



Social Responsibility and Sustainability Committee

Tuesday 25 February, 2pm

Raeburn Room, Old College

AGENDA

- 1 Minute** **A**
To approve the minute of the previous meeting on 24 October 2019

- 2 Matters Arising**
To raise any matters arising not covered on the agenda or in post-meeting notes

STRATEGIC AND SUBSTANTIVE ITEMS

- 3 Social & Civic Responsibility Plan – Integrating the SDGs** **B**
To note and discuss a paper from the Deputy Director of SRS

- 4 Mapping of Research in Relation to the SDGs** **C**
To note and discuss a paper from the Deputy Director of SRS

ITEMS FOR FORMAL APPROVAL/NOTING

- 5 Responding to the Climate Emergency** **D**
To receive an update from the Director of SRS

- 6 University Position on Carbon Sequestration and Carbon Offsets** **E**
To note a paper from the Director of SRS

- 7 Draft Social Investment Fund Document** **F**
To note a paper from the Director of SRS

- 8 Social Investment Performance** **G**
To receive an update from the Director of SRS

- 9 Sustainability Awards, Champions and Building Capacity for Sustainability Across the University** **H**
To note a paper from the SRS Engagement Manager

- 10 THE Impact Rankings Submission** **I**
To receive an update from the Student Engagement, Events & Reporting Programme Manager

- 11 Community Engagement Delivery Plan** **Verbal**
To receive a progress update from the Assistant Principal Community Relations

- 12 Any Other Business**
To consider any other matters from Group members

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

MINUTE OF A MEETING of the Social Responsibility and Sustainability Committee held in the Torridon Room, Charles Stewart House on Thursday 24 October 2019.

- Present:** Sandy Tudhope (Convenor), University Lead on Climate Responsibility and Sustainability
 Lesley McAra (Vice Convenor), Assistant Principal Community Relations
 Michelle Brown, Deputy Director and Head of SRS Programmes
 Dave Gorman, Director of Social Responsibility and Sustainability
 Claire Graf, Joint Unions Liaison Committee representative
 Pete Higgins, Director, Global Environment & Society Academy
 Gary Jebb, Director of Estates
 Theresa Merrick, Director of Communications & Marketing
 Rachael Robertson, Deputy Director of Finance
 Tracey Slaven, Deputy Secretary, Strategic Planning
 Rosheen Wallace, Students' Association VP Community
- In attendance:** Bria Mason, Gaelic Officer, for item 4
 Matthew Lawson, Student Engagement, Events & Reporting Programme Manager, for item 7
- Apologies:** Laura Cattell, Head of Widening Participation
 Gavin Douglas, Deputy Secretary Student Experience
 Hugh Edmiston, Director of Corporate Services
 Craig Hennessy, Functional Lead, Service Excellence Programme
 George Sked, Director of Procurement
 James Smith, Vice Principal International

- 1** The Committee welcomed its new Convenor, Sandy Tudhope, and new member Claire Graf, representing the Joint Unions Liaison Committee (JULC). **A**

The minute of 6 June 2019 was approved as a correct record.

2 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

STRATEGIC AND SUBSTANTIVE ITEMS

3 Responding to the Climate Emergency – Next Steps **B**

The Committee noted this version of a paper submitted to University Executive on 29 August, outlining proposed actions to follow up and consolidate discussion of the climate emergency at the University Executive Away Day on 13 June. This was a closed paper as the direction of travel had not yet been fully agreed.

The Director of SRS briefed members on developments since the paper was drafted, including establishment of a short-life working group on aviation looking at how to tackle emissions from flights while respecting University priorities around research and the student experience. Following wide-ranging discussions and a consultation period, the group would aim to report back in the spring.

The Principal had agreed that UoE would initiate a staged approach to progress carbon off-setting through forestry. Consideration of possible locations and funding sources was ongoing, and recommendations would be made to University Executive by spring 2020. There was recognition that a 'mixed economy' approach would be needed, including offsetting in some form, as well as managing down demand in terms of energy and heat. Discussions would also cover how best to integrate these developments into the

curriculum. The latest Programme for Scotland, released by the Scottish Government in September, included a new zero carbon standard for public buildings. On 20th September to coincide with the Global Climate Strike the University hosted a series of events across campus which had seen over 300 people engage and had led to some very positive discussions.

Members echoed the importance of taking action on heat, which accounted for 40% of UoE's footprint. Power emissions were expected to fall close to zero over time through decarbonisation of the grid, but there would be a long-term issue of how to heat the residential and non-residential estate. The Director of Estates was meeting with the SFC to discuss using University buildings as exemplars, as well as looking into collaborative working with other institutions. The Directors of Estates and SRS would be bringing recommendations on next steps for heat to Estates Committee in March. Buro Happold had been consulting on the issue and their final report should be available to share soon.

Members discussed local control of heat and the difficulty of addressing everyday ebb and flow in the absence of centralised thermostatic control for the majority of buildings. The Committee recognised the need for culture change alongside infrastructure changes, noting the case of radiator limiters being manually bypassed at the Law School. Setting up a local Sustainability Awards team was one way to foster behaviour change. Addressing heat supply was a core part of University business, offering opportunities to link in to teaching and research.

SRS Committee recognised heat supply as a major challenge, noting the importance of understanding the cost of not tackling the issue, and emphasised the need to address it in the wider context, taking into account biodiversity and the wider SDGs.

Action – GJ to follow up with CG on faulty window mechanisms at DHT.

4 Gaelic Language Plan

C

The University's first Gaelic Language Plan (2013-2018) had been updated to include new actions, following consultation over the summer. Gaelic language content would not be sectioned off into a special interest area on the University website, but would be integrated, with some areas available bilingually, based on traffic. There was no intention to move to bilingual signage across campus, given the cost implications.

The Committee discussed the Plan in the context of UoE's commitment to widening participation, aiming to draw in students from across Scotland. The proposed residential scheme was highlighted, given the success of the University of Glasgow's Taigh na Gàidhlig initiative. Given the scale of the University's residential accommodation, the scheme may have to be housed in a flat or part of a larger block. The Director of Communications and Marketing and the Gaelic Officer confirmed that there was demand within the student body for a residential scheme, offering rent reduction in exchange for organising and attending Gaelic events and speaking Gaelic within the property. Estates would need to know the prospective number of bed spaces, as current provision was based around creating integrated student communities, as part of the wider student experience. Estates would also need to see a business case if rent was to be discounted.

