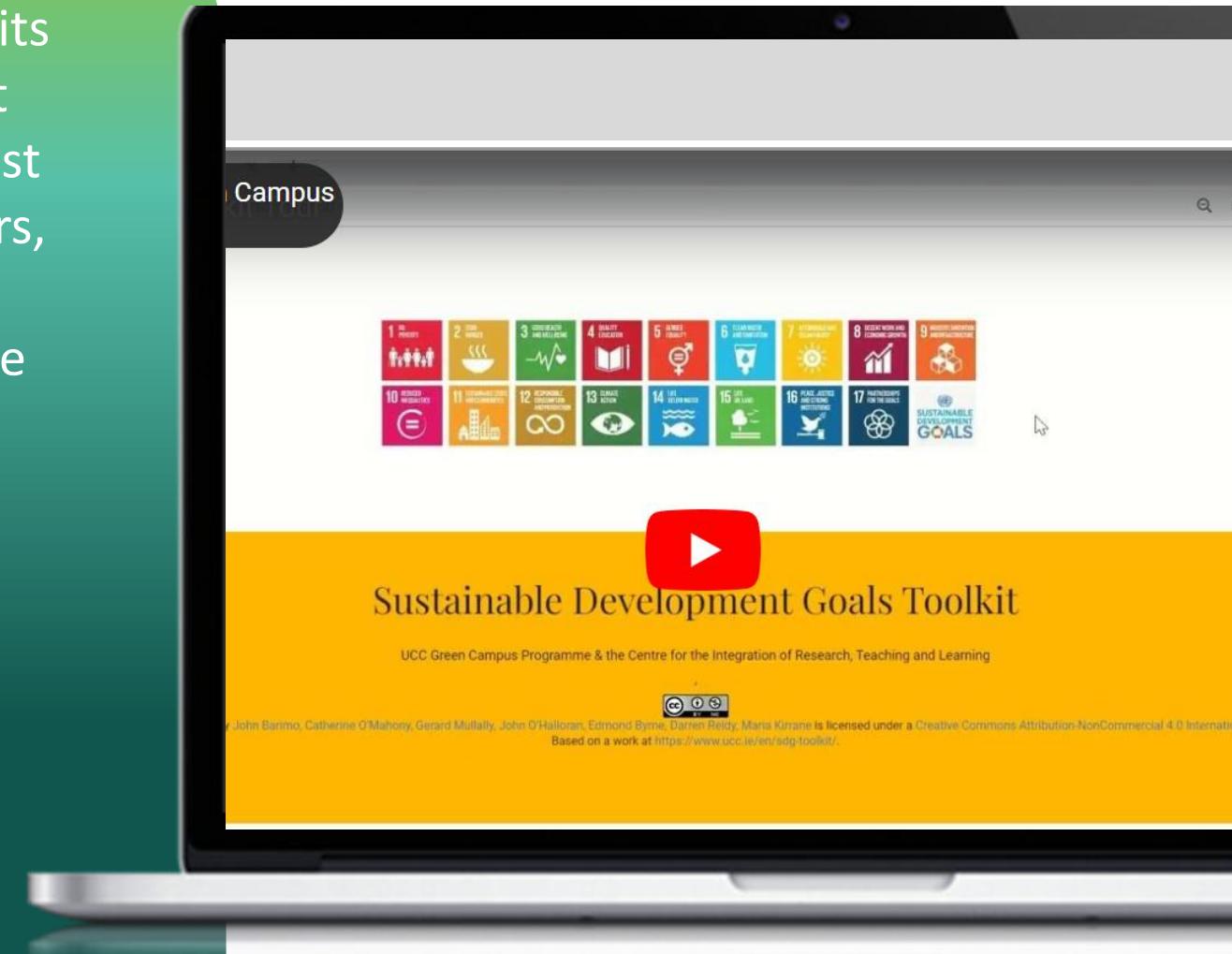
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# UCC Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Toolkit

This video provides a comprehensive walkthrough of the UCC SDG Toolkit webpage, demonstrating how users can effectively use its features to advance sustainable development initiatives. The SDG Toolkit is designed to assist universities, faculties, organisations, educators, and individuals in aligning their projects and strategies with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By exploring this video, viewers can gain insights into the toolkit's functionalities and learn how to leverage its resources to contribute meaningfully to global sustainability efforts.
https://www.un.org/en/academic-impact/enhancing-sdgs-related-teaching-irish-university-offers-open-source-toolkit



https://youtu.be/aRP85_WWpVs

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**Example 2:** University of Galway, SDGs Ireland

**UCG SDG Framework:** Alignment with SDGs, Commitment, Impact, Policy Influence and Partnerships.

The University of Galway collaborates with government and non-governmental agencies to advance the SDGs. As Ireland's first university designated a National SDG Champion (2023-24), it hosted a national SDG Champions Dialogue focused on Climate Action (SDG 13) and Partnerships (SDG 17). The university also contributes to national SDG policy, featuring as a case study in Ireland's Second National Implementation Plan for the SDGs (2022-2024). Through its framework and efforts, it drives impactful SDG strategies.



**Source**
https://www.universityofgalway.ie/sustainability/the-sustainable-development-goals-(sdgs)/#

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## What the University of Galway did:

- The University of Galway was designated as a **National SDG Champion for 2023-2024** by the Irish government, showcasing its commitment to SDGs. The university has been involved in national policy development and collaborates with government and non-governmental organizations.

## How they did it:

- **Curriculum and Research Integration**: Like UCC, the University of Galway has incorporated SDGs into academic programs and research. It has established **SDG-focused research centers**, particularly around climate action (SDG 13) and sustainable development (SDG 17).

- **Government Collaboration**: As a National SDG Champion, the university has worked directly with the government to influence SDG-related policy development, such as contributing to Ireland's **Second National Implementation Plan for SDGs**. This collaboration ensures that their academic and research efforts are closely aligned with national SDG goals.

- **Sustainable Practices**: The University of Galway has adopted sustainable practices within its campus, focusing on energy efficiency, waste reduction, and community involvement in SDG projects. They also focus on promoting an **inclusive** and **equitable** learning environment, ensuring access to education for all (SDG 4).

## Why they did it:

- The University of Galway implemented SDGs to drive tangible progress towards sustainability, strengthen their reputation as a leading institution for social responsibility, and engage their community in SDG initiatives. By being a National SDG Champion, they also aimed to influence broader national policy and act as a model for other institutions.

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# Thank you

Any questions?

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