SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
SOLUTIONS NETWORK
A GLOBAL INITIATIVE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

SOLUTIONS NETWORK

The World's Largest Knowledge Network for the
Sustainable Development Goals

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> "The world has largely failed to address some of the most serious environmental and social problems pressing in on us. We need to engage the academic and scientific community and tap into worldwide technological know-how in the private sector and civil society, in order to develop and implement practical solutions."
>
> **JEFFREY SACHS**
> PRESIDENT OF SDSN

ABOUT THE SDSN

The UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) operates under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General, mobilizing the world's largest knowledge network to drive action on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Established in 2012 by the former UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon, and world-renowned economist and professor, Jeffrey Sachs, the SDSN promotes integrated approaches to sustainable development through education, research, policy analysis, and global cooperation.

The SDSN works at the intersection of science, policy, and development practice, maximizing SDG achievements across global, regional, national, and local levels. In partnership with UN agencies, multilateral financing institutions, governments, academia, civil society, and the private sector, the SDSN develops science-based pathways for SDG implementation, promotes independent monitoring and accountability for sustainable development progress, identifies persisting gaps and priorities through feedback loops to adapt long-term SDG strategies, and facilitates peer-to-peer learning, knowledge sharing, and the exchange of best practices.

The SDSN Secretariat at the 2024 Pre-Summit of the Future in New York, New York, USA.

The SDGs

Adopted by UN Member States in 2015, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a universal framework for achieving a sustainable future by 2030. The 17 interlinked goals and 169 corresponding targets address humanity's most pressing challenges and opportunities, recognizing that ending poverty and other deprivations must be accompanied by efforts to improve health, education, and social equity, reduce economic disparities, combat climate change, and preserve the natural environment.

The SDGs offer a shared blueprint for action, encouraging collaboration across sectors, borders, and disciplines. Achieving these goals requires collective effort and a strong community of partners committed to building a better, more sustainable world.

Our Story

The SDSN was established in 2012 with ten thematic working groups focused on environmental, social, and economic issues. These groups contributed to the adoption of the SDGs, including the critical inclusion of SDG 11 on sustainable cities. During this time, the SDSN's Deep Decarbonization Pathways Project (DDPP) helped to inform national climate policies and demonstrated that achieving deep decarbonization by mid-century was both necessary and feasible.

In 2014, the SDSN expanded its mission with the launch of the SDG Academy, offering free, open educational resources (OERs) featuring guidance from leading experts in sustainable development. Since its launch, the Academy has produced 50 courses and reached over one million learners from more than 190 countries.

Over the past decade, the SDSN has introduced a myriad of new initiatives tackling critical areas of sustainable development from sustainable food and land-use systems, to sustainable finance, urban development, and the conservation of critical forest biomes. Key programs and initiatives include the Science Panels for the Amazon, the Congo Basin, and Borneo; the SDG Transformation Center; the ASEAN Green Future Project; SDGs Today; Mission 4.7, Global Schools, and the Ages of Globalization; the Council of Engineers for the Energy Transition and Net Zero on Campus; and the FABLE Consortium and the FELD program. The SDSN has also produced several influential research products, such as the Sustainable Development Report and the World Happiness Report.

The SDSN also launched a global Networks Program, creating a membership-based alliance of leading knowledge institutions organized at national and regional levels. The SDSN comprises over 2,000 members across 57 networks and operates global offices in New York, Paris, and Kuala Lumpur.

Our Approach

To accelerate SDG achievement worldwide through global cooperation, education, policy analysis, and science-based solutions, the SDSN's work is structured around the following five key objectives:

01 **Mobilizing the world's largest network** of researchers and scientists on sustainable development to identify and develop global and local solutions for sustainable development;

02 **Hosting the first-of-its-kind SDG Transformation Center**: A knowledge hub for SDG data, pathways, policies, and financing;

03 **Leading major thematic and geographic initiatives** on climate and energy, economics, food and land use, governance, health, happiness and well-being, sustainable cities, finance, and tropical forests;

04 **Enhancing global access to and the quality of education** for sustainable development via the SDG Academy; and

05 **Engaging directly with major international processes and institutions**, including the UN, governments, civil society, and key stakeholders to promote science-based SDG transformations.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals

Our Global Engagement

The SDSN works closely with key international leadership, governments, the UN, and multilateral institutions — including the International Monetary Fund, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), G-20 and T-20 leadership, among others — in their efforts to coordinate cross-sectoral, regional, and national action on the SDGs.

This includes supporting the UN's SDG Stimulus Plan, engaging with the T-20 and G-20 leadership on a priority agenda for the Brazil G21 Presidency and Ministers of Finance to advance the SDG Stimulus, advising the UN Secretary-General on engineering pathways to achieve comprehensive decarbonization by mid-century, and working with the FAO to develop country roadmaps for sustainable food systems.

The SDSN also collaborates with multilateral development banks, including the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) in mainstreaming the SDGs into investment portfolios and country strategies.