SRS Committee endorsed progression of the draft Plan which would now go to University Executive for approval. Members felt that the residential scheme needed more reflection (in terms of scale, and to clarify articulation with other University ambitions) and advised expanding on the resourcing strategy and giving a stronger sense of the order for priority for implementation.

Action – TM to clarify resourcing and issues around the proposed residential scheme.

5 Refreshing the Community Engagement Strategy

D

The Assistant Principal Community Relations updated the Committee on progress implementing the [Community Engagement Strategy \(2016\)](#), including recommendations for a refresh in the context of the new Strategic Plan. Following the refresh and wider

consultation, an updated draft Strategy would come back to SRSC in February for discussion and endorsement following further discussion.

As the recently published University strategic plan [Strategy 2030](#) put civic and social responsibility at its heart, it was proposed that the CE strategy could now transition from a stand-alone strategy into a delivery plan, one pillar of the broader Social and Civic Responsibility Delivery Plan, outlining how to exhibit UoE's core values to the wider public.

In terms of progress, one highlight had been getting [Edinburgh Local](#) onto the front page of the University website. UoE had been active in the Scottish Government Social Impact Pledge. CE flagship projects (Homeless and Inclusion Health; Digital Ambassadors; Read, Write, Count; Design for Well Being) continued to develop and build on initial success, integrating research, learning and teaching with community engagement. In the wider context, the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal (iTRADE) was highlighted as a gamechanger.

SRS Committee endorsed: the transition to a delivery plan; the intention to take a whole institution integrated approach, turning University resources, people and skills to address these challenges; focusing on a small number of larger themes and impactful actions linked to the Social Impact Pledge; and utilising EFI as a physical front door.

Members recommended: taking the paper to Research Policy Group; reflecting 'civic' in the name; incorporating issues of biodiversity in considerations of space; and sharpening the Plan by thinking in terms of deliverables for 2030 and the right milestones and key indicators to assess progress, as measuring impact would be key to the City Region Deal. The Committee endorsed the moral responsibility on the University to take action on homelessness.

6 Social Responsibility and Sustainability Plan & Operationalising the SDGs

E

The Deputy Director and Head of SRS Programmes presented this paper proposing the next steps for an updated Social Responsibility and Sustainability (SRS) Plan for the University, aiming to provide an institution wide operational plan on how to deliver the strategic commitment to social and civic responsibility. The paper was marked 'closed' as framing discussions were still ongoing. Next steps would include GaSP and SRS convening a small working group using the lens of the SDGs to review the Plan, bringing recommendations back to this Committee in spring 2020. The Deputy Director of Finance agreed to join the working group.

SRS Committee welcomed the paper, agreeing that the operationalising approach was key. Consideration should be given to how UoE could best support its students to influence these major agendas. Members expressed support for this core activity, emphasising the importance of relating it to UoE research and the work colleagues were doing to shape the SDGs. A carefully considered Communications Plan would be needed to direct engagement with different audiences.

The Head of SRS Programmes reiterated that the SRS Department had an open door for colleagues to share their ideas.

Action – MB to follow up with CG on recycling and the Colgate initiative.

Action – MB to add timeline material to the paper.

7 Sustainability and Festivals

F

The Sustainability & Festivals project launched at the start of the year. As the largest arts festival in the world, with the University its largest landlord (and home to Assembly and Underbelly, the two biggest operators involved), there was scope for major change and significant reputational benefit. The scheme began with an internship supported by EFI to develop and support sustainability ideas in UoE venues. A coordinator has been recruited, with monitoring and guidance provided by a project steering group. Significant progress had been made including updating tenancy documents, initiating new sustainability protocols, and strengthening the existing waste protocol. The Festivals Coordinator had

worked with tenants to establish baseline sustainable practice and helped some tenants develop their own sustainability policies. A sustainability hub had been set up over the summer with both a physical and online presence.

Intended objectives for the coming year included introducing a reusable cup scheme, gaining a better understanding of the full environmental impact of the University's role in the Fringe and other festivals throughout the year, looking for potential living lab projects and opportunities linked to the student experience, and seeking to secure funding to continue the project. It was noted that securing resource to continue the work was a high priority.

Action – ML to include mention of the project's relationship with Janet Archer and the Festivals Office.

Action – ML to make clear that the project was a partnership between Waste and SRS.

Action – ML to take on board for phase 2 suggestions for food stands to adopt reusable containers, and lanyard signals to indicate not to offer leaflets to the wearer.

Members noted the progress made and expressed willingness to help raise awareness of the project. They recommended benchmarking project activities against initiatives elsewhere and keeping abreast of developments to head off potential criticism. EFI would want to be involved, and may have resource to contribute. SRS Committee expressed strong backing for the project and would support it becoming more embedded in University business.

8 Modern Slavery Statement 2018/19

G

The Committee noted a draft of this year's Modern Slavery Statement, UoE's fourth since the Act came into force. While some institutions focused solely on procurement, UoE took a whole institution approach across its learning and teaching, research, and operations. Next year's draft would include a long term approach designed to maximise impact.

SRS Committee endorsed the draft for onward transmission to University Executive on 19th November.

Action – MB to check the wording to ensure it was clear that the University would disclose any modern slavery cases in its direct area of influence.

Action – MB to expand on measures already being taken within UoE supply chains, in terms of cleaning products, uniforms, and other centrally procured items.

ITEMS FOR FORMAL APPROVAL/NOTING

9 Times Higher Education Sustainable Development Goals Impact Ranking

H

SRS Committee noted this update on the THE SDGs Impact Ranking for universities (following on from June's paper). Recognising the flaws in methodology, members felt it was vital that UoE participate, learn from the process, and contribute to future iterations. The choice of which SDGs to report against should be aligned with overall University strategy. This selection could be changed each year. A preliminary review of which SDGs to submit against was included on p71. Members may be approached later in the process to feed in to data collection.

