

SUSTAINABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS REPORT

NOVEMBER 2020

**BUILDING A
GREENER,
BETTER WORLD**

US

UNIVERSITY
OF SUSSEX

Foreword from Adam Tickell, Vice-Chancellor

2020 has been an unusual year.

All of our lives have been changed by the current coronavirus pandemic. The world has been put on an almost “war footing”, focusing our resources on creating a safe place to work, live and study.

Yet amongst the public health crisis and emergency, it is important that we do not forget the bigger public health and economic crisis that is the need to tackle the potentially catastrophic impacts of climate change and loss of biodiversity.

Nor should we forget events in America this spring, with the death of George Floyd, which shone a light on systemic inequality within higher income countries. Or the economic and climate injustices faced by lower and middle-income countries.

We at Sussex are proud to be the highest ranked university in the world for the study of development studies. We are also proud of the environmental progress made so far on campus. Most notably the creation of the largest solar farm of any higher education institution in the UK, in addition to the first aerobic digester.

However, we know we are not doing enough and need to do more. That is why we are publishing our first annual sustainability report and summary report on the progress that we are making to achieve all 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals.

This report will provide much needed transparency to enable our students, staff and strategic partners to engage with us on what we are doing to respond to the climate emergency and build a better world for future generations.

The data contained in this report¹ will also be used to provide the necessary analysis for the production of a comprehensive and ambitious sustainability strategy, that we are due to publish in Spring 2021. This strategy will show how we plan to improve our performance against each sustainable development goal and how we will achieve net zero by a set point in the future.

Building a greener, better world is the biggest challenge facing our generation. It is with that in mind, that I am delighted to publish our inaugural sustainability report and hope to be able to share great improvements by the time we publish the second report next year.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adam Tickell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Professor Adam Tickell
Vice-Chancellor

¹The data reported in this report includes quantitative data from the 2018/19 year as the last full HESA reporting cycle year for consistency purposes. However, qualitative reporting of good practice in relation to policy and educational initiatives reflects the position that was correct as of November 2020. This approach is consistent with the way that data is submitted to the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings. In the rare occasion when quantitative data is provided for after 2018/19 this is specified in the report.

Introduction

This report summarises progress to date at realising each of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and highlights areas for improvement that will be addressed in the forthcoming University of Sussex Sustainability Strategy next Spring.

The 17 SDGs are as follows:

To make this report engaging and easy to read, the performance data is provided at a high level.

If you would like more detailed information then please contact the Sustainability Manager at s.waugh@sussex.ac.uk



SDG1 NO POVERTY

This SDG relates to our University's research on poverty and our support for poor students and citizens in the local community.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

- The University is ranked number one in the world for Development Studies in the QS World Rankingsⁱ - jointly with the Institute of Development Studies (IDS).ⁱⁱ This shows our commitment to ending poverty across the globe. IDS also offer a specific Masters Degree in Poverty and Development.²
- Over 26% of our undergraduates in 2018/19 were first generation scholars – that means that they are the first person in their immediate family to attend university. We recognise how important this is for promoting social mobility within our society.³
- Our Access and Participation Plan contains ambitious plans to help reduce poverty and promote social mobility through the provision of higher education to under-represented groups.⁴
- We have targets in place to increase the percentage of students at Sussex who come from the poorest 20% of households in the UK – known as index of multiple deprivation quintile 1 (IMDQ1) from 8.8% to 21% by 2024/25. We also want to increase the number of our graduates from IMDQ1 backgrounds.⁵ We have targets to reduce the gap in progression outcomes between the poorest and richest students (i.e. IMD Q1 and Q5) from 16% to 0% by 2024/25.⁶
- 16% of our students receive financial aid. Our student support centre helps low income students tackle any money worries – our dedicated student funding team help with budgeting, welfare loans, hardship funds and more.⁷
- For September 2020 entry, students from households with an income of under £25,000 receive an entry bursary and have access to a student hardship fund⁸ – this can also benefit care leavers and students who are estranged from their families. Care leavers also qualify for £2,000 per year of additional support, a welcome pack and a £500 exit bursary upon graduation.⁹
- We encourage students to attend our university from lower and middle-income countries (LMICs).ⁱⁱⁱ We provided 87 scholarships to students from World Bank categorised lower and middle-income countries in 2018/19.
- Our legal clinics provide advice on a range of issues (including housing and employment) to the local community,¹⁰ which can help to prevent poverty and homelessness.¹¹ This includes our award-winning Citizens Advice Project that sees our law students giving the public general advice under CAB supervision on a wide range of issues including debt and welfare benefits.¹²
- Our Head of Economics, Richard Dickens was a Low Pay Commissioner from 2014-2020¹³ - directly advising the UK Government on the setting of the minimum wage and helping to alleviate national poverty.¹⁴ Additionally, members of our Economics Department have had wider policy influence on key poverty stakeholders including the: World Bank, World Trade Organization and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).¹⁵
- We co-ordinate *Migrating Out of Poverty*, a UK Government funded research consortium involving LMIC research institutions, whose goal is to maximise the poverty reducing and developmental impacts of migration and minimise costs and risks of migration for the poor.¹⁶

AREAS WHERE WE WANT TO IMPROVE

- Co-authoring even more papers with academics from LMICs on poverty reduction.

1 NO POVERTY



ⁱⁱ IDS is a separately registered institution that works as a sister institute to the University, and is based on the campus.