At the national and subnational levels, the SDSN continues to provide direct support to numerous national governments, parliaments, and statistical offices. Efforts include working with the European Commission to strengthen SDG data and analyses, partnering with the Beninese Ministry of Economy and Finance to publish a Sustainable Development Report for the country, and signing an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Members of the European Parliament SDG Alliance to partner on furthering the 2030 Agenda. The SDSN's research has also supported dozens of countries' voluntary national reviews, including the first EU-wide Voluntary National Review.

The organization also remains an active player in major international events and meetings, including the UN General Assembly, the High-Level Political Forum, the G20, and the UNFCCC COPs, influencing and supporting dialogue and actions on the SDGs and the climate crisis. SDSN-organized high-level conferences, including the International Conference on Sustainable Development, further expand solutions-oriented actions for the SDGs.

Prof. Jeffrey Sachs, President of SDSN, speaking at the UNFCCC COP22

A GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE NETWORK

The SDSN mobilizes the world's leading academic and research institutions, leveraging their expertise to promote and develop scientifically rigorous, scalable, interdisciplinary, and systemic solutions to sustainable development challenges. The SDSN Network includes over 2,000 member institutions — spanning universities, research centers, think tanks, NGOs, and more — coordinated by 57 National and Regional Networks. Each Network is hosted by one or more institutions with proven expertise in sustainable development.

Within their respective countries and regions, these Networks focus on distinct projects and priorities tailored to local contexts and challenges. Together, they form a vibrant community actively working to shape a sustainable future.

Each Network drives impact by:

- **Promoting** high-quality education and fostering research collaborations for sustainable development.

- **Localizing and mobilizing** support for the SDGs, including aiding governments in addressing sustainable development challenges.

- **Vetting and launching** solution initiatives, such as supporting the creation of long-term development pathways.

2,000+
Members

140
Countries

57
Networks

"
With over 2,000 university and research institution members in over 57 national and regional networks worldwide, the SDSN has created an ecosystem of thought leadership to accelerate progress on sustainable development and climate change."

MARÍA CORTÉS PUCH
VP OF NETWORKS

Network Partnerships & Events

The SDSN Networks Program actively collaborates with local and regional partners across university and research institutions, civil society, governments, and the private sector to drive impact and mobilize SDG solutions.

SustainChain Community Platform

The SDSN partnered with SustainChain™, a public service platform built by the U.S. Coalition on Sustainability, to amplify the SDSN's impact, work, and leadership across the SDG ecosystem. The platform enables the SDSN community to collaborate with key stakeholders across the sustainability ecosystem and provides critical resource-sharing tools and AI-driven insights tailored to advancing our collective sustainability goals.

Universities for Goal 13

In collaboration with Siemens Energy, "Universities for Goal 13" is an annual competition to recognize students' talent and their critical role in the quest for new technologies and innovative solutions to combat climate change and its impacts. The competition is open to undergraduate and graduate students from universities selected from SDSN's member institutions worldwide.

Dr. Soogil Young speaking at the launch of SDSN South Korea in 2013

Award ceremony for the 2023 'Universities for Goal 13' competition

Projects Supported by the European Commission

The Networks program works closely with the European Commission and local partners on several projects aimed at establishing systemic solutions and innovations to improve climate resilience and adaptation across Europe. Projects include ARSINOE, IMPETUS, Climate Resilient Development Pathways in Metropolitan Regions of Europe (CARMINE), CATALYST, and the BuildSkills Program.

University Presidents Meetings

Since 2020, the SDSN has convened University Presidents, UN and government representatives, and experts from regions around the world, to discuss the role of their universities in supporting sustainable development and strategies for achieving the SDGs through education, research, and institutional commitments.

Networks Chairs and Managers gather ahead of the UN Summit of the Future in September 2024

SDSN Youth

Launched in 2015, SDSN Youth is one of the world's largest networks of young leaders committed to shaping a sustainable future for the next generation. This volunteer-driven network spans hundreds of countries, working to accelerate youth-led solutions for the SDGs. Each Youth Network is embedded within its corresponding SDSN National or Regional Network, focusing on empowering young people to advance the SDGs in their local contexts.

SDSN Youth's flagship global programs foster leadership and innovation across various domains:

Local Pathways Fellowship: A training and peer-learning initiative that equips young leaders with tools, frameworks, and connections to urban development experts. This program focuses on localizing SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) in cities worldwide.

SDG Students Program: A global initiative engaging university students to deepen their understanding of the SDGs. It provides resources to help them channel their knowledge and passion for sustainability into meaningful careers after graduation.