Action – MB to include how this relates to the Scottish Government National Performance Framework.

10 SRS Survey 2019 Results

I

The Committee noted this summary of the Social Responsibility and Sustainability Survey distributed to all staff and a representative sample of students during Semester 2, 2019. SRS thanked Communications and Marketing for their help in delivering the survey and analysing the results.

For point 10 on p76 the first bullet should read 'staff' and the second 'students'. Highlights from the survey included increasing interest in where the University's energy came from. Estates' monitoring and metering project should help bring that to life. Action taken to provide additional drinking water points appeared to have been successful, as no further comments had been received on this issue. Members noted a disparity between awareness of the SRS Department and awareness of the issues, which the team should bear in mind in their communications, though the department's main focus was on promoting its programmes and embedded them in business as usual. The Committee acknowledged a response bias as those already interested in the issues were most likely to respond to the questionnaire. Responses showed a lack of clarity on the action UoE wanted staff and students to take to address the climate challenge, indicating a need for a shorter, punchier refresh of the Climate Strategy. Members welcomed references to the SDGs and wider sustainability context, which were not even part of the conversation in 2016.

As the wider landscape and the University's articulation of its priorities changed, it was clear that initiatives needed to be joined up, to avoid silo thinking, as this impacted on the sense of community as a University and on the student experience. An engaging vision and strong values would help UoE attract the best staff and students.

11 Widening Participation

The Deputy Secretary, Strategic Planning updated members on progress. MD20 applicants had increased to 11.4% of Scottish entrants (12% in CAHSS, 8% in CMVM, and 4% in CSE). The number of care experienced entrants had increased to 18, from 4 to 5 a few years ago. The YourEd project was working with 12 schools across five local authorities, arranging visits, running information sessions, and providing curriculum support. WP were working with IAD and the Colleges on an academic skills development pre-entry programme. The IntoUniversity project was progressing, developing into a partnership with the University of Glasgow to be launched in spring 2021, and connecting with the City Deal.

Action – TS to share background information on IntoUniversity.

Acknowledging the importance of the issue, the Convenor requested a written update in future.

Social Responsibility and Sustainability Committee

25 February 2020

Mapping of Research in relation to the SDGs

Description of paper

This paper introduces a recent review of the Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in University Research.

Action requested

SRS Committee is asked to review the paper and advise on future approaches and next steps.

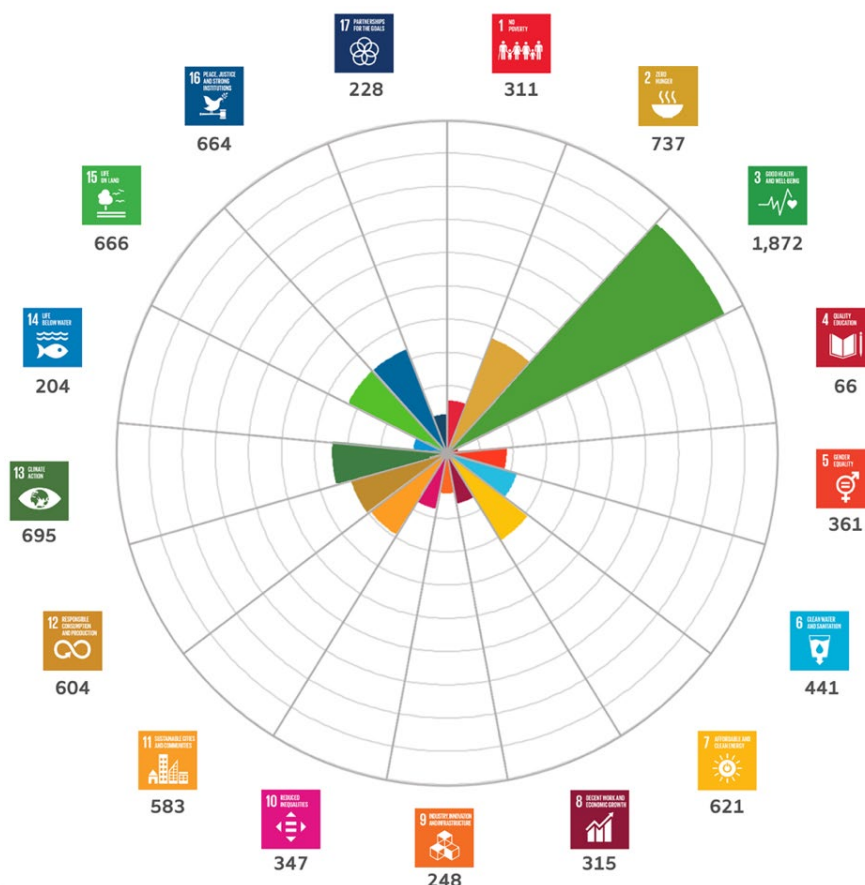
Background and Discussion

The University of Edinburgh's Strategy 2030 sets out a strong vision to make the world a better place. Social and Civic Responsibility is a key focus area. The Strategy makes explicit reference to our contribution to the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

To support reporting and engagement on the SDGs, a preliminary mapping of University research publications was commissioned. Options for carrying out the work were reviewed internally by the Department for Social Responsibility & Sustainability (SRS) and Edinburgh Research Office (ERO). Lessons learned were also gathered from other universities who have undertaken similar work. For 2019, it was decided to take a similar approach to the London School of Economics (LSE) who commissioned a researcher at Leicester University with a tested methodology. This would provide a simple mapping based on publications.

A keyword search of Scopus from the last 5 years (2014-2019) has shown the wide range of SDGs which University of Edinburgh research links to (Figure 1).

Based on publications, Edinburgh's research has the strongest alignment with Goal 3 (Good Health & Wellbeing), Goal 2 (Zero Hunger) and Goal 13 (Climate Action). There is also strong alignment to Goal 13, Goal 2 and Goal 15.



In order to carry out the mapping, the researchers used keywords relating to the 17 different SDGs. The initial lists were based off the SDG indicators and keywords collated by Monash University and SDSN Australia/Pacific. Using the key words and query codes, publication titles, abstracts and keywords were searched Scopus (Elsevier) from the last 5 years (2014-2019).