ⁱⁱⁱ LMICs refer to World Bank categorisation: <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/>

SDG2 ZERO HUNGER

This SDG relates to our world leading research on hunger, teaching on food sustainability and our commitment to tackle food waste and addressing hunger among students and local communities.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

- We recently joined a consortium of seven UK universities and research institutes to help create future leaders in sustainable food systems via the Partnership for Sustainable Food Future – Centre for Doctoral Training (PSFF).¹⁷
- We offer a Masters Degree in Food and Development¹⁸ which teaches students about: food and nutrition security, sustainable food systems, value chains and corporate power; and agri-food technology and its contestations.
- We also teach an undergraduate module called the Forest Food Garden that enables students to grow and harvest forest food on our campus.¹⁹ This is in addition to the provision of our allotments where our students are supported to produce fruit and vegetables.²⁰
- We sit on an advisory panel that has been informing the development of the City Food Strategy Action Plan (2018-2023) – a key priority for the plan is to reduce inequalities (including prioritising those with the poorest diets or least access to healthy food).²¹
- We have a number of interventions in place to help prevent hunger and food insecurity amongst our staff, students and the wider community.
- All excess food from our catering providers is donated to food banks via the fare share initiative or to people in need of food via the too good to go and/or Olio food redistribution apps.²²
- Our Student's Union supports a zero-waste café initiative organised by the student led Food Waste Café Society that allows students to pay what they can for meals made from surplus food.²³
- We provide healthy sustainable food choices on campus. Our Dhaba café²⁴ is fully vegetarian, and in 2019 the animal rights charity PETA named us as one of the top 20 vegan Universities in the UK.²⁵
- All of the produce and meat sold by Sussex Food is sourced locally as standard and we source the food and drinks at our ACCA café from social enterprises wherever we can.²⁶
- We also hold educational outreach events and share research with land owners, farmers, conservation managers and policy makers from the private, public and third sectors. For example, hosting a workshop on “Working with Nature in Farming and Conversation” in March 2019 to debate the future of agri-environment policy.²⁷
- In July 2018 we held a workshop with the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) on contributing to more sustainable food systems for Brighton & Hove.²⁸
- We also host events on sustainable food production on campus. For example, our Sussex Roots collective welcomes members of the community onto campus to learn about sustainable food production at our on-campus allotments.²⁹

AREAS WHERE WE WANT TO IMPROVE

- Reviewing if we should offer a sustainable agriculture courses in the curriculum at undergraduate level.

2 ZERO HUNGER



SDG3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

This SDG relates to our research on key diseases and conditions and support for healthcare professions, and the health of our students and staff.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

- We are shaping the next generation of doctors – over 8% of our graduates attain degrees from our medical school (Brighton and Sussex Medical School) that we operate in partnership with the University of Brighton. Teaching on sustainable health care and climate change is integrated within their studies.
- We are conducting research into sustainable surgery, including the use of single-use plastic surgical instruments.
- We host the annual SHARE (Sustainable Healthcare Academic Research Enterprise) conference. It is a national event bringing together healthcare professionals to share best practice on sustainability in healthcare.³⁰
- We are currently collaborating with global, national and local health institutions and partners to improve health outcomes. For example:
 - We have an esteemed Global Health and Infection Department, with team members based in a variety of locations including the Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust and a variety of overseas institutions.³¹
 - We are advising the Governments Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies on key health issues with leading academics, Jackie Cassell and John Drury, advising the UK Government on Social Care and Behaviour Change respectively³²
 - We have been working in partnership with GPs and ecotherapists to support the mental wellbeing of young people (aged 16-24) through a programme that incorporated ecotherapy (NICE guideline supported) and nature immersion practices. We are now in the process of evaluating it.
- We are leading community outreach programmes to improve and promote health and wellbeing. For example - Time for Dementia is an initiative whereby since 2015 our students have been supporting people with dementia and their carers'.³³ We have now also started running a parallel programme called Time for Autism.³⁴
- We also have a dedicated centre for innovation and research in wellbeing constellated around seven thematic clusters: on Ageing and Wellbeing; Children and Wellbeing; Migration and Wellbeing; Cultural and Collective Sources of Wellbeing; Spirituality, Place and Wellbeing; Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing and Death and Dying.³⁵
- We protect the mental health of our staff³⁶ and students³⁷ through the provision of free counselling services. We also offer a student welfare drop in service.
- We provide our students with free sexual health services and advice.³⁸
- We share our sport facilities with the local community – including access to complementary therapies.³⁹
- We provide meditation drop-in sessions and vigils for staff and students that are also open to the wider community, which help with mental and spiritual wellbeing.⁴⁰

AREAS WHERE WE WANT TO IMPROVE

- Increasing policies and initiatives to reduce and stop smoking on campus.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



SDG4 QUALITY EDUCATION

This SDG relates to our contribution to early years and lifelong learning, our pedagogy research and our commitment to inclusive education.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

- We have a dedicated School of Education and Social Work (ESW).⁴¹
- In 2018/19 we produced 80 primary school teaching graduates and we are on target to increase this number to 135 next year. We also offer a Master's Degree in early years teaching⁴² and produce around 180 secondary school teachers a year.
- We provide free pedagogic vocational training in person and online⁴³ to teachers in Lower and Middle Income (LMIC) countries to support their continued professional development. For example, in Mumbai ⁴⁴ and Nigeria.⁴⁵
- Our Pro Vice Chancellor for Education and Student's, Kelly Coate, is leading a pedagogic revolution at Sussex where we are engaging students in innovative events such as a range of exciting activities include 'hacking' assessment methods, outdoor learning ideas, digital transformation events, and the co-creation of inclusive curricula.⁴⁶
- Our Sussex 2025 Vision is based around four themes, including "Learn to Transform - making students partners in the big decisions that shape our university's future."⁴⁷
- We undertake educational outreach activities into the community, including schools.
- We are proud to offer a Role Models - Peer-Led Mentoring in Schools elective. Within this course, each term 25 undergraduates provide mentoring to school children at Brighton and Aldridge Community Academy and 20 foundation degree students provide mentoring to Portslade Aldridge Community Academy in the summer term.⁴⁸
- Our English Department established Sussex Writes in 2016, where up to thirty tutors from a range of disciplines have run creative writing workshops in twenty-five schools across East and West Sussex. They aim to work with 3000 Sussex students by 2025.⁴⁹
- In the spring term of 2019 Sussex students participated in a new Community Engagement and Volunteering Elective, which was a collaboration between the Students' Union and The School of Education and Social Work. This involved supporting students to have a wide range of impacts in their local community in both social and environmental projects as part of their education at the University.⁵⁰
- We host a wide range of public and community events and lectures. Our *Sussex Development Lecture* series⁵¹ is an opportunity to hear from leading global thinkers on development, while the Sussex Lectures⁵² and Sussex Universe programmes⁵³ cover a wide range of topics such as championing human rights and social justice globally⁵⁴ and averting the insect apocalypse.⁵⁵
- We provide additional educational resources to the wider community - including schools and colleges - who are not studying at the university in a number of ways. For example, providing free access to many of our: library materials⁵⁶, skills hub training⁵⁷, seminars and events⁵⁸ (including those at *the Keep*).⁵⁹
- Our prodigious Institute of Development Studies (IDS) also provides professional development courses to the wider community to help bring about social change, some of which are free.⁶⁰

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



AREAS WHERE WE WANT TO IMPROVE

- Further embedding sustainability within our curriculum.