Antonio Díaz, Global Events & Partnerships Lead for SDSN Youth, speaking at a UNESCO event
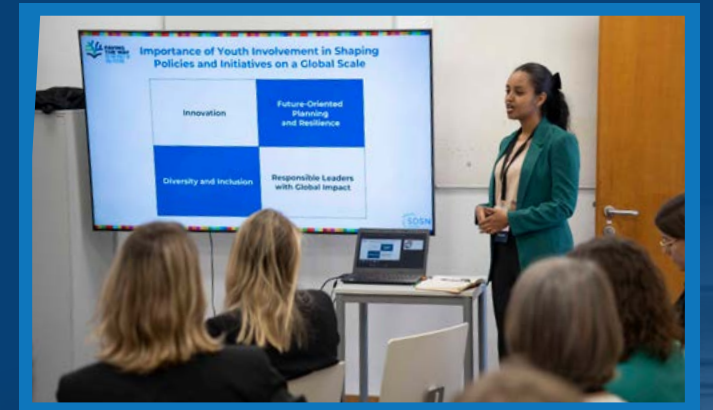
SDSN Youth member presenting at the Paving the Way to the Pact of the Future Conference in Portugal

Participants of the SDSN Youth's Vatican Youth Symposium

SDG MONITORING, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND DATA INNOVATION

Comprehensive data systems, robust monitoring, and strong accountability mechanisms are essential for achieving the SDGs. Reliable, timely, and high-quality data empower policymakers, researchers, and stakeholders to track progress, identify gaps, and make informed decisions. Through innovative approaches to SDG data collection, analysis, and reporting led by the SDG Transformation Center, the SDSN's programs strengthen data ecosystems and drive progress toward a more sustainable and equitable future.

SDG Transformation Center

Established in 2023, the SDG Transformation Center serves as a hub for science-based tools and peer-to-peer learning. It connects scientists, practitioners, and investors, providing advanced policy instruments, analytics, and long-term pathways for the SDGs. The Center partners with public, international, and private institutions on specialized research programs.

Guillaume Lafortune, VP of SDSN and Head of the Paris Office, sharing the Europe Sustainable Development Report 2021

The SDSN partnering with AFD and the Government of Uzbekistan to advance SDG monitoring and policy pathways

The Sustainable Development Report

The Center produces the SDSN's annual flagship Sustainable Development Report (SDR), featuring the SDG Index and Dashboards. Since 2016, this report has been the most comprehensive evaluation of all 193 UN Member States' performance on the 17 SDGs. It is widely used by governments and civil society to prioritize actions, ensure accountability, and track progress.

The SDG Transformation Center also collaborates with partners to create regional and local SDG indices for regions, including Europe, Africa, Latin America, and individual countries and cities.

Prof. Jeffrey Sachs, President of SDSN, and Anne Hidalgo, Mayor of Paris, at the launch of the Sustainable Development Report 2023 in Paris, France

Geospatial Tools

The Center utilizes cutting-edge geospatial data to analyze SDG attainment on local and global scales. This work includes developing new geospatial indicators to address critical data gaps and provide more granular insights into progress.

International Spillovers

In collaboration with the University of Tokyo's Center for the Global Commons and the Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy, the SDSN publishes the Global Commons Stewardship Index, tracking the spillover impacts of 145+ countries on global resources. This work is complemented by detailed analyses, policy briefs, and country-specific studies to improve governance in industries such as textiles, food, soy, and minerals.

SDG Policy Tracking

The SDSN monitors and assesses government efforts to integrate the SDGs into economic planning, fiscal policies, and sectoral strategies. The SDSN's work in this area encompasses:

1. Conducting an annual survey to measure government SDG commitments and efforts at local and national levels.

2. Assessing countries' promotion or undermining of UN multilateralism.

3. Tracking city-level SDG initiatives with the OECD, city governments, and other organizations.

4. Developing methodologies to analyze national policy action on food, environment, land, and development targets, developed by the FELD Program.