Limitations

It is important to emphasise that this is simply a publication count based on Scopus.

- It will not reflect the real life impact that the research has had on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal and impacts for people, communities and the environment.
- It may not be reflective of arts, humanities and social science outputs. This has been an ongoing concern from College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (CAHSS) colleagues in any use of publications databases to assess output and impact

Next Steps

- The Department for Social Responsibility and Sustainability will use the headlines from the reporting in SDG reporting and for engagement with schools and academics on sustainability, social and civic responsibility.
- Edinburgh Research Office will be reviewing the Leicester methodology and how this relates to the outputs from the Times High Ed mapping and also the newly available SDG analysis tools in SciVal, the Elsevier publication analysis tools. We will then consider how best to carry out this type of analysis on an ongoing basis and also how to incorporate non-academic paper publications to address the concerns of social science and arts and humanities research who feel under-represented in SCOPUS

Resource implications

Current identified next steps make use of available resources. Undertaking this work internally would require some resource allocation (or re-allocation). A budget of c£1500 was allocated for the commissioning of researchers at Leicester in late 2019.

Risk management

Communicating the visual could risk impression of impact of research in relation to the SDGs. It is therefore important to emphasise that this is just a mapping based on publications and may not be reflective of all arts, humanities and social science outputs.

Equality and Diversity

The SDGs address inequality and support diversity across the goals. It is not known if the keyword search risks any conscious or unconscious bias (other than potential limitation of CASSH publications).

Further Information

Michelle Brown, Head of Social Responsibility & Sustainability Programmes
Dr Conor Snowden, International Development Research Manager

Annex A contains the full report prepared by the researchers at Leicester University.

Freedom of information Open Paper

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH: UN SDG RESEARCH MAPPING



Background

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all by 2030 (Figure 1). They were developed in 2015, from the previous Millennium Development Goals and aim to eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities and fight climate change. Universities play an important part in achieving these goals, not only by researching but also by teaching the future generations how to deal with global issues.



Figure 1- United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals

Universities for good

Education is a public good, allowing students the opportunity to become change makers in the world. Although only around 3% of people go to university globally, 80% of world leaders went to university so we have a disproportionate influence. We are training the world leaders of the future and our students believe that their education should involve both critique of the sustainability agenda and information on how to get more practically involved in being part of the solution. Universities, with their broad remit around the creation and dissemination of knowledge and their unique position within society, have a critical role to play in the achievement of the SDGs:

- Approximately 80% of students want their institution to be doing more on sustainable development¹
- Around 60% of students want to learn more about sustainability¹

Colleagues across the UK HE sector have reported a change in dialogue with new students this year as both UK and international students recognise the SDGs from their school education and are asking how the University is engaging with them and how they can be involved.

Measuring impact in this way allows you to demonstrate your influence, fulfil demand for SDG-related education, build new partnerships, access new funding streams, and define a university that is more than just our statistical results. Promoting your contribution to the SDGs and

¹ [NUS Sustainability Skills 2018-19](#)

demonstrating your commitment to the Goals is likely to also be a useful student recruitment tool for this enlightened generation.

This report outlines the results of a mapping exercise identifying the University of Edinburgh's current contribution through research to the SDGs, and identifying strengths by comparing the results to the UK and global HE sectors.

Results

The mapping has shown that the University of Edinburgh contributes to every SDG, in varying volumes (Figure 2). The goal with the highest publication number is Goal 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing), by a significant amount. Most of Edinburgh's contribution towards the SDGs is focused on both social and environmental areas of sustainability. Other goals that have relatively high contributions are Goal 2 (Zero Hunger), Goal 13 (Climate Action), and Goal 15 (Life on Land). The goal with the lowest contribution is Goal 4 (Quality Education), followed by Goal 14 (Life below Water).