SDG5 GENDER EQUALITY

This SDG relates to our research on the study of gender, policies on gender equality and commitment to recruiting and promoting women.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

- We offer a Master's Degree in Gender and Development, delivered by the Institute of Development Studies (IDS).⁶¹
- Women make up around 32% of our senior academics and we have a target to increase female representation in senior management roles.^{iv}
- Our Equality and Diversity policy (as updated in July 2019) sets out our commitment to preventing discrimination on grounds of gender.⁶²
- We have a policy of non-discrimination for transgender people, as set out in our Trans and Non-Binary Equality Policy Statement that was published in November 2018⁶³ and we recently published a transitioning at work policy.⁶⁴
- Our Dignity and Respect Policy is designed to support and protect staff reporting discrimination, including gender-based discrimination in all forms⁶⁵ and we have trained a network of dignity and respect champions to provide confidential advice and support to staff in this area.⁶⁶
- Female staff at Sussex are able to access mentoring via our mentoring network. We currently have over 40 mentors in our pool, the majority of which are women who are able to support other women seeking to further their careers.⁶⁷ A number of our schools also offer student mentoring. For example, our School of Law, Politics and Sociology.⁶⁸
- We have maternity and paternity policies that support working parents at the University⁶⁹ and accessible childcare and nursery facilities for both staff and students – with students receiving a 20% discount.⁷⁰
- In October 2018, we introduced a revised approach to flexible working to become 'flexible by default', meaning that we encourage a range of flexible working options from day one, including at the most senior grades.⁷¹
- We actively encourage applications from students in subjects where women are under-represented. We hold an institutional Athena SWAN bronze award – designed to encourage increased representation and progression by women in higher education - and all of our STEMM (science, technology, engineering, and maths and medicine) Schools, plus our former School of Media, Film and Music, have Athena SWAN Departmental awards. We have a key performance indicator (KPI) in our Inclusive Sussex strategy for all Schools to attain an Athena Swan Departmental Award by 2025.⁷²
- A team of Sussex staff organise the annual Soapbox Science outreach platform on Brighton seafront to promote women scientists and the science they do. This event has been running since 2017 and showcases female academics from PhD students to Professors.⁷³
- Our Robogals society is a multi-national, student-run organisation promoting female participation in engineering. In 2018 our Robogals team won an award for innovation at the national conference in Aberdeen.⁷⁴

5 GENDER EQUALITY



AREAS WHERE WE WANT TO IMPROVE

- Strengthening our mentoring schemes for women.

^{iv} We have a target in our Athena SWAN gender equality action plan to increase female representation in grade 10, band A from 25% to 28% by 2024. This is the area of greatest underrepresentation by women.

SDG6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

This SDG relates to research about water, water usage, and our commitment to ensuring good water management in the wider community.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

- We provide free drinking water around campus from jugs and containers to reduce demand for single use plastic water bottles.⁷⁵
- Our catering outlets stock bottles of *Life Water* - an ethics-driven, Hove based company who are 100% carbon neutral.⁷⁶
- We measure our annual water consumption, so we have a baseline from which to make improvements. In 2018/19 we used 327,484m³ of mains water. This amounts to 16.39 m³ per person.
- We are installing grey water recycling equipment in the East Slope halls of residence development.⁷⁷ This will see 30% of used water from showers being redirected to toilet flush systems.⁷⁸
- We are helping to conserve water by upgrading our water systems to improve both energy efficiency and reducing the risk of water leaks. These works started in 2018 and will be complete in 2021.
- We have passionately educated and advised the wider community on conscious water use. For example, in 2019 University researchers collaborated with the local Council, Southern Water and Consumer Council for Water to help social housing tenants reduce their water consumption.⁷⁹
- We have several operational policies and procedures in place to support clean water and sanitation management.⁸⁰ For example, in June 2020 we produced a new Water Safety Plan that sets out the University's strategy to work towards compliance with statutory standards and current best practice in a number of areas including measures to prevent and control water borne hazards, such as legionella.⁸¹

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



AREAS WHERE WE WANT TO IMPROVE

- Creating a dedicated sustainable water action plan with stretching targets to further reduce water consumption and water-based pollution.
- Publishing new guidance for end users on water discharges and standards.
- Increasing co-operation with local, regional, national and global governments on water security.
- Partnering with clean water and sanitation charities, such as Surfers Against Sewage.