A conceptual framework to evaluate government efforts and commitment to the SDGs
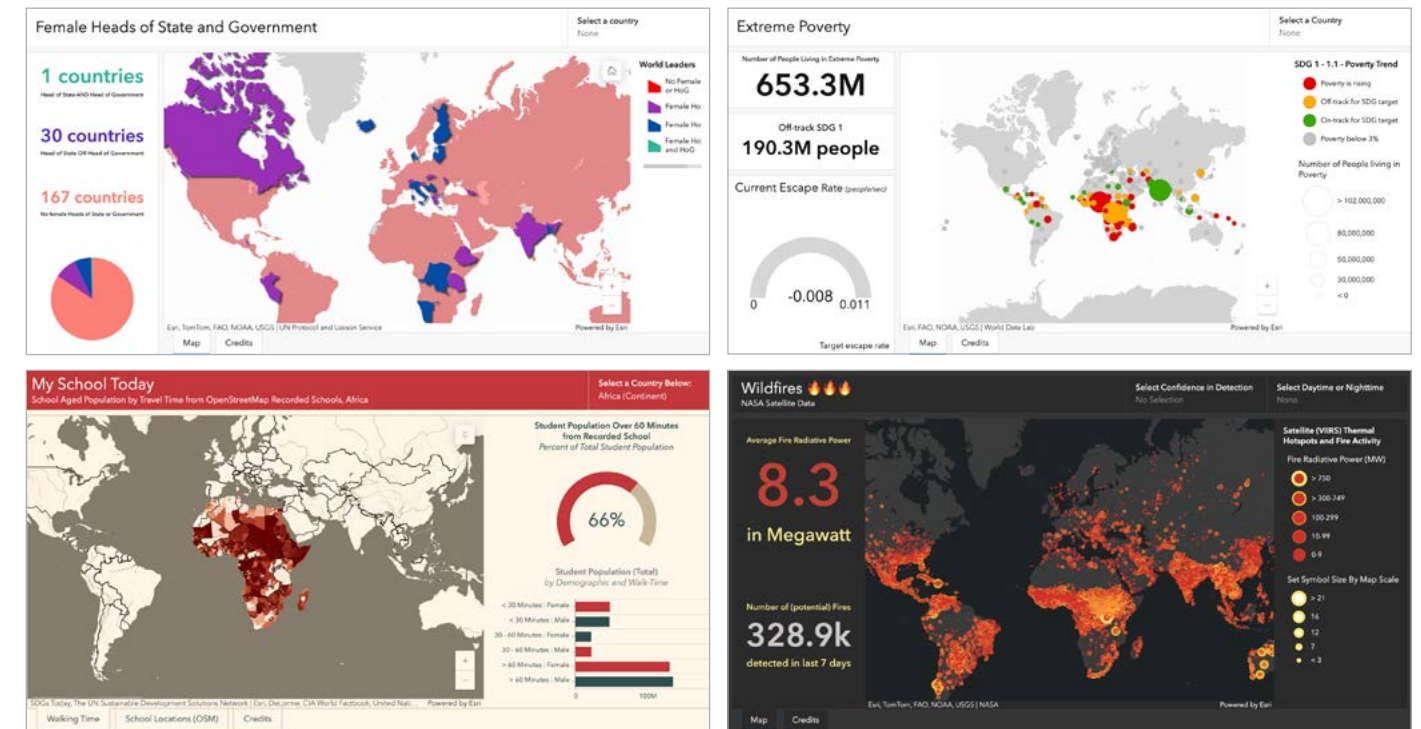
SDGs Today's datasets on the Sustainable Development Goals

SDGs Today

SDGs Today, launched in 2020 at the UN High-Level Political Forum in partnership with Esri and the National Geographic Society, advances the production and use of timely and geospatial data for the SDGs. The program provides a snapshot of the state of sustainable development around the world, fostering data partnerships to co-develop interactive, accessible, and timely data products.

SDGs Today co-designs real-world applications and stories to humanize quantitative data and communicate the impact of non-traditional data on decision-making and various stakeholder groups. The program also offers GIS training and educational programs to support governments, academics, and youth to produce and engage with sustainable development data.

SUSTAINABLE FINANCE

Achieving the SDGs requires substantial public and private investment. The SDSN focuses on six key areas of SDG financing:

1. Assessing global and country-level SDG financing gaps.

2. Exploring financing pathways to complement domestic resource mobilization for the UN's SDG Stimulus.

3. Advocating for Global Financial Architecture reform.

4. Supporting countries in assessing vulnerabilities, aligning budgets with the SDGs, and improving data quality and collection.

5. Contributing to the global dialogue on progress measures beyond GDP.

6. Providing recommendations on fair burden-sharing for climate adaptation and loss and damage costs.

SDSN Global Commission for Urban SDG Finance

In 2023, the SDSN, in partnership with the Penn Institute for Urban Research at the University of Pennsylvania, established a Global Commission for Urban SDG Finance. Co-chaired by the SDSN's President, Jeffrey Sachs, Paris' Mayor Anne Hidalgo, and Rio de Janeiro's Mayor Eduardo Paes, the Commission includes over 80 mayors, researchers, and experts. It aims to identify barriers to urban SDG financing and propose strategies to align global financial systems with urban development needs.

In November 2024, for example, the Commission proposed the "Green Cities Guarantee Fund" to increase the flow of public and private capital into subnational climate-responsive projects.

High-Level Group on the SDG Stimulus

To support the UN's SDG Stimulus Plan, the SDSN leads the High-Level Group on the SDG Stimulus Plan (HLG), which convenes leading experts in the development finance sector to chart a path forward in addressing the inefficiency and ineffectiveness of the current system to adequately respond to the expanding debt crisis, climate change, and the multitude of other development challenges we face.

*'Financing the Future' panel at the SDSN's 2024 High-Level Pre-Summit of the Future*

FOOD & LAND-USE SYSTEMS

Current methods of food production, consumption, and land use cost the global economy approximately $12 trillion annually in damages to people and the planet. Because countries are heavily interconnected through trade, transforming these systems requires a coordinated approach, practical tools, and support for local researchers and policymakers.