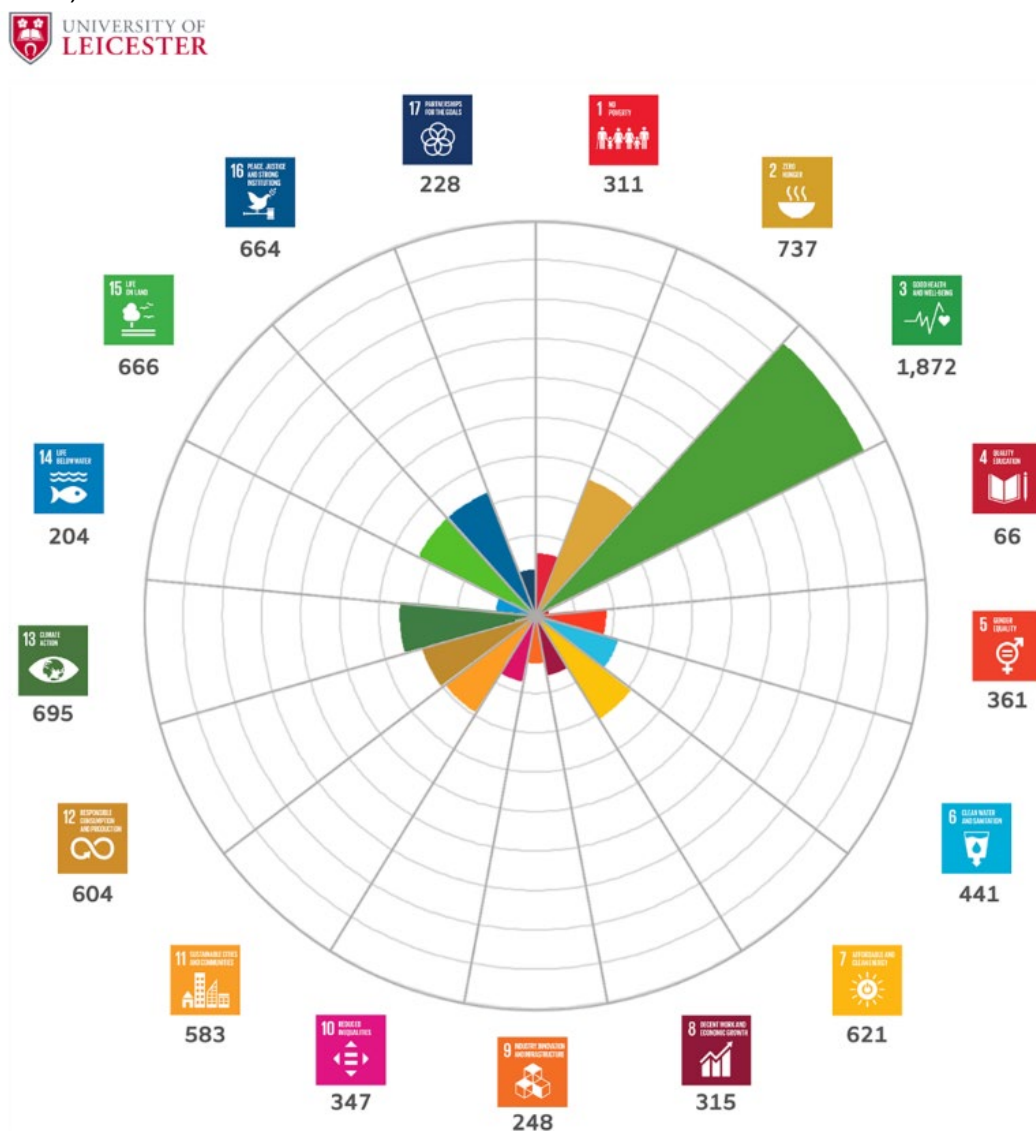


Figure 2- Number of publications relating to each of the UN Sustainable Development Goals on Scopus between 2014-2019

Comparison against UK and global HE sectors

When comparing Edinburgh's publications to the rest of the sector (Table 1), there are similarities and differences to the UK and global higher education (HE) sectors. Similar to the UK and global sector, Goal 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing) is at the top with the most publications. Goal 13 (Climate Action) is 3rd in the Edinburgh ranking, which is up from 9th of both UK and global sector, which shows that Edinburgh has a strength in this, when compared to the sector. All of the SDGs in Edinburgh's top 10 are also in the UK sector, which shows that Edinburgh is on trend with the sector, but in varying amounts – for example Goal 15 (Life on Land) is 4th in Edinburgh's ranking, but 8th in the UK sector. Edinburgh and the UK differ from the global sector by contributing to Goal 5 (Gender Equality) instead of Goal 9 (Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure).

Table 1- Top 10 rankings of the number of SDG-related research publications

	Edinburgh		UK		Global	
1st	Good Health & Wellbeing	1,872	Good Health & Wellbeing	59,113	Good Health & Wellbeing	504,009
2nd	Zero Hunger	737	Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions	26,439	Clean Water & Sanitation	389,536
3rd	Climate Action	695	Responsible Consumption & Production	24,329	Zero Hunger	378,207
4th	Life on Land	666	Sustainable Cities and Communities	22,504	Responsible Consumption & Production	336,691
5th	Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions	664	Zero Hunger	21,118	Affordable & Clean Energy	328,853
6th	Affordable & Clean Energy	621	Affordable & Clean Energy	19,562	Sustainable Cities and Communities	283,379
7th	Responsible Consumption & Production	604	Clean Water & Sanitation	18,840	Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions	218,920
8th	Sustainable Cities and Communities	583	Life On Land	18,115	Life On Land	201,498
9th	Clean Water & Sanitation	441	Climate Action	16,093	Climate Action	194,885
10th	Gender Equality	361	Gender Equality	13,787	Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure	185,280

When analyzing how much Edinburgh contributes to UK research as a whole, it is clear that Edinburgh makes significant contribution to how the UK focuses in certain SDGs. For example, Edinburgh accounts for 4.32% of all UK publications for Goal 13 (Climate Action) (Appendix - Table 5). Other goals where Edinburgh plays a significant part are Goal 15 (Life on Land) by 3.68% and Goal 2 (Zero Hunger) by 3.49%. This shows that not only are Goals 13 and 15 in the

top 3 publication ranking, but also make a significant contribution to overall UK research in these areas.

Impact

The overall citation count was calculated per SDG to analyse the impact of Edinburgh's publications, not only the quantity (Table 2). Goal 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing) has the highest citation count, which matches the ranking of publication number. Goal 13 (Climate Action) citation ranking also matches publication ranking (both 3rd). When comparing the citation number to the publication number, there are a few differences. Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) has a high amount of citations (2nd) when compared to the publication number, which shows that the research does have a wide reach.

Table 2- Rankings of the number of publications vs citation count on Scopus

	Number of publications		Citation Count	
1st	Good Health & Wellbeing	1,872	Good Health & Wellbeing	49,514
2nd	Zero Hunger	737	Clean Water & Sanitation	16,479
3rd	Climate Action	695	Climate Action	14,438
4th	Life On Land	666	Sustainable Cities and Communities	14,151
5th	Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions	664	Zero Hunger	14,127
6th	Affordable & Clean Energy	621	Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions	13,560
7th	Responsible Consumption & Production	604	Life On Land	9,887
8th	Sustainable Cities and Communities	583	Affordable & Clean Energy	8,346
9th	Clean Water & Sanitation	441	Responsible Consumption & Production	7,712
10th	Gender Equality	361	Gender Equality	7,212
11th	Reduced Inequalities	347	Reduced Inequalities	5,893
12th	Decent Work & Economic Growth	315	Partnership for the Goals	5,484
13th	No Poverty	311	No Poverty	2,822
14th	Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure	248	Decent Work & Economic Growth	2,696
15th	Partnership for the Goals	228	Life Below Water	2,624
16th	Life Below Water	204	Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure	2,279
17th	Quality Education	66	Quality Education	318

After mapping the REF 2014 impact case studies to the SDGs, there are some clear similarities and differences to the mapped Scopus publications (Figure 3). Unsurprisingly, the SDG with the highest number of impact case studies is Goal 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing) (173) with Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) in second (140) and Goal 4 (Quality Education) in third (137). Goal 13 (63) had a lower number of REF Impact Case Studies than expected which is surprising as Edinburgh accounts for over 4% of the UK's research relating to Climate Action. Furthermore, Goal 6 was found to have a higher number of REF Impact Case studies than other goals that had a higher number of publications, such as Goal 2 (Zero Hunger), which matches the findings from the citation count.