SDG7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

This SDG relates to our research related to energy, energy use, policies, and commitment to promoting energy efficiency in the wider community.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

- We have switched to a 100% renewable electricity tariff.
- We have the largest solar energy farm of any university in the UK – with 3000 solar panels.⁸²
- We have a socially responsible investment policy and do not invest in fossil fuels.⁸³
- The University has a key performance indicator to reduce CO2 emissions to 12,500 tonnes per annum by 2025 (against 2005/6 baseline)– and we have already met our interim target of a 43% reduction in emissions by 2020 against the aforementioned baseline.⁸⁴
- All new buildings constructed on campus must meet the BREEAM “Excellent” environmental standard.⁸⁵
- We have brought our residential accommodation up to energy performance certificate rating D everywhere except where COVID or tenant ill health has made this unfeasible.
- Our IT Director also commissioned a research report, which has since reported on Reducing IT Related End User Computing Greenhouse Gas Emissions as a Climate Emergency Strategy; and our latest Digital and IT strategy contains a commitment to “moving us to a greener estate” through our cloud first policy⁸⁶
- The theme of reducing our digital and IT emissions has also been picked up by our Sussex Humanities Lab Environmental Strategy. The strategy aims to better quantify the environmental impacts of digital so as to inform and inspire wider changes in practice.⁸⁷
- Academics from our Geography Department and Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU) designed a policy approach to improve the financing and uptake of climate technologies in Lower and Middle Income (LMIC) countries. This has been used by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; the \$10.3billion Green Climate Fund; the World Bank; the African Union, and; 16 policy organisations from 9 different African Countries.⁸⁸
- We have a dedicated Sussex Energy Group of academics who are shaping local and national policy development – for example speaking at two party political conferences in 2019;^{89 90} and the National Energy Action Warm Homes Week panel on Fuel Poverty and Climate Change in September 2020.⁹¹ They also gave a ministerial briefing on retrofitting homes to the Prime Minister’s Council for Science and Technology (CST) and the Minister of State for Business, Energy and Clean Growth in May 2020.⁹²
- The Energy Group also co-authored and published a study guide for policymakers on onshore wind turbines in the UK in the September 2019 volume of Energy Policy.⁹³
- Our University is a partner in the Centre for Research into Energy Demand Solutions (CREDS), who work with researchers, businesses & policy makers, to support the transition to a low-carbon energy system. Researchers from SPRU and CREDS were part of the Energy Working Group which informed the development of the Greater Brighton Energy Plan, led by the local authorities in the region.⁹⁴

AREAS WHERE WE WANT TO IMPROVE

- Identifying more energy wastage and bringing out subsequent energy efficiency improvements.
- Investigating if we can provide energy efficiency advice and outreach services to the community in conjunction with local partners.

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



SDG8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

This SDG relates to our economics research, employment practices and our share of students undertaking work placements.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

- We are an important local employer, in 2018/19 we had 3,925 members of staff in total.⁹⁵
- We pay our staff the voluntary living wage – based on the real living wage campaign as opposed to the statutory minimum.
- We recognise labour rights and three specific trade unions on campus who we meet with regularly.⁹⁶
- We issued a modern slavery statement in 2018 – outlawing slavery through our systems and processes.⁹⁷
- In 2020 the University became a member of Electronics Watch⁹⁸ who help public sector organisations work together and collaborate with civil society monitors in production regions to protect the rights of workers in their electronics supply chains.⁹⁹
- Our Equality Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Strategy, published in 2018 contains a target to halve the gender pay gap by 2024 from a March 2017 baseline of 20.8%.¹⁰⁰
- We have clear policies in relation to pay and progression, such as guidelines for academic promotions¹⁰¹ and discretionary pay increases.¹⁰²
- We have a dignity and respect policy – to guard against discrimination in the work place.¹⁰³
- 90.4% of our staff were on secure contracts of over 24 months in 2018/19.
- We have a dedicated careers service for our students. All undergraduates can do a paid year-long placement in their penultimate year of study. A dedicated placements team help to support students to achieve this.¹⁰⁴
- In a recent student pulse survey, 77% of respondents had done some form of work-based activity in the last 24 months. 18% of this was volunteering.

AREAS WHERE WE WANT TO IMPROVE

- Investigating the possibility of applying for real living wage accreditation and the potential impacts on our supply chain.
- Increasing the percentage of our students undertaking work-based placement of over a month as part of our employability strategy.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



SDG9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

This SDG relates to our research on innovation, research income from industry and our number of patents and spin-off companies.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

- We offer specific Master's Degree modules in both Infrastructure, Innovation and Sustainability¹⁰⁵ and Innovation for Sustainability.¹⁰⁶
- We actively promote our *Start up Lab* to our students. An eight-week course guiding our student through idea generation, validation, developing a value proposition, finances, marketing and delivering an elevator pitch to investors.¹⁰⁷
- Our long-established Social Impact Prize,¹⁰⁸ for students, is helping to create the next generation of sustainable development entrepreneurs. The 2019 winner, Lucy Hughes, won a £10,000 prize to help take her product MarinaTex – a sustainable plastic alternative made from fish waste – to market. She also won the highly coveted Dyson Award, beating more than 1,000 other entries from young engineers worldwide.¹⁰⁹
- New for the 2020/2021 year we have additional Elevate Grants of £3000 for current students or recent graduates to pay for prototypes, intellectual property protection, specialist equipment and tools, software, marketing materials or anything else that will accelerate the success of their startups.¹¹⁰
- Current students can also book a one-to-one Entrepreneurship Exploration session to discuss ideas, plan next steps and learn how to develop a business; and can access coaching and mentoring from experienced founders who can help them grow.¹¹¹
- Our Sussex Innovation Centre provides a wide range of business support expertise to local companies and startups. Some of this support is also available on a fully funded basis through European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) BRAIN and Hothouse programmes run at the Centre. ERDF grants are also available for companies wishing to engage with academic expertise or intellectual property.¹¹²
- We produce a number of innovative Spin Off's – registered companies who exploit intellectual property developed at the university. We have registered four of these companies since 2017:
 - *Universal Quantum Ltd* – incorporated on 4 December 2018
 - *Metasonix Ltd* – incorporated on 21 August 2019 (this replaces Metasonics Ltd)
 - *OWidgets Ltd* – incorporated on 26 September 2019
 - *AlternOx Scientific Ltd* – incorporated on 28 February 2020.¹¹³
- In 2018/19 we employed 1380 STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) staff at the University.
- Our academics are having broader influence on innovation and growth around the world. For example, our Science Policy Research Unit are major contributors to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Framework for Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Reviews - Harnessing innovation for sustainable development. The guide is designed to provide policymakers, and others, with advice on how to support innovation in a way that fosters international development and leaves nobody behind.¹¹⁴