FABLE Consortium

The Food, Agriculture, Biodiversity, Land-Use, and Energy (FABLE) Consortium is a global network of local experts that develops integrated, long-term pathways for sustainable food and land-use systems in 24 countries, consistent with international trade assumptions and global sustainability goals.

FABLE develops transparent modeling tools, trains local researchers in their use, and supports stakeholder engagement to tackle the most complex challenges in today's food and land-use systems, aiming to reconcile national priorities with global sustainability goals. This bottom-up approach is supported by the Secretariat, jointly hosted by the SDSN, the Alliance of Bioversity and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA).

Step-by-step FABLE methodology
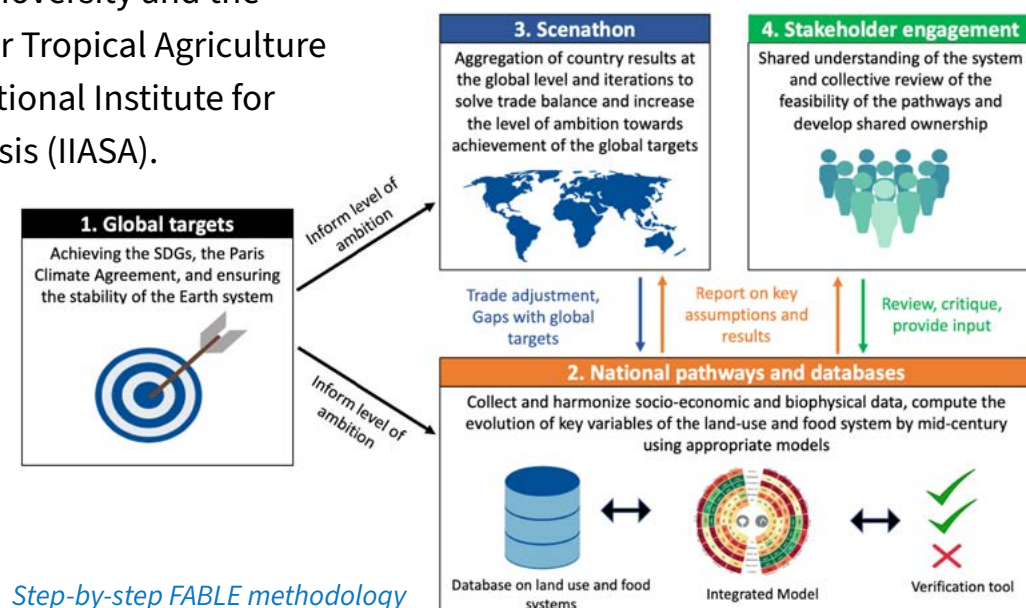
> " No country can afford to ignore the critical need for adaptation and transformation in addressing food systems globally."
>
> **CECIL HAVERKAMP**
> DIRECTOR, FELD PROGRAM

FELD Program

The Food, Environment, Land, and Development (FELD) Program is dedicated to facilitating systematic analyses of and action on the policy-related and operational delivery obstacles of food and land use systems and their transformation, at the global level, across and within specific countries.

FELD's methodologies are designed to support countries and their partners in devising, implementing, and improving effective and ambitious policies for the system-level adaptation and transformation of existing food and land-use systems and practices.

Through the global FELD Action Tracker — a strategic initiative under the Food and Land Use Coalition (FOLU) — the team undertakes systematic assessments of national policy efforts and progress against national commitments and global targets. Under the FELD Catalyst, the team works with local partners to strengthen dialogue on local priorities and solutions for improved climate adaptation, food security, and community development.

CLIMATE & ENERGY

Since the signing of the Paris Agreement in 2015, the world remains off track in limiting global warming to below 2°C. The SDSN's climate and energy initiatives build on the 2015 Deep Decarbonization Pathways Project, which informed the Paris Agreement and continues to guide national strategies for energy system decarbonization and a net-zero transition.

The SDSN provides nations with tools, research, and networks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, particularly from the energy sector.

Council of Engineers for the Energy Transition

Co-chaired by the SDSN and UNIDO, the Council of Engineers for the Energy Transition (CEET) is an independent advisory council to the UN Secretary-General, comprising global energy experts supporting the coalition to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

Net Zero on Campus Initiative

In collaboration with Monash University, Second Nature, and other partners, the SDSN developed an online toolkit and guide to help universities decarbonize their campuses and foster communities of practice across energy, mobility, and other operations.
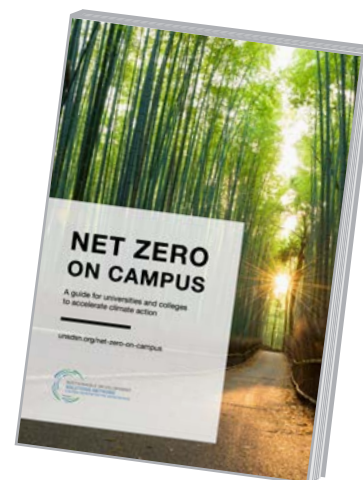
Net Zero on Campus Guide

ASEAN Green Future

A joint initiative with the ClimateWorks Centre and Southeast Asian research groups, the ASEAN Green Future (AGF) Project demonstrates how decarbonized economies can drive sustainable development and resilience in the ASEAN region.