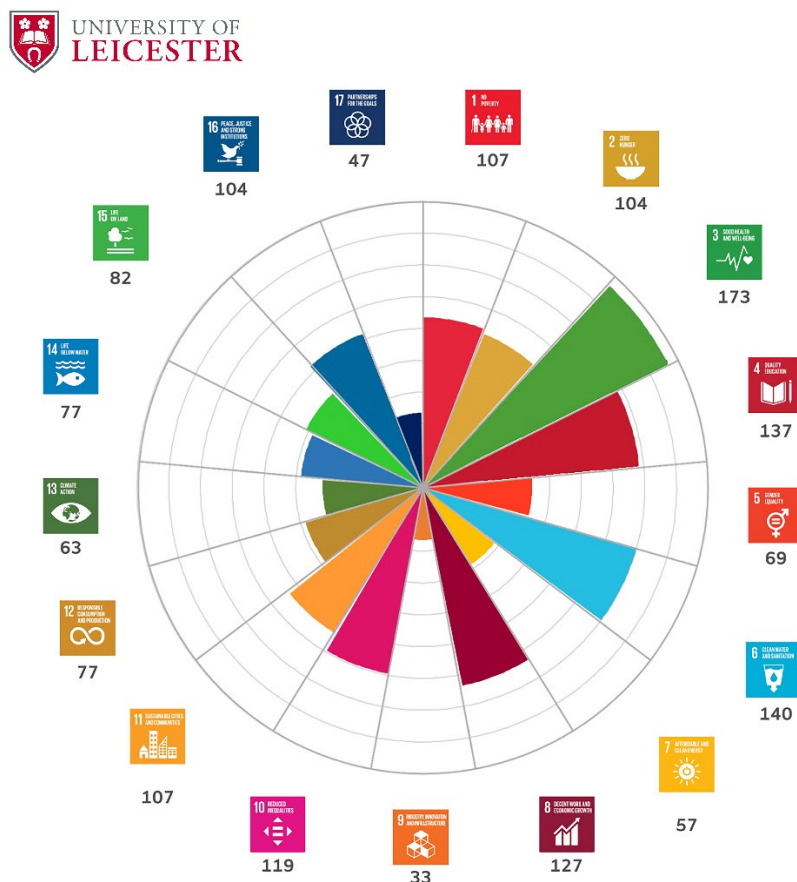


Figure 3 - Number of REF 2014 Impact Case Studies relating to SDGs

Summary

The mapping exercise has shown Edinburgh's varying range of contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The mapping has shown that Edinburgh contributes mostly to both social and environmental areas of sustainability. The results of publications number show that Edinburgh's greatest contributions are through Goal 3 (Good Health & Wellbeing), Goal 2 (Zero Hunger) and Goal 13 (Climate Action). Edinburgh provides a big contribution to UK research in Goal 13, Goal 2 and Goal 15 (Life on Land). When looking at the impact of Edinburgh's research, Goal 3 has the highest impact. However, Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) stands out in citation count and REF impact, even though the publication number is lower compared to other goals.

Methodology

To map research publications, we used adapted lists of keywords relating to the 17 different SDGs. Our initial lists were based off the SDG indicators and keywords collated by Monash University and SDSN Australia/Pacific and using mathematical algorithms and cluster analysis, we have developed our improved list of keywords to produce more robust data.

We have used these keywords and created query codes, based off the Aurora Network, that can be searched publication titles, abstracts and keywords in Scopus from the last 5 years (2014-2019). Scopus is an online research publication abstract and citation database run by Elsevier which collates data from over 36,000 titles from around 11,600 publishers from subject fields such as life sciences, social science, health science and physical sciences. By running these query codes through this database, we can find out the number of publications and citation counts for publications relating to each of the SDGs.

Different sets of keywords were developed to be able to map REF (Research Excellence Framework) Impact case studies using cluster analysis. Case studies from 2014 REF were mapped to the SDGs using the Summary of Impact section. These methods let us explore both quantity and impact of research at institutions.

Appendix

Table 3 - Number of research publications on Scopus between 2014 and 2019

	Sustainable Development Goals	Edinburgh	UK	Global
1	No Poverty	311	10,778	81,275
2	Zero Hunger	737	21,118	378,207
3	Good Health & Wellbeing	1,872	59,113	504,009
4	Quality Education	66	2,990	34,878
5	Gender Equality	361	13,787	92,737
6	Clean Water & Sanitation	441	18,840	389,536
7	Affordable & Clean Energy	621	19,562	328,853
8	Decent Work & Economic Growth	315	13,334	121,615
9	Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure	248	11,463	185,280
10	Reduced Inequalities	347	11,270	96,820
11	Sustainable Cities and Communities	583	22,504	283,379
12	Responsible Consumption & Production	604	24,329	336,691
13	Climate Action	695	16,093	194,885
14	Life Below Water	204	8,268	94,080
15	Life on Land	666	18,115	201,498
16	Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions	664	26,439	218,920
17	Partnership for the Goals	228	6,817	51,271


Table 4- The name of authors with the highest number of publications in each SDG


Sustainable Development Goals	Author	Number of publications
No Poverty	A. Amos	12
Zero Hunger	M.D.A Rounsevell	23
Good Health & Wellbeing	A. Sheikh	65
Quality Education	E. Boeren	7
Gender Equality	S. Cameron	13
Clean Water & Sanitation	E. Chatzisyneon	18
Affordable & Clean Energy	H. Haas	28
Decent Work & Economic Growth	W. Hou	8
Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure	M.K. Marina	21
Reduced Inequalities	R.S Bhopal	14
Sustainable Cities and Communities	M.R. Heal	34
Responsible Consumption & Production	P. Alexander	10
Climate Action	P. Meir	39
Life Below Water	L.A. Henry	13
Life on Land	M.D.A Rounsevell	30
Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions	D. Fry E Quayle	12 12
Partnership for the Goals	M. Hellowell	12