AREAS WHERE WE WANT TO IMPROVE

- Creating more sustainable innovation competitions and prizes.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



SDG10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

This SDG relates to our research on social inequalities, policies on discrimination and commitment to recruiting staff and students from under-represented groups.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

- We have a dedicated Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Unit who promote, co-ordinate and embed equality, diversity and inclusion across the whole university community.¹¹⁵
- Our EDI Strategy¹¹⁶, published in 2018 contains stretching objectives including:
 - To achieve a year on year improvement in the percentage of staff who believe that the University is committed to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.
 - To achieve a higher representation of staff with protected characteristics, including in senior leadership positions.
 - To hold a Race Equality Charter award by 2025.
 - To become a Top 100 Employer in the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index (which measures progress on lesbian, gay, bi and trans inclusion in the workplace) by 2025.
 - To become a Disability Confident Leader by 2025.
- We operate a non-discriminatory student admissions policy.¹¹⁷ We monitor applications from under-represented groups¹¹⁸ and have targets in place to achieve a continued reduction in student attainment gaps for people^v with protected characteristics.¹¹⁹
- We deliver programmes in schools to help recruit students from under representative groups. In 2018/19 26,460 participants^{vi} from 190 schools engaged in our widening participation access activities.
- We are disability positive. Almost a fifth (19.6%) of our students had a declared disability in 2018/19; and just under 5% of our staff declared a disability in 2018/19. However, we suspect that the latter figure is a result of under reporting that we plan to address shortly in our equality diversity and inclusion work.¹²⁰
- We have dedicated advisors to help disabled students to access support and funding.¹²¹
- We offer accessible housing to disabled students including: rooms that are wheelchair accessible and/or adaptable for students needing specialist personal care and support.¹²²
- In June 2020 we became one of only 15 universities to be awarded University of Sanctuary status in recognition of the work that the university carries out in providing an environment of welcome and opportunity to people from refugee and asylum-seeking backgrounds.¹²³
- We provide support to under-represented groups through our staff networks (for BAME, disabled, LGBTQ+, Trans and Non-Binary employees) who are consulted on changes to policies and who run staff mentoring networks.¹²⁴
- We also fund the Race Equity Advocates scheme run by the Students' Union to combat institutional racism and to enable black and minority ethnic (BAME) students to thrive.¹²⁵

AREAS WHERE WE WANT TO IMPROVE

- Ensuring that equality diversity and inclusion is imbedded within our sustainability strategy in recognition of the importance of intersectionality within sustainable development.



^v These are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation

^{vi} Please note that the number of participants does not equate to the number of students as a student could have participated in more than one programme and thus be double counted

SDG11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

This SDG relates to our role as custodians of arts and heritage and our internal approaches to sustainability.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

- We are one of the few UK Universities to be in an UNESCO World Biosphere Region. Our boundary walk allows students, staff and members of the public to walk around the edges of the university campus – mostly in the green spaces of the South Down’s national park – enjoying nature along the way.¹²⁶
- Our Campus contains listed buildings that have been described by English Heritage as “an outstanding example of 20th century architecture.”¹²⁷ The general public are able to view our architecture, including buildings designed by the renowned architect Basil Spence, as part of our local heritage.
- In 2018/19 we provided free-public events (designed for the external community) to over half a million people – this included public lectures, performance arts, exhibitions and museum education.^{vii}
- We spent £343,754,000 on arts and heritage, including sports facilities in 2018/19. This was 3.3% of our total planned budget for that year.
- Our Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts is an interdisciplinary arts hub, which connects the University with wider regional, national and international arts communities. The centre presents a seasonal programme of performance, dance, live art, film, music, discussion & debate and digital practices.¹²⁸
- We freely share our ‘special collections’ of university items with the community at the Keep – a historic archive centre in the nearby community. For example, we recently contributed university artefacts to exhibitions on observing the eighties and pre-war Jewish life.¹²⁹
- Our library provides a wide range of open access materials and resources to the general public, including journals, statistics and data sets.¹³⁰
- We prioritise pedestrian access on campus with a network of footpaths and cycle lanes running through the campus – in addition to bus routes.¹³¹
- We promote sustainable travel between the University and the wider community. In 2019 we published our latest version of our Travel Plan, which included measures to promote sustainable commuting. For example, we offer a dedicated cycle to work scheme and are part of the Brighton Bike Share Scheme. We also support remote working to reduce travel demand through our flexible working policies.¹³²
- Our student accommodation provides good value for money in terms of market rates; and our on-campus accommodation reduces the need for commuting and the associated greenhouse gas emissions from transport.
- All new campus buildings must be built to the BREEAM “Excellent” energy efficiency and environmental standards and built on brownfield sites where possible.¹³³

AREAS WHERE WE WANT TO IMPROVE

- Producing an ambitious new sustainable buildings and construction policy and action plan.
- Creating a sustainable and active travel action plan – encompassing the latest developments in behaviour change science and digital innovation.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



^{vii} Actual figure of 5,538,648 attendees at public focused events verified by the University’s Vice Chancellor in table 5 of the 2018/19 HE-BCI return