SDSN Global Climate Hub

Launched in 2022, the SDSN Global Climate Hub (GCH) provides science-based recommendations, country-specific action plans, and toolkits to scale decarbonization solutions globally.

CEET Members at the UNFCCC COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan

TROPICAL FORESTS

The SDSN promotes science-based policymaking to protect critical forest biomes, including the Amazon, Congo Basin, and Borneo. By integrating scientific data with Indigenous and local knowledge, the SDSN fosters innovation and guides sustainable solutions.

Science Panel for the Amazon

The Science Panel for the Amazon (SPA), inspired by the Leticia Pact, is the first regional high-level science initiative dedicated to the Amazon. By convening over 280 leading scientists, synthesizing scientific knowledge on the region, and integrating Indigenous and local knowledge, the SPA accelerates science-based solutions for sustainable and equitable development in the region.

Amazon Assessment Report 2021

The Science Panel for the Amazon colleagues at the CBD COP16 in Cali, Colombia

Gathering of the Science Panel for the Amazon Youth Advisory Committee in September 2024

Launch of the Science Panel for Borneo at the UNFCCC COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan

Science Panel for the Congo Basin

Modeled on the SPA, the Science Panel for the Congo Basin (SPCB) is the first-of-its-kind independent scientific panel dedicated to synthesizing existing knowledge of the status of, and threats to, the Congo Basin and its ecosystems. The SPCB provides an independent assessment of its ecosystems and identifies strategies to address global and local threats.

Science Panel for Borneo

Inspired by the success of the SPA and SPCB, the Science Panel for Borneo (SPB) researches and informs pathways to address challenges facing Borneo, including species overexploitation, pollution, land and sea use change, climate change, and invasive species and diseases. The SPB provides recommendations for developing a sensible and equitable bioeconomy, green economy, and financial trajectories while safeguarding Southeast Asia's rainforest.

HEALTH & HAPPINESS

Over the past decade, governments have increasingly recognized the importance of health, happiness, and well-being — not only as universal goals for individuals, but also as key factors in crafting policies that foster healthier and happier societies. The SDSN supports several initiatives that focus on physical health, happiness, well-being, and life satisfaction.

World Happiness Report

Produced by the SDSN, in collaboration with Gallup and the University of Oxford's Wellbeing Research Centre, the World Happiness Report (WHR) is a landmark survey that ranks over 150 countries by their levels of happiness. Published annually since 2012, the report reviews the state of global happiness and explores how the science of happiness explains variations in both personal and national happiness.

Global Happiness Council

The Global Happiness Council (GHC) is a global network of leading academic specialists in happiness and key practitioners in psychology, economics, education, public health, civil society, business, and government. The GHC identifies best practices at the national and local levels to encourage the advancement of the causes of happiness and well-being.

Health Commissions

The SDSN serves as a member of the Lancet Pathfinder Commission, which aims to accelerate a just transition to net zero by providing practical, evidence-based pathways to net zero that also bring benefits to health. Additionally, at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the SDSN launched the Lancet COVID-19 Commission, which worked to assist governments, civil society, and UN institutions through practical evidence-based solutions for responding effectively to global challenges posed by the pandemic.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Equipping individuals with education and knowledge is an invaluable step toward achieving the SDGs. The SDSN's education work seeks to accelerate transformative education and learning for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