Table 5 - Percentage of all UK publications between 2014 and 2019

Sustainable Development Goals	Edinburgh	UK	Percentage
No Poverty	311	10,778	2.89%
Zero Hunger	737	21,118	3.49%
Good Health & Wellbeing	1,872	59,113	3.17%
Quality Education	66	2,990	2.21%
Gender Equality	361	13,787	2.62%
Clean Water & Sanitation	441	18,840	2.34%
Affordable & Clean Energy	621	19,562	3.17%
Decent Work & Economic Growth	315	13,334	2.36%
Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure	248	11,463	2.16%
Reduced Inequalities	347	11,270	3.08%
Sustainable Cities and Communities	583	22,504	2.59%
Responsible Consumption & Production	604	24,329	2.48%
Climate Action	695	16,093	4.32%
Life Below Water	204	8,268	2.47%
Life on Land	666	18,115	3.68%
Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions	664	26,439	2.51%
Partnership for the Goals	228	6,817	3.34%

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Social Responsibility and Sustainability Committee**25.02.2020****Sustainability Awards, Champions and Building Capacity for Sustainability Across the University****Description of paper**

The paper provides an update to the Committee on the Sustainability Awards for Offices and Labs and alignment with Strategy 2030.

Action requested

The Committee is requested to note the paper and share any views on the proposed next steps.

Recommendation

It is recommended to refresh Sustainability Awards criteria and rethink the timing of the Awards.

Background and context

The Sustainability Awards recognise staff and students who take sustainability related actions such as conserving resources, saving energy, fundraising for good causes and building links with the local community. In 2020 the efforts of staff and students will be celebrated in the Awards ceremony on 26th March.

The Office, Lab and Residence awards provide a framework for different areas of the University to make a difference and contribute towards the University becoming more socially responsible and sustainable. Bronze, Silver and Gold 'accreditations' are provided and teams and units are recognised at an annual ceremony along with sustainability 'champions'.

The Sustainability Awards have been running since 2010, with each year seeing growth of the scheme. In 2018, the Department for Social Responsibility and Sustainability (SRS) commissioned a PhD researcher to conduct a review of the programme. The findings were presented to the SRS Committee and next steps included ways to keep momentum going, greater focus on communication of the awards, criteria and tools available and further identify ways to recognise work of students involved in awards. In 2018-19, 27 teams have actively taken part and further 18 have maintained their accreditation from previous year. Already, 9 new teams have expressed their interest in joining in the coming year.

After analysis of the recommendations from PhD review of the programme and responses to survey sent to all participants, SRS are refreshing the Awards and align with future priorities.

In September 2019 the University launched its Strategy 2030 which sets out a strong vision to make the world a better place. Social and Civic Responsibility is a key focus area referencing commitments to: reduce climate impact, buy locally, support

volunteering, build public engagement and be a good and welcoming neighbour. The Strategy makes explicit reference to our contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SRS Committee (SRSC) is currently finalising a 'Social and Civic Responsibility Plan to integrate the SDGs. A key area of activity will be to embed action across the University and build capacity for sustainability (see separate paper to SRSC). At the same time, the Department for SRS is updating its Department Strategic Plan 2014-19. Interviews carried out by the Director of SRS with key stakeholders, staff workshops and programme and project reviews have shed light on areas where we can be bolder and more effective.

For the Department Plan 2020 to 2024 we anticipate one of the programme areas to be focussed on sustainability innovation & leadership with key themes around zero carbon and zero waste and building staff leadership and management for sustainability. The Office and Lab Awards will be part of this along with other elements such as the Sustainability Champions network (launched in Q1) and staff training and workshops. We would like individuals as well as units to have the knowledge, skills and tools to embed sustainability within their areas of work. SRS is also following up with Strategic Planning on a September Court discussion regarding embedding the response to the Climate Emergency and the SDGs in Committee Papers.

We are currently updating the Awards criteria to align with strategic priorities.

Discussion

Managing a growing scheme.

The Office and Lab Awards have enjoyed a healthy growth since starting the scheme and it seems that this trend is accelerating.

Given plans for embedding sustainability we anticipate 75-80 Offices and Labs participating in the next few years, which in will have a knock-on impact on the resources and time commitment required for running the scheme.

Currently, the scheme runs on an annual cycle basis, where teams are invited to participate around April, work on their submission between May and September, are audited in November and in March take part in the ceremony where they receive their trophy. Currently, a single SRS Projects Coordinator oversees the whole submission and auditing process with minimal input from colleagues. This approach will not be feasible if the number of teams increases toward the numbers expected.

We are currently reviewing a potential change to move away from the annual cycle and towards an 'annual accreditation model', where teams would request an audit when they feel ready, with a cut-off date by which they would need to be audited to be awarded at the next ceremony. Such approach would stagger team submissions and should allow a single SRS Projects Coordinator to manage the scheme.

Alignment with Strategy 2030

There is an opportunity to better align the scheme with the University's Strategy 2030. The objectives of the Office and Lab Sustainability Awards are well aligned

with the Social and Civic Responsibility key focus area. In addition, there is an opportunity to link to the People area of the University's strategy. The existing criteria linked to health and wellbeing will be strengthened and there will be slightly more focus on them (e.g. could be by making some of the currently optional ones mandatory).

- Wellbeing – SRS will consult colleagues in Health and Safety and Sports and Exercise to explore areas for collaboration and cross-promotion. Emphasis will be placed on ideas encouraging team-building and friendly cross-team competition.
- Sharing best practice - the Awards currently have an annual “sharing best practice” workshop. SRS will investigate how to build on it, for example by inviting wider audiences (Sustainability Champions/Staff Champions).
- Student experience – SRS offer a volunteering opportunity which lets students understand more and feedback about the running of the university. Moving to a more year-round model would potentially allow more students to take part by giving the opportunity to better fit in their calendars.

Expanding sustainability criteria

There is an opportunity to make sure the Sustainability Awards contribute to the priority areas for the University's Climate Strategy and the wider community.

- Climate conscious travel – to expand and give bigger prominence to current criteria on travel outside of Edinburgh. Criteria will need to be aligned with recommendations from University Travel and Aviation Group's recommendations. At the same time, departments may be asked to do some work on understanding their travel patterns and think about departmental-level approaches or policies.
- Promotion of vegetarian and vegan diets. This is an area that has been requested by colleagues in the Awards survey, therefore their inclusion will be explored, seeking alignment with the Good Food Policy and support from Accommodation, Events and Catering. Criteria will be in the voluntary section on the Silver level and will likely include suggestions to default to vegetarian or vegan catering on departmental events or organising bring and share lunches and recipe swaps.
- Circular economy and supporting the Waste Strategy. More focus on criteria encouraging removing single-use items, with emphasis on plastics, expanding criteria on food waste and reuse.
- Local partnerships. Many Awards teams go beyond supporting charitable initiatives, and dedicate their time to supporting local community organisations. The Awards can help strengthen the Civic Responsibility aspect of Strategy 2030 by recognising the development of these partnerships and inspiring others to do the same and link to the Community Engagement priorities. Criteria will be added to encourage teams to work with local community groups and make a positive social impact.
- Driving energy efficiency in labs. University labs consume significantly more energy per square meter than other spaces. SRS will be looking at adding criteria around increasing efficiency requirements of new equipment/fume

hood/freezer purchased, whilst also advertising the Sustainable Campus Fund.

Updating criteria

A review of all existing criteria will be carried out to make sure they reflect the current best practice. Multiple participants have also requested more ambitious criteria and increasing difficulty of the scheme, which will be balanced against needs of new teams.

SRS will look into how this can be best achieved, however this will likely be by re-grading some current Silver criteria as Bronze (stronger action on waste and reuse and on local sustainability governance), removing criteria that have not aged well and heightening the difficulty level slightly, e.g. by requiring more of the criteria to be completed for a silver award.

Resource implications

A growing Sustainability Award scheme will inevitably require more work to maintain. We anticipate that the adjustment to the auditing process and timeline will enable us to meet greater demand with the same resources.

Risk Management

There is a risk of not capitalising on the current growth in interest in sustainability and the opportunities presented by the Strategy 2030. It is understood that implementing the changes proposed will improve the perceived value in participating in the scheme, in the eyes of all stakeholders.

Many of the proposals set out in this paper are in-line with requests made by participants in the annual survey and in research carried out in 2018, which will hopefully mean that the changes will prove popular, should they be adopted.

Equality & Diversity

As part of the next steps we will review any opportunities for contributing positively to equality and diversity as well as any potential impacts in the scheme.

Next steps/implications

SRS will work on updating the criteria and the delivery plan for the office and labs and incorporating into a wider programme on sustainability innovation and leadership.

Further information

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Freedom of Information

It is an open paper.

Social Responsibility and Sustainability Committee

Tuesday 25 February, 2020

THE Impact Rankings Submission

Description of paper

1. The purpose of this paper is to update committee members on the University's submission to the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2020.

Action requested

2. The SRS Committee is asked to note the paper.

Recommendation

3. The SRS Committee should note and discuss the paper and provide feedback to improve the submission process and

Background and context

4. THE Impact Rankings assesses the social, environmental and economic impact of universities based on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. The ranking seeks to showcase aspects of university performance not covered in other rankings (i.e. recognising impact of operations).
5. The first iteration of the THE Impact Rankings was published in early 2019, with the University of Auckland topping the rankings. The University of Manchester and King's College London were the leading universities from the United Kingdom, placing joint third and fifth respectively. The University of Edinburgh did not participate in this iteration.
6. While recognising the potential issues and challenges with such a ranking, in June 2019 the SRS Committee endorsed the University of Edinburgh's participation in THE Impact Rankings 2020.

Discussion

7. In the first year, the ranking included 11 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the remaining six were added to the next iteration. The data collection portal was opened on the 14th October 2019 for participating universities.
8. The minimum requirement for universities was to submit data for four of the Sustainable Development Goals (number seventeen which focuses on partnership for the goals was mandatory for all universities), however institutions were allowed to submit data against more of the Sustainable Development Goals. Universities will be ranked based on the three Sustainable Development Goals they best perform against and number seventeen.

9. The Department for Social Responsibility and Sustainability coordinated the University's submission, working closely with Governance and Strategic Planning, and liaising with a range of departments to collate the required data. The University submitted its data (covering the academic year 2017-18) in advance of the revised deadline of Thursday 16th January 2020 (original deadline was 3rd January 2020, this was changed following feedback from many participating universities).
10. Following consultation from key stakeholders and feedback the SRS Committee, the University submitted data for eleven of the Sustainable Development Goals.

THE Impact Rankings 2020 Submission – University of Edinburgh	
1	No Poverty
3	Good Health and Wellbeing
4	Quality Education
7	Affordable and Clean Energy
8	Decent Work and Economic Growth
9	Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
11	Sustainable Cities and Communities
12	Responsible Consumption and production
13	Climate Action
16	Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
17	Partnership for the Goals

11. Collating the data required for the submission was a significant project, assisted greatly by the already established reporting procedures the University has for social responsibility and sustainability issues and the guidance provided by Governance and Strategic Planning. Longer-term efforts to improve the University's wider Social Impact Reporting will positively assist with future submissions to the rankings.

Resource implications

12. Resource to support the University submission to the THE Impact Rankings 2020 was covered by existing resource from the Department for Social Responsibility and Sustainability. Input was required from key internal stakeholders, especially Governance and Strategic Planning, to provide information that was required for the submission.

Risk management

13. There was a clear reputation risk for the University if it did not participate in the rankings this year due to the inclusion of the Sustainable Development Goals in the University's Strategic Plan 2030. There is a potential risk that the University has reported against specific Sustainable Development Goals that are important for the University and not perform as well in the rankings as we hoped. This risk was mitigated by working extensively with colleagues to ensure data was robust and accurate, demonstrating the University's impact on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Equality and Diversity

14. A key aim of the submission is to report the University's progress on equality and diversity issues.

Next steps/implications

15. Times Higher Education are currently validating the data to ensure consistency across submissions. Results will be published in April 2020. The Department for Social Responsibility and Sustainability will liaise with Communications and Marketing and key stakeholders in advance when further details of the publication of the rankings are available in the coming month.

Consultation

16. Key stakeholders have been consulted throughout this process, from the decision to participate in the rankings to the collation of the required data.

Further Information

17. Author and presenter

Matthew Lawson

Student Engagement, Events and Reporting Manager

Freedom of information

18. Open paper.