SDG12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

This SDG relates to our research on responsible consumption and our practical approach to the sustainable use of resources.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Our procurement policy has a section on sustainable procurement.¹³⁴
- We published a supplier code of conduct in October 2020 to help our suppliers understand the minimum ethical, social and environmental standards and behaviours that are expected when working on a university contract.¹³⁵
- We are a member of both the national and regional Responsible Procurement Group- a collaboration between not for profit organisations and education institutes on sharing and establishing best practice in the area of sustainable procurement.¹³⁶
- Our catering partner – Sussex Food – was awarded the highest rating possible by the Sustainable Restaurant Association (three stars) in 2019. All our fish is sustainably caught, our eggs are free range and our milk comes from UK cows.¹³⁷
- We are one of only a few institutions in the UK to offer a circular economy module - which is about finding ways of designing without creating waste¹³⁸ - in our Product Design degree.¹³⁹
- We measure and record our waste. In 2018/2019 the University produced 2,548.122 tonnes of waste and recycled 17% of this volume. We have achieved our target of eliminating 100% of waste to landfill by 2020 by diverting general waste to energy production.
- We were the first University in the UK to install an aerobic digester to convert our food waste to fertiliser in November 2019 – this reduces wasted food from our catering services by 80% over a 24 hour period. It then converts it to fertiliser that is used on our estates, including our allotments, where it is helping to grow more food.¹⁴⁰
- As of 2019, food waste recycling was introduced into East Slope residences as a trial, with the intention of rolling out food waste recycling across other residences on campus.¹⁴¹
- In 2019 we gave away 1000 keep cups made of sustainable materials, for free during fresher's week to reduce cup waste. When we do sell single use coffee cups we use Simply Cups containers for their disposal. The Simply Cups scheme breaks down processed paper coffee cups that are usually unrecyclable, allowing them to be recycled properly instead of contributing to landfill.¹⁴²
- We have been signed up to Warp-It since 2014. This is a specialised re-use scheme designed to reduce certain waste by redistributing unwanted furniture and supplies.¹⁴³ The Compass Group – the provider of our Sussex Food service – has an action plan to reduce single use plastic and regularly reports on their own sustainability as a company.¹⁴⁴
- As does our primary waste management and recycling partner Veolia.¹⁴⁵ We have policies and procedures in place for disposing of certain hazardous waste such as radiation and asbestos.¹⁴⁶

AREAS WHERE WE WANT TO IMPROVE

- Developing an ethical procurement action plan that will further help to increase social value within our supply chain.
- Producing a new sustainable food and waste action plan that will include more ambitious recycling targets and policies to disincentivise the use of plastic and other single use items and protect aquatic and marine ecosystems.
- Reviewing our hazardous waste policy and procedures.

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



SDG13 CLIMATE ACTION

This SDG relates to our research on climate change, our use of energy and our preparations for dealing with the consequences of climate change.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

- We offer a Master's Degree in Climate Change, Development and Policy.¹⁴⁷
- In 2018/19 we, as a University, used 271,770 Gigajoules of energy. Over 11% of this energy came from renewable sources such as solar and combined heat and power.
- In 2019 the University of Sussex declared a climate emergency¹⁴⁸ and we have since commissioned modelling to identify how we can get to net zero – this work will report in January 2021 and will allow us to set a more ambitious carbon reduction target and climate action plan to support its realisation.
- We actively influence global, national and local policy on climate change. The Director of the Sussex Energy Group is a lead author of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change - the UN body for assessing the science related to climate change- Sixth Assessment Report¹⁴⁹, due to be published in 2022.¹⁵⁰ He was also an academic panel member at the UK Parliament's Climate Change Citizens' Assembly in 2020, focused on "How to meet the Government's target of net-zero emissions by 2050."¹⁵¹
- We have just launched the Sussex Innovation Forum. A University of Sussex-led coalition of local and regional partners including the University of Brighton's Green Growth Platform, Brighton and Hove City Council, Community Energy South, and Coast to Capital LEP. It is a space for businesses, community groups, councillors, and others stakeholders to come together and help deliver the innovation required to make Sussex net zero.¹⁵²
- We are working hard to support early climate disaster detection and mitigation. A University of Sussex spin off company, DataJavelin, is partnering with local Brighton based company, Ambient Risk Analytics, to deploy machine learning and artificial intelligence techniques that could transform flood forecasting and risk modelling.¹⁵³ While our Forecasting with Fishers project from the School of Global Studies sees us collaborating with small scale fishers to co-produce knowledge for early warning of extreme weather events in India.¹⁵⁴
- Our Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU) run weekly energy and climate seminars on zoom that can be accessed from outside of the University – tackling issues on climate change, energy policy and sustainability. Recent topics include *Unattainable Proximity, a case study of solar power in central Burkina Faso and Decarbonisation and its discontents – a critical justice perspective on four low carbon transitions*.¹⁵⁵
- Our Students Union actively promote volunteering opportunities at local sustainability organisations, such as the Real Junk Food Project and local branches of Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth that are committed to achieving climate action.¹⁵⁶ They also have a dedicated Sustainability and Student Living Officer who encourages activism and student democracy through focused student societies and campaigns.¹⁵⁷

AREAS WHERE WE WANT TO IMPROVE

- Publishing an ambitious net zero target and action plan for reducing both energy consumption and carbon emissions in Spring 2021.
- Developing a low carbon heating plan.
- Collaborating more with non-governmental organisations on climate action.

13 CLIMATE ACTION



SDG14 LIFE BELOW WATER

This SDG relates to research on life below water and our education on and support for aquatic ecosystems.

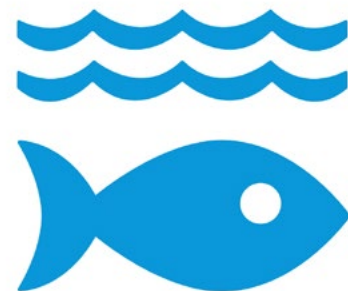
OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

- We teach a number of modules in this area including: Marine Biology and Ecology Field Course at undergraduate level and Coral Reef Ecology field course at postgraduate level.^{158 159}
- We also publish post graduate research in this area. For example, Mika Peck: From research to policy - a gap analysis for sustainable management of marine resources in West Papua, Indonesia.¹⁶⁰
- We have a policy to ensure that food on campus that comes from aquatic ecosystems is sustainably harvested by our catering partner Sussex Foods.¹⁶¹
- On our grounds, newly planted trees and shrubs are watered only according to the weather and will most often only be watered during drier summer periods to reduce unnecessary water use.¹⁶²
- We have further policies and procedures in place to encourage water conservation and sanitation – see SDG6 clean water and sanitation for more information on page 8.

AREAS WHERE WE WANT TO IMPROVE

- Strategically reviewing our offering in relation to Life Below Water.
- Investigating if we should increase our taught courses in this area.