SDG Academy

Leading the SDSN's education initiatives, the SDG Academy aims to create and share cutting-edge content on the SDGs, foster innovative teaching and training methods, and build a global learning community to empower current and future generations for sustainable development. Since its launch, the Academy has reached over one million learners from more than 190 countries.
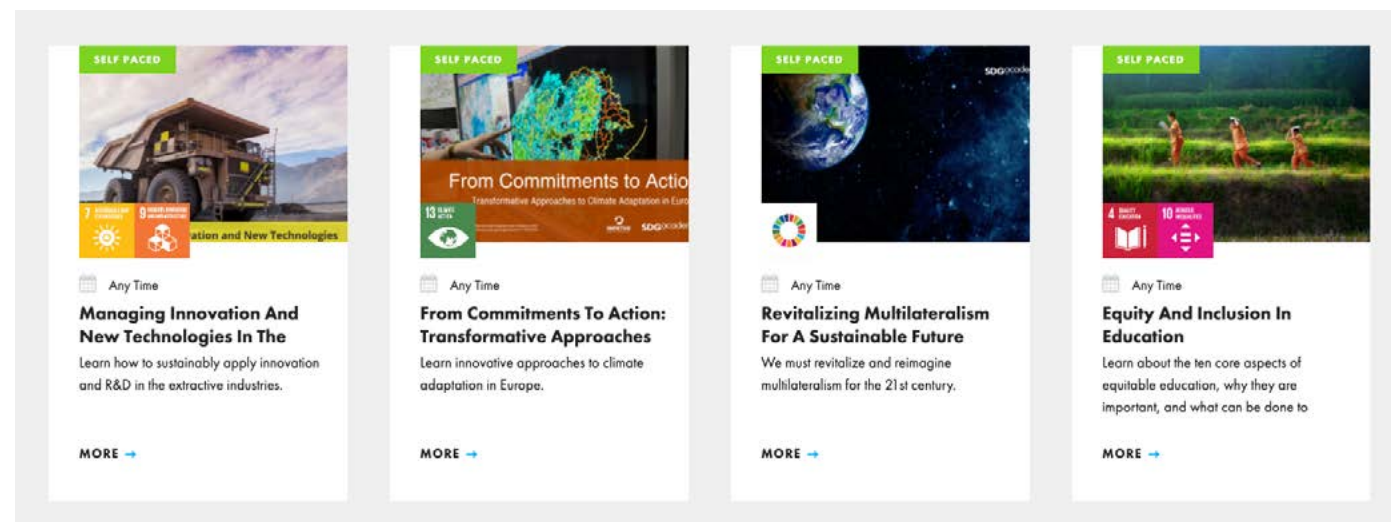
The SDG Academy's library of high-quality, open educational materials on sustainable development

> **Meeting the needs of the present, without compromising the future requires an intergenerational effort unified through education.**
>
> **AMBER WEBB**
> MANAGING DIRECTOR, SDG ACADEMY

The SDG Academy operates with a mandate to promote transformative education through four distinct pillars:

Content: Offers free online courses on sustainable development, a vast online video library, live Global Classroom lectures, and the Book Club with Jeffrey Sachs podcast.

Pedagogy and Training: Partners with universities, including Sunway University and University College Dublin, to support Online Master's Programs in Sustainable Development. Initiatives include the Master's Pathway micro-credential program, edX Professional Certificates, LinkedIn Learning subscriptions, corporate training, and collaborations, such as the BuildSkills Academy in Europe. The Academy also hosts the Global Association of Master's in Development Practice, a multidisciplinary graduate degree program, spanning 35 institutions worldwide.

Community: Builds networks and enriching spaces for SDG learning through communities of practice and an Alumni Network. It is also a partner in Mission 4.7, which unites leaders from various sectors to promote transformative education for sustainable development and global citizenship.

Thought Leadership: Fosters thought leadership through journals, policy briefs, and advocacy efforts. The Academy also advocates for education transformation through partnerships with the SDSN-UNESCO Joint Committee on the OER Recommendation and the SDSN-UNIDO-UNITAR Capabilities 4 the Future Hub.

Global Schools Program

The Global Schools Program (GSP) aims to transform learning and give students the values and skills to succeed in an increasingly complex and challenging world. The program supports primary and secondary schools and educators with evidence-informed training and classroom resources to integrate sustainable development into school curricula, operations, and activities.

To date, the program has supported more than 22,000 teachers and 176,000 students in 1,500 schools across 100 countries worldwide. Its flagship initiatives include the following:

Advocates Program: Provides teachers with free tools, frameworks, and training to teach sustainable development in the classroom; improve student skills; introduce the use of new pedagogical approaches, such as active-learning and student-centered teaching methods; and co-design school projects for the SDGs.

UN at Your Doorstep: A live dialogue series accompanying the Ages of Globalization course that connects today's global leaders with tomorrow's changemakers, addressing today's pressing challenges, from peace and security to climate change, poverty, environmental sustainability, and AI.

Schools for Goal 7: Supported by Siemens Energy, 'Schools for Goal 7' trains teachers and students on energy and sustainable development using gamified curricula. The project provides practical, hands-on experiences to students in engaging with topics, such as the energy transition, renewable energy, climate change, and sustainability.

Mission 4.7

Mission 4.7 is an ambitious global initiative that builds upon UNESCO's global leadership on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and Global Citizenship Education (GCED). The initiative brings together leaders from government, academia, civil society, and business to advocate for transformative education for sustainable development and global citizenship at all levels of learning (SDG Target 4.7).

Ages of Globalization: Ages of Globalization (AoG) is an innovative new online course hosted by Professor Sachs. With visits and storytelling at UNESCO's Cultural Heritage Sites, this course introduces a thrilling curriculum that merges world history, science, geography, technology, interactive maps, and live dialogues with world leaders.

Mission 4.7 Malaysia: The SDSN is working to localize Mission 4.7 by identifying barriers to and opportunities for the implementation of transformative education in the Malaysian national education system. In partnership with the Malaysian Ministry of Education, the SDSN is piloting a teacher training curriculum with the goal of producing a toolkit that can be scaled across the country.