14 LIFE
BELOW WATER



SDG15 LIFE ON LAND

This SDG relates to our research on life on land and our education on and support for land ecosystems.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

- We sustainably manage our land on our naturalised campus that is surrounded by the South Downs National Park:
 - Our campus is home to approximately 158 species of birds and 32 species of mammal, including three social groups of badgers and several bat colonies
 - The campus also contains the Jubilee woodland. We engage in extensive tree planting during the Autumn and Winter months based upon local tree survey data to supplement existing trees
 - We support the ongoing restoration and development of our chalk grassland
 - We also have meadows and native wild flower areas.¹⁶³
- We have plans in place to support the sustainability of our campus. Our annual grounds management plan includes key principles and actions to support native species, increase biodiversity, restore and conserve habitats and reduce the use of pesticides and water use.¹⁶⁴
- We work directly with the land to maintain and extend existing ecosystems and their biodiversity, of both plants and animals, especially ecosystems under threat. For example, our work on building 'bee hotels' and grow pollinator-friendly plants has led to us being one of only 32 organisations to win a Bees Needs Champions award (for the third year running)¹⁶⁵ in 2020 for our work to save and raise awareness about pollinators.¹⁶⁶
- Our effective grounds management policies and practices have resulted in us winning a prestigious Green Flag award,¹⁶⁷ for well-manged green spaces, for the fourth year running.
- We consider biodiversity in our planning applications for the construction of new buildings. For example, submitting plans for green roofs in our new student accommodation developments and undertaking bat and badger surveys to ensure that we mitigate any environmental impacts associated with improving our campus.¹⁶⁸
- We regularly organise events about sustainable land use. For example, in March 2019 we held an almost six-hour event involving Government and NGOs, including the Soil Association, on working with nature in farming and conservation.¹⁶⁹
- We also offer educational programmes and outreach on ecosystems and sustainable land management. For example, in July 2018 we held an exhibition called *Through the Bush Backwards* at a local art gallery to help engage 15-25-year olds in conservation.¹⁷⁰ One of our leading life sciences academics has also collaborated with national eco hub *Planetary* to develop a video series raising awareness of, and engagement with, rewilding amongst 11 to 18-year olds through a series of 13 videos.¹⁷¹
- We were also part of the local organising team¹⁷² for the City Nature Challenge, which seeks to connect people with local nature by discovering and recording as much wildlife as possible over the four-day period.¹⁷³
- In 2020 the University pledged to donate £2 to the Woodland Trust for each student who took part in our national student survey. This resulted in an overall donation of £4,506 for work on woodland and wildlife protection, reforestation projects and research.¹⁷⁴

AREAS WHERE WE WANT TO IMPROVE

- Creating a biodiversity action plan for the university as part of our sustainability strategy.



SDG16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

This SDG relates to our research on law and international relations, our participation as advisers for government and our policies on academic freedom.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

- In 2018/19 over 6% of our graduates received law degrees – to help uphold the rule of law.
- We are proud of our strong and democratic governance arrangements. We have elected representation on our highest governing body – Council – from academic and professional service staff and students.¹⁷⁵
- We publicly recognise our student union (the University of Sussex Students’ Union) which is affiliated with the National Union of Students. The Union has elected officers who work with the various University governance committees and campaigns.¹⁷⁶
- We have a sustainability committee embedded in our governance structure. It is chaired by our Vice Chancellor, in recognition of its strategic importance. This committee is now shadowed by a student sustainability committee,¹⁷⁷ with two of its members attending both committees to ensure student involvement in our high-level decision-making processes in this area.¹⁷⁸
- We strategically identify and engage with key stakeholders within the community to form strong local partnerships – as outlined in our Sussex 2025 Strategic Framework vision, which sees us as “both listening and acting in the local and regional interest, working with public bodies, charities and civic society to find solutions to economic and social challenges.”¹⁷⁹
- We have a dedicated public affairs function¹⁸⁰ within our external relations team and also global engagement team to foster international co-operation with our international stakeholders.¹⁸¹
- Our Vice Chancellor sits on several strategic partnership boards including the: Greater Brighton Economic Board and City Management Board to collaborate with local and regional stakeholders.
- We have clear policies designed to prevent bribery, fraud and corruption that we publish on our website.¹⁸²
- We are transparent about our finances and publish an annual financial statement online for public scrutiny.¹⁸³
- Our Environmental Justice Law Clinic is a new initiative that gives law students the opportunity to develop their skills and help the local community by working on environmental justice issues. This is a partnership with the Environmental Law Foundation charity.¹⁸⁴ Students are currently advising clients on issues including noise pollution and biodiversity conservation, as well as researching the incorporation of sustainability criteria in local neighbourhood plans.
- We provide expert policy advice to Government. We have a dedicated Centre for the Study of Corruption (CSC), which is currently advising the UK Government on its International Anti-Corruption programme, and input for the UK National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2017-22.¹⁸⁵
- We create a neutral platform to discuss political issues – for example, we are home to the influential UK Trade Policy Observatory, which is a partnership with Chatham House to promote a more just international trading environment.¹⁸⁶

AREAS WHERE WE WANT TO IMPROVE

- Creating further local partnerships between students, staff and the local community to help realise all of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



SDG17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

This SDG relates to the broader ways in which our University supports the SDGs through collaboration with other countries, the promotion of best practices and the publication of data.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

- In June 2020 we hosted a Global Partnership Conference for university leaders and academics on Internationalisation and the Global Sustainability Challenge, with a specific focus on the role of SDGs in partnerships. 197 participants attended from over 30 countries.¹⁸⁷
- Our renowned Sussex Sustainability Research Programme (SSRP) is a partnership, involving several of our schools and the Institute of Development Studies (IDS). Their mission is Science for the SDGs.¹⁸⁸ They have financed 30 interdisciplinary research projects that address interactions among the SDGs, and how trade-offs can be minimised or synergies maximised. This has led to an additional 27 activities and projects - virtually all of which have involved new or ongoing partnerships. These partners are summarised in a table (at **Annex A**).¹⁸⁹
- We regularly engage in cross-sectoral dialogue about the SDGs via conferences with governments and NGOs. In 2019 our Vice Chancellor gave a presentation to the High-level Political Forum¹⁹⁰ (the United Nations central platform for review of the SDGs) on innovative approaches and partnerships to strengthen the role of educators and academia in implementing the SDGs.¹⁹¹
- The Director of SSRP, was one of only three delegates invited to represent the global scientific and technological community at a 2019 UN Heads of State Summit on the SDGs.¹⁹²
- We actively influence Government SDG policy. In 2018 SSRP hosted a Parliamentary Reception, with representatives from government's around the world, parliamentarians and NGOs to highlight the importance of achieving the UN SDGs and their synergies.¹⁹³
- SSRP also testified to the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) Inquiry on the UK Government's overall progress on implementing the SDGs.¹⁹⁴
- In 2018 we co-organised an event with the British Council on Achieving the SDGs: building on interlinkages among goals at Wilton Park, a UK Government Executive Agency.¹⁹⁵
- Our Deputy Pro Vice Chancellor (International) is on the steering committee of the Association of Commonwealth Universities Network on Higher Education and the SDGs – where he has lead responsibility for partnerships.¹⁹⁶
- We also work in partnership with international institutions and governments to deliver real world outcomes. For example, we play a vital role in a UN/EU/and British Council partnership on 'Violence against Women and Girls' in Mexico. We are also involved in institutional capacity building work with the National Universities Commission in Nigeria.¹⁹⁷
- SSRP engaged local and global NGOs, social enterprises and industry in a community outreach world café event on the role of a wide range of the SDGs in the production and sale of coffee in May 2019.¹⁹⁸
- In June 2019 SSRP held a workshop involving academics from around the world sharing best practice on research methods on the SDGs.¹⁹⁹
- We offer many courses in this area including our online MSc in Sustainable Development.²⁰⁰

AREAS WHERE WE WANT TO IMPROVE

- Providing more student volunteer and community outreach on achieving the SDGs.

17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



ANNEX A

List of partners engaged in Sussex Sustainability Research Programme (SSRP) funded and flagged projects as identified in their annual report.

UK LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS

Brighton & Hove Allotment Federation	Falcon Coffees
Brighton & Hove Food Partnership	Freegle
Brighton & Hove Man and Biosphere	Girls Who Grind Coffee
Buglife	Grown in Britain
Bumblebee Conservation Trust	Pro Baristas
Buzz Club	Small Batch Coffee Roasters
	South Downs National Park
	Sussex Wildlife Trust
	Tangent Energy

UK GOVERNMENT

All-Party Parliamentary Group on the SDGs	Office for National Statistics (ONS)
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)	UK Environment Agency (EA)
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)	UK Met Office

INTERNATIONAL - COUNTRY LEVEL

American University in Cairo, Egypt	Corbana, Costa Rica	JP Grant School of Public Health, Bangladesh	Rwanda Ministry of Agriculture
Africa Health Research Institute (AHRI), South Africa	Dublin Institute of Technology	Kenya Meteorological Department	San Francisco University, Quito, Ecuador
African Population Health Research Centre, Kenya	Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia	Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS)	Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania
Armauer Hansen Research Institute, Ethiopia	Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia	Maastricht University	State Disaster Management Authority, India
Banaras Hindu University, India	Eritrean Institute of Technology (EiT), Eritrea	Marine Science and Research Centre for Pacific Marine Resources, University of Papua (UNIPA), Manokwari, Indonesia	State Emergency Operations Centre, Thiruvananthapuram, India
Bangladesh High Commission	Future Agriculture Consortium and Technical University of Mombasa, Kenya	National Cancer Institute, Cairo University, Egypt	Toxiclink NGO, India
Beijing Normal University, China	Ghana High Commission	National Drought Management Authority (NDMA), Kenya	Universidad de Costa Rica
Coral Conservation and Community Development, Creative Action Tank (CAT), Indonesia	Icafe, Costa Rica	New Guinea Binatang Research Centre	Universidade do Estado da Bahia, Brazil
Centre for Pollination Studies Calcutta, India	ICPAC – IGAS Climate Prediction and Applications Centre, Kenya	NOPOKI-UCSS, Peru	Universidad Federal do Reconcavo de Bahia, Brazil
Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), India	IGAD Regional Food Security and Nutrition Steering Group, Kenya	Ocean State Forecast Services, India	Universidad Nacional Intercultural de la Amazonía - UNIA, Peru
Central University of Finance and Economics, China	Indonesia Program Lead (PM), Coral Conservation and Community Development	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Tajikistan	University of Buea, Cameroon
Centre for Climate Change Studies/Institute of Resource Assessment-University of Dar es Salaam	India Meteorological Department (IMD)	Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research	University of Cape Town, South Africa
Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia (CIDRZ)	Indian Institute of Human Settlements (India)	Papua New Guinea University of Technology	University of California, UCSF Centre of Vulnerable Population
Centro de Conservación Investigación y Manejo de Areas Naturales (CIMA), Peru	Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)	Peoples Science Institute, India	University of Economics and Law, Wuhan, China
	Institute of Endemic Diseases, University of Khartoum, Sudan	Research Centre for Pacific Marine Resources, University of Papua (UNIPA)	University of Ghana
	Instituto Centro de Vida (ICV), Brazil		University of Science and Technology (CUSAT)
			Utrecht University

INTERNATIONAL - GLOBAL

Bats without Borders	International Water Management Institute	<u>Others - UK</u>	Overseas Development Institute
Convention on Biological Diversity	Scaling Up Nutrition Civil Society Network	BOND	Pesticide Action Network (PAN)
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)	Stop TB Partnership	Chatham House	Save the Children UK
International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)	UN Environment (UNEP)	Conservation Research Africa	UK National Farmers Union
International Water Management Institute		Environmental Funders Network	Vision 2030
		London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO)
		National Trust	Wilton Park
		Not1More	WWF UK

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