Global Association of MDP Programs

The Master's in Development Practice (MDP) is a two-year graduate program that prepares practitioners to tackle sustainable development challenges through an integrated curriculum covering health, natural, social, and management sciences.

With the adoption of the SDGs, MDP programs have expanded course offerings while maintaining core training in essential knowledge, skills, and attributes for success in both developing and developed contexts. The program includes a two to three-month field practicum for hands-on experience and a Global Classroom, a virtual course connecting MDP students worldwide. While primarily face-to-face, some programs incorporate blended learning.

INSTITUTIONAL GOVERNANCE & DESIGN

Improving governance and fostering strong institutional design is not only critical for achieving SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions), but also for governments worldwide to build an equitable, resilient, and sustainable future for all.

Political Stability in Malaysia

In the Malaysian context, improving institutional design and enhancing access to information is particularly relevant, as the 2018 elections led to significant polarization and political instability, threatening Malaysia's progress towards sustainable development.

The SDSN's work on institutional governance and design, led by the Kuala Lumpur Office team, focuses on Malaysia's electoral, party, and parliamentary politics. The team produces research and advocates for reforms on key governance topics, including access to information, constituency delimitation, the electoral system, parliamentary committees, shadow cabinets, political parties, political finance, the constituency development fund (CDF), and the Attorney General's Chambers (AGC).

The 2025 ASEAN Workshop on Sustainable Development in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

SDSN Leadership

The SDSN Leadership Council oversees the work of the SDSN, comprising eminent experts and leaders on sustainable development from academia, business, civil society, and the public sector.

Leadership Council

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Tsinghua University

Aromar Revi
Indian Institute for Human Settlements

John Thwaites
Monash University

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SDSN Amazon, Foundation for Amazon Sustainability

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Femmes Africa Solidarité

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SDSN All Ireland

Hendrik du Toit
Ninenty One

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Religions for Peace

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Ambassador, Climate Advocate CEO & Founding Partner, OnePoint5

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The University of the Highlands and Islands

Ken Giller
Wageningen University

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Blue Chip Foundation

Andy Haines
The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Tarja Halonen
Former President of Finland

James Hansen
The Earth Institute, Columbia University

Olli-Pekka Heinonen
International Baccalaureate Organization

Naoko Ishii
University of Tokyo

Carin Jämtin
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

Vuk Jeremić
Center for International Relations and Sustainable Development

Pavel Kabat
International Human Frontier Science Program Organization

Niclas Kjellström-Matseke
17 Asset Management

Israel Klabin
Brazilian Foundation for Sustainable Development

Adolf Kloke-Lesch
SDSN Europe and IDOS

Siva Kumari
College Possible

Markos Kyprianou
Former European Commissioner for Health and Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cyprus

Upmanu Lall
Columbia Water Center

Felipe Larraín
Former Minister of Finance, Chile

Richard Layard
London School of Economics

Frannie Léautier
SouthBridge Investments

Klaus Leisinger
Global Values Alliance

Justin Yifu Lin
Peking University

Gordon Liu
Peking University

Siamak Sam Loni
London School of Economics

Jane Lubchenco
Oregon State University

Graça Machel
The Elders

Lu Mai
China Development Research Foundation

Julia Marton-Lefèvre
Yale University

Ramesh Mashelkar
Jio Institute

Vladimir Mau
The Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration

Mariana Mazzucato
Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose

Miguel Ángel Moratinos Cuyaubé
United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

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GET INVOLVED

Become a Member

Knowledge-generating institutions can join the SDSN at no cost. Member institutions should have significant expertise in one or more areas related to sustainable development and commit to contributing substantially toward finding and implementing solutions for the SDGs.

A Global Network

Members join a dynamic global network that draws upon the knowledge and educational capacity of more than 2,000 member institutions from 57 national and regional networks. Member organizations can:

- Leverage the SDSN expertise for teaching, research, and local/national sustainable development.
- Access top-tier experts and young professionals working in sustainable development.
- Enter SDSN's vibrant members-only platforms and peer-to-peer networking opportunities.

SDSN Kenya colleagues

SDSN Mexico colleagues

Collaborative Opportunities and Events

With direct linkage into the United Nations processes and annual events, members also gain:

- Privileged access to SDSN's tools and outputs; and collaboration opportunities across the organization.
- Access to SDSN-exclusive events.

SDG Advocacy and Awareness

By joining the SDSN, you can influence real change. Through global and local connections, membership affords your organization:

- A platform to communicate and elevate your organization's commitment and progress to a renowned academic audience.
- Opportunities to contribute to the SDSN's publications to advance policy and advocacy for sustainable development.

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Follow the SDSN on social media to stay up to date on events, access helpful resources, and more. Subscribe to the SDSN Newsletter to receive the latest insights, opportunities, and more directly in your inbox.